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Vernita D. Harris is Deputy Associate Administrator, in the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Office of International Affairs (OIA). NTIA is the U.S. Commerce Department agency responsible for advising the President on domestic and international information and telecommunications issues. Mrs. Harris oversees domestic and international policy strategies affecting Internet policymaking, standards development issues, governance issues, cybersecurity, emerging technologies and the digital economy. She leads a team of policy experts that coordinate with other federal agencies, our international partners and a wide range of internet policy stakeholders in developing consensus-based decisions that support U.S. information and telecommunications policy goals.

Mrs. Harris has served on numerous U.S. Delegations to regional and global intergovernmental organizations, including all major ITU treaty-making conferences since 2000. She has been an active participant in the ITU Plenipotentiary (PP) Conferences, World Conference on International Telecommunications (WCIT), Council, Council Working Groups, the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), and the World Telecommunication Development Conferences (WTDC). She has held numerous leadership positions, chairing multiple agenda items during the 2007 WRC and policy related issues during PP-02, PP-06, PP-14, WTSA and WTDC. Mrs. Harris chaired the 2017 and 2018 sessions of the ITU Council Standing Committee on Administration and Management (ADM). Currently, Mrs. Harris is a Vice Chair on the Council Working Group on Financial and Human Resources (CWG-FHR).

Before joining the U.S. Government, Mrs. Harris worked for Iridium, LLC.

Mrs. Harris has a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration with Minor in Management, from Trinity College, Washington, D.C.