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THE WIPO PERFORMANCES AND PHONOGRAMS TREATY (WPPT) WILL ENTER INTO FORCE ON MAY 20, 2002

**IIPA and its members applaud this landmark development and
look for the effective implementation of the two WIPO 'digital' treaties around the world.**

Washington — The International Intellectual Property Alliance (IIPA) today hailed the announcement from the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) that Honduras had deposited its instrument of accession to one of the "Internet Treaties" – the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty (WPPT) – in Geneva, becoming the 30th country to join this treaty. As a result, the WPPT will enter into force on May 20, 2002, three months after WIPO received its 30th instrument of ratification or accession. The WPPT's companion treaty, the WIPO Copyright Treaty (WCT), will enter into force on March 6, 2002. Both treaties embody new international legal standards on the protection for copyrighted materials transmitted over digital networks like the Internet.

"The entrance into force of both these treaties will be a milestone for the continued growth of electronic commerce, for the future of the Internet globally, and for copyright," said Eric H. Smith, President of the IIPA. "These treaties form the core legal infrastructure for the protection of valuable copyright content traveling on digital networks. IIPA looks forward to more countries ratifying and, importantly, implementing these treaties, in order to build a secure environment for copyright materials – recorded music, movies, literary materials, business and entertainment software and other creative products – to be transmitted on a global, cost-effective basis over the Internet."

The United States implemented its obligations under both the WCT and WPPT by adopting the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) in October 1998. Besides the U.S., leading markets such as Japan, Australia and many developing countries have adopted legislation to implement the Internet Treaties, and the Member States of the European Union are in the process of doing so. IIPA and its members applaud these countries, and the other nations that have acceded to the Treaties, particularly developing countries, for their recognition that the Internet and Electronic Commerce will be key engines of economic growth in this new Millennium.

The 30 countries that have acceded or ratified the WPPT are: Albania, Argentina, Belarus, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Czech Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Gabon, Georgia, Honduras, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Mali, Mexico, Moldova, Panama, Paraguay, Romania, Saint Lucia, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine, and United States of America. Currently 33 countries have acceded or ratified the WCT. For more detailed information on both treaties, visit the WIPO website at www.wipo.int.

The International Intellectual Property Alliance (IIPA) is a private sector coalition formed in 1984 to represent the U.S. copyright-based industries in bilateral and multilateral efforts to improve international protection of copyrighted materials. IIPA is comprised of six trade associations, each representing a significant segment of the U.S. copyright community. These member associations represent over 1,100 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 CDs and cartridges, personal computer CD-ROMs and multimedia products); theatrical films, television programs, home videos and digital representations of audiovisual works; music, records, CDs, and audiocassettes; and textbooks, tradebooks, reference and professional publications and journals (in both electronic and print media). Visit the IIPA website at www.iipa.com.