Internet: http://www.fcc.gov

ftp.fcc.gov



This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC. 515 F 2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE December 8, 2003

NEWS MEDIA CONTACT: Meribeth McCarrick at (202) 418-0654 Meribeth.Mccarrick@fcc.gov

## FCC COMMISSIONER KATHLEEN Q. ABERNATHY PROMOTES UNIVERSAL ACCESS OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AT GLOBAL MEETING

Washington, D.C. – FCC Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy today joined telecommunications regulators from around the world to promote universal access to telecommunications services. Commissioner Abernathy spoke at the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Global Symposium for Regulators hosted by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in Geneva, Switzerland.

Commissioner Abernathy emphasized that the goal of universal access is "to ensure that consumers have a choice of innovative telecommunications services at affordable prices." She encouraged other regulators to achieve these goals by "having faith in the market; ensuring transparency by adopting clear rules that are vigorously enforced; and educating consumers about regulations so they can make intelligent choices."

The Global Symposium for Regulators is being held December 8-9, 2003. The focus of the Symposium is on steps international regulators can take to increase universal access to information and communications technologies. The Symposium joins national regulatory authorities from both developed and developing countries to exchange views and experiences.

- FCC -

Commissioner Abernathy Contact: Jennifer Manner at (202) 418-2400 or Jennifer.Manner@fcc.gov.