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IIPA COMMENDS WIPO AND MEMBER STATES OF WIPO INTERNET TREATIES ON 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF CONCLUSION OF DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE

WIPO Copyright Treaty Has 61 Members; WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty Has 59 Members, Making These Treaties the Fastest Growing in WIPO’s History

Implementation of Key Treaties’ Requirements Will Remain a Major Focus for WIPO, Member States, and Those Soon to Join, in Order to Establish a Healthy Environment for Copyright in the Online Age

Washington — The International Intellectual Property Alliance (IIPA) praised the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) on the 10th Anniversary of the Conclusion of a WIPO Diplomatic Conference leading to adoption of the WIPO Copyright Treaty (WCT) and the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty (WPPT), which are known as the WIPO Internet Treaties. IIPA also commends the 61 Members who have ratified or acceded to the WCT and the 59 Members who have ratified or acceded to the WPPT.

Speaking on behalf of the IIPA, Eric Smith said, “Ten years ago, the WCT and WPPT marked a watershed in protection of copyright for the digital and online ages. Joining these Treaties is a key step in the development of any country’s copyright system. Without across-the-board support for the WCT and WPPT and their proper implementation, the development of Internet economies will stagnate, particularly when it comes to creative content on the Internet. It is a testament to the efforts of WIPO and member states that developing countries comprise by far the majority of countries having joined the WCT and WPPT in the first decade. Without broad continued ratification and implementation, the creative industries could fall prey to copyright piracy havens in the Internet sphere. For the good of economic development in the creative industries, we must all work to ensure that the WCT and WPPT are properly implemented, and that they are broadly supported around the world.”

Key WCT and WPPT issues include: the protection of temporary reproductions (as more and more content owners employ new business models in which temporary copies have commercial significance); the protection of content against the unauthorized making available in an on-demand manner of works, sound recordings, and performances, and against unlawful communications to the public of creative content; and the protection against the unlawful circumvention of technological protection measures, and the unlawful trafficking in circumvention devices and services.

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The International Intellectual Property Alliance (IIPA) is a coalition of seven trade associations representing U.S. copyright-based industries in bilateral and multilateral efforts to open up foreign markets closed by piracy and other market access barriers. These member associations represent over 1,900 U.S. companies producing and distributing materials protected by copyright laws throughout the world—all types of computer software, including business applications software and entertainment software (such as videogame discs and cartridges, personal computer CD-ROMs, and multimedia products); theatrical films, television programs, DVDs and home video and digital representations of audiovisual works; music, records, CDs, and audiocassettes; and textbooks, trade books, reference and professional publications and journals (in both electronic and print media). For more information, please visit www.iipa.com.