

**USA Statement before the February 24, 2005 plenary session of the
Second Preparatory Committee of Phase II of the
World Summit on the Information Society**

The United States expresses its appreciation to Mr. Nitin Desai and Mr. Markus Kummer for their excellent efforts to guide the work of the UN Working Group on Internet Governance. We strongly support the openness of the process and applaud the process of open consultations which we believe has been very helpful in bringing together a wide variety of views.

The Internet continues to expand in terms of size and scope and has become a significant and important means of doing research, for communicating with others, and for conducting business. It is natural, and in fact a healthy sign, that as this global "experiment" continues and this medium evolves into a global facility, the world community considers carefully the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders in ensuring the Internet's continued development and success.

With this in mind, we urge the Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG) to adopt the following guiding principles, which have fostered Internet development and innovation throughout its history:

- Promoting an enabling environment through effective and efficient competition;
- Recognizing the role of all stakeholders;
- Supporting continued private sector leadership;
- Avoiding overly prescriptive or burdensome regulation;
- Ensuring the stability and security of networks;
- Embracing the global, collaborative and cooperative nature of the network; and,
- Uphold the free flow of information.

The United States continues to believe that the stability and security of the Domain Name System can best be achieved through the privatization of and broad international participation in the technical management of the system. As such, the United States continues to support the work of the Internet Corporation of Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN).

We look forward to the presentation of options by the WGIG on a working definition of Internet governance and the public policy issue relevant to Internet governance and a full consideration of these issues by the September PrepCom.