

FOREWORD



**William E. Kennard, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
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In March 1998, in my first international address as Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, I spoke to the second World Telecommunications Development Conference in Valetta, Malta about the importance of developing a worldwide information infrastructure to connect the globe. My remarks were inspired by the vision articulated in 1994 by Vice President Al Gore of a global information infrastructure linking all lands and peoples.

The goal of ensuring that the communications revolution reaches all corners of the world and benefits all its people has been the foundation for all that the Commission has accomplished in the past 18 months in the Development Initiative. Working with fellow regulators, we at the FCC have sought to identify and address key regulatory challenges and to define solutions for these challenges. These solutions, we hope, can lead to economic and telecommunications developments that will bridge the global Digital Divide.

In my many discussions with foreign counterparts, I have been impressed again and again by their dedication to the public interest, their vision of how communications can reshape their societies for the better, and their willingness to grapple with the challenges posed by rapidly changing technologies, powerful economic interests threatened by change, and the need for new regulatory approaches to address new realities. I have come to believe, as I indicated to the Development Symposium for Regulators hosted by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) in November 2000, that regulators increasingly share common challenges in promoting competition and advancing the public interest. Working together, regulators around the world can provide each other with the international backing they need to implement often-difficult reforms at home.

The Federal Communications Commission is proud to be participating in this international support effort. We believe that adoption of sensible regulatory policies promoting development of the telecommunications sector in one country eventually benefits all countries. Through the Development Initiative, we have sought to support those efforts by identifying regional leaders who face particularly critical moments in their regulatory development and entering into programs to enhance regulator-to-regulator cooperation. In this report, we detail some of the specific activities we have undertaken to implement those cooperative programs.

These work plans have enabled the Commission to target our very limited international resources where they can make a real difference. But our regulator-to-regulator outreach

is not limited to our work plan partners. The Commission has extensive contact with foreign regulators, including through the International Bureau's Visitors Program, which in 2000 organized programs at the FCC for some 400 foreign visitors.

Drawing on our experiences in the Development Initiative and the Visitors Program, and with the support of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and Cisco Learning Systems, the Commission has developed an on-line curriculum of regulatory training modules to expand our ability to work with foreign counterparts.

In addition to bilateral regulator-to-regulator contacts, FCC staff members have also worked in the ITU, the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) organization, the Inter-American Telecommunications Commission (CITEL) and other multilateral and regional organizations to promote pro-competitive regulatory approaches to advance the public interest. We are grateful, in these activities, for the strong sense of collaboration and shared commitment to the public interest that exists among United States government agencies, particularly the Department of Commerce/National Telecommunications and Information Administration and International Trade Administration, the Department of State, USAID, and U.S. diplomatic missions around the world.



This report concludes with an extensive list of acknowledgements that underscores my sense of gratitude and indebtedness to the many whose hard work and support have made the Development Initiative possible. I owe a special debt of gratitude to the International Bureau's Telecommunications Division, and Roxanne McElvane in particular, who launched and oversaw implementation of the Initiative. In this effort, they were supported by staff from a wide array of Commission bureaus and offices. I am proud of the selfless commitment of so many FCC staffers in supporting the effort.

The promotion of a truly global communications network has always been a core mandate of the Federal Communications Commission, and this mission is even more critical as the United States faces the challenges and opportunities of the new 21st century.