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**COMMUNICATION FROM AUSTRALIA, CANADA, CHILE, THE EUROPEAN
COMMUNITIES, HONG KONG CHINA, INDIA, JAPAN, KOREA, MEXICO, NEW
ZEALAND, NORWAY, SINGAPORE, THE SEPARATE CUSTOMS TERRITORY OF
TAIWAN, PENGHU, KINMEN AND MATSU AND UNITED STATES**

Joint Statement on the Negotiations on Computer and Related Services

The following communication dated, 23 February 2005, from the delegations of Australia, Canada, Chile, the European Communities, Hong Kong China, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Singapore, the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu, and United States is being circulated to Members of the Council for Trade in Services.

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1. In recent years, the computer and related services sector has experienced enormous growth and has become one of the central driving forces in the development of a knowledge-based economy. According to estimates by Gartner, the global market for computer and related services was \$US569 billion in 2003 and is expected to reach \$US700 billion by 2007.
 2. A number of WTO Members have made reference to the benefits of liberalization of computer and related services in their presentation of negotiating proposals for computer and related services, business services, and professional services. A common theme emerging from these proposals is that computer and related services represent a fundamental sector for economic activity. Computer and related services are frequently considered as a tool for economic development because of their role in building infrastructure. Moreover, the rapid growth of the computer services market has led to employment creation in both developing and developed economies. Finally, the liberalization of computer and related services helps economies to expand existing market activities and to develop new export markets. Liberalization has been of notable benefit to developing economies in possession of a well-educated and productive workforce, which has enhanced their ability to produce and export computer and related services worldwide. It should be noted that the computer related service industry provides inputs to many other sectors and the competitiveness of this industry affects the competitiveness of nearly all industries.
 3. We share the view that CPC 84 nomenclature covers all activities of computer and related services. We encourage WTO Members to reference the CPC 84 nomenclature in their respective GATS Schedules of Specific Commitments for this specific sector.
 4. We request that all countries actively participate in the ongoing negotiations with the objective of achieving full liberalization of the computer and related services sector. In particular, we believe that objective can be achieved by making full market access and national treatment commitments for the sector as a whole (CPC 84).
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