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CONTACT:

Eric J. Schwartz
(202) 973-8136

**STATEMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ALLIANCE (IIPA) ON
THE U.S.-RUSSIA BILATERAL AGREEMENT ON RUSSIA'S ACCESSION TO THE WTO**

Washington – The U.S. and Russian Governments signed an important bilateral agreement on Russia's bid for WTO accession this past weekend. The agreement, including a key Side Letter on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), concludes phase one of Russia's WTO accession.

Russia has great importance for IIPA members, and IIPA would like to be in a position where it can support Russia's bid to join the world trading system and the WTO. But, Russia has a lot of work in phase two of its accession process – the multilateral phase – before it can become a full-fledged member of the WTO.

The IPR Side Letter makes it clear that Russia must provide TRIPs-compliant protection and enforcement of IPR before it can accede to the WTO. The IPR Side Letter is an acknowledgement that Russia has not yet put in place the necessary legal reforms, nor has it made the required improvements to its enforcement regime – particularly as it relates to optical disc and Internet piracy. The U.S. and Russian governments have agreed on the specific legal reforms and enforcement steps that Russia must undertake, and specified deadlines for completion of these obligations – before Russia's final accession to the WTO. We look forward to working with the two governments to obtain the necessary significant and identifiable progress on enforcement as well as ensuring the laws of Russia (including the Civil Code) are fully TRIPs compliant.

IIPA and its members wish to thank Ambassador Schwab and her team of outstanding negotiators at USTR, Commerce, State, the PTO and the Copyright Office for their hard work in the completion of this comprehensive agreement. We look forward to working with them on the next step which is seeing the agreement fully implemented.

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). Visit www.iipa.com for more information.