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Media release

ICC's BASCAP launches Intellectual Property Guidelines in Latin America

Cancun, Mexico, 1 December 2009 –The International Chamber of Commerce's Business Action to Stop Counterfeiting and Piracy (BASCAP) group today launched a set of intellectual property (IP) guidelines designed to help businesses in Latin America protect their copyright and branded materials, and deter trade in counterfeit and pirated goods.

The Intellectual Property Guidelines for Business were released in Spanish and Portuguese during a special session at the Fifth Global Congress on Combating Counterfeiting and Piracy in Cancun, Mexico.

The IP Guidelines provide information to businesses on practical steps they can take to protect their own innovation and creativity in IP-based products and services, as well as to protect against the risk of using counterfeit materials or infringing the IP rights of other companies.

"Counterfeiting and piracy of copyright and branded goods are a US\$750 billion worldwide problem which hurts consumers and the overall economy," said ICC's BASCAP Coordinator Jeffrey Hardy.

"While most of our efforts at ICC are concentrated on communicating to governments the importance of intellectual property and the critical need to protect it against counterfeiting and piracy, we emphasize that everyone has a responsibility to protect IP, including consumers, the media and actors throughout the supply chain," Mr Hardy added.

Copyright and branded goods are an important part of every modern economy. The most innovative and advanced sectors rely heavily on IP to support innovation in their own products and services. Nearly every enterprise today uses or produces some form of IP in its business – from its own trademarks on products to copyrighted publications, music, video, software, branded goods or services of all types.

The ICC/BASCAP IP Guidelines were developed to help companies assess the effectiveness of their IP management policies, and provide new options for improving performance and managing the risks associated with counterfeiting and piracy. The IP Guidelines deal with IP management in all its forms within companies, from IP development to component sourcing, manufacturing, wholesaling, retailing, relations with intermediaries and handling of third parties' IP.

"The IP Guidelines are designed to be useful to a wide range of businesses in different sectors, and are suitable to be tailored to deal more specifically with particular industries or sectors," said Richard Heath, Vice President, Legal, Global Anti-Counterfeiting Counsel for Unilver and BASCAP co-chair.

"We hope the launch of the ICC-BASCAP IP Guidelines will introduce government officials in Mexico and across Latin America to the guidelines and encourage the adoption of good IP management practices as part of corporate and public policies," Mr Heath said, adding that guarding against IP crime has not commanded the attention, the respect, the resources or the public policy response that are necessary.

"Now is not the time to look the other way – not here in Mexico or in Latin America, not anywhere else in the world. Greater investment in – and protection of – IP is more critical than ever to reverse the economic downturn and maintain social stability," he said.

Jorge Amigo, Director General of IMPI, the Mexican government department responsible for intellectual property rights protection, applauded the launch of the Guidelines in Mexico.

"We welcome these new IP Guidelines as a useful industry effort to improve corporate IP policies and practices," Mr Amigo said. "This is an important contribution to the overall effort to combat

piracy and counterfeiting. Governments will be able to use these guidelines themselves, particularly in the internal management of IP-based goods and services in the governments' own operations."

The goal is to distribute the guidelines, which have been released in English, Spanish, French, Portuguese, Arabic and most recently Chinese, to companies around the world.

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About the IP Guidelines

Intellectual Property (IP) Guidelines for Business is intended to provide information to businesses on practical steps they can take to assess the effectiveness of their IP management policies, particularly in the area of copyright and trademark; to help protect their own IP; and to consider new options for improving performance and managing the risks associated with counterfeiting and piracy. The guidelines address internal IP use, supply chain practices, relations with intermediaries, and the handling of third-party IP. They deal with IP management in all its forms within companies, from IP development to component sourcing, manufacturing, wholesaling, retailing and internal corporate use. For more information and a copy of the IP Guidelines for Business, visit: www.iccwbo.org/bascap

About BASCAP

The drain on businesses and the global economy from counterfeit goods and piracy of intellectual property is of great concern to ICC member companies worldwide. Business Action to Stop Counterfeiting and Piracy (BASCAP) is an ICC initiative that unites the global business community across all product sectors to address issues associated with intellectual property theft and to petition for greater commitments by local, national and international officials in the enforcement and protection of intellectual property rights. For more information about BASCAP, please visit: www.iccwbo.org/bascap

About ICC

The International Chamber of Commerce is the largest, most representative business organization in the world. Its hundreds of thousands of member companies in over 120 countries have interests spanning every sector of private enterprise.

A world network of national committees keeps the ICC International Secretariat in Paris informed about national and regional business priorities. More than 2,000 experts drawn from ICC's member companies feed their knowledge and experience into crafting the ICC stance on specific business issues.

The United Nations, the World Trade Organization, and many other intergovernmental bodies, both international and regional, are kept in touch with the views of international business through ICC.

For more information please visit: www.iccwbo.org