



I. OVERVIEW

If the global information society is to be meaningful, all nations must be connected. Developing countries must participate fully in this great new society. As Vice President Gore noted in his remarks to the 1998 ITU Plenipotentiary Conference in Minneapolis, the Global Information Infrastructure at its heart is a way to deepen and extend our oldest and most cherished global values: rising standards of living and literacy, an ever-widening circle of democracy, freedom, and individual empowerment.

In response to a growing volume of requests from regulatory counterparts abroad, FCC Chairman Kennard launched his development initiative at AFCOM '99, the Eighth Annual All-Africa Telecommunications, Information Technology and Broadcasting Conference established and conducted by Dr. Raymond Akwule of George Mason University (See Appendix 1 for a copy of Chairman Kennard's remarks).



***Connecting the Globe:
A Regulator's Guide to Building a Global Information Community***

At AFCOM '99, Chairman Kennard released *Connecting the Globe: A Regulator's Guide to Building a Global Information Community*. This manual, which is posted on the FCC's website at www.fcc.gov/connectglobe/, focuses on major issues faced by telecommunications regulators around the world.

The Kennard Development Initiative is a commitment by the FCC to provide technical assistance to developing nations in Africa, Latin America, Asia, and Central Europe to help them achieve universal access by implementing the goals of the Reference Paper on Pro-Competitive Regulatory Principles (Reference Paper) negotiated as a part of the WTO Basic Telecom Services Agreement: promoting competition, liberalizing markets, encouraging private investment, and adopting transparent, pro-competitive regulatory policies. FCC technical assistance includes expert guidance, training, and consultation on how to develop and implement pro-competitive, transparent regulatory regimes to support the full integration of developing nations into the global information society.