ABU DHABI – Regional Strategy Outlook (Eastern Europe and Central Asia)
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ALEXANDRA KULIKOVA: Good morning. Thank you very much for coming here so early, and some of you came even earlier to get coffee. So I would like to make sure that we do have interpretation. So if anyone doesn't know, we do have this, but we are speaking Russian here today, so we still have the opportunity to involve people who don't speak our language. Thank you so much for coming here. It's very nice to see you here. This is the second edition of the Russian language session. We first started in Hyderabad. It was the first one, kind of a test run.

We are very happy that we are here and not kind of on stage but in a more informal setting in this room, but really, what is the objective? It's to see what's going on; what our regional community wants of ICANN, ICANN management, ICANN organization; to see how we can be useful to each other; to see what questions or issues there might be; and to hear you, to understand what we as ICANN staff might not see. And obviously if there are any issues, we are ready to discuss them.

So what are we planning to do today? First off, I will remind all about what we discussed last year. I will show and discuss the

strategy, or maybe framework strategy, that we kind of outlined with Michael last year, and this is all for you to discuss, to accept or not accept. We didn't hear any serious objections, fundamental objections, but obviously, we can update it or maybe correct it if needed, including the framework strategy itself.

Also, the plan is to discuss what we've done over the past year, to see what we've achieved or maybe not achieved, to see the issues that may have arisen since, and to see what we should put in our agenda. So I will discuss and present that, and then I will ask you to look and share the successes that we've maybe had about the work that we've done over the past year. But really, this is an opportunity to day to get feedback from you, and not just about the stakeholder engagement office but about the issues that are specific to our region. We don't do this kind of update session often, and so there might be issues that we don't always get to touch upon. So if I may, I'm going to get up, because it's just easier for me.

So here are the slides. You are probably already familiar with those. Those who were with us in India will recognize them, but I've updated them somewhat. They are in English just to make sure we can share the information with our colleagues. But just to let you know, we discussed regional strategy with our other regional representatives as well, so we do look at the common

themes and we also look at the issues that are discussed at the very top level as well. I'm trying to point and to move the slide, but my pointer isn't working.

We all know that our region is vast, it is very diverse, and a lot of the issues that we discuss at ICANN meetings as well as regional ones, these issues are always somewhat modified when viewed from the region. For me, the biggest update that I have to make is that we have one community member that has joined the review work, the second WHOIS review. The first WHOIS Michael was a part of, as you all know. I'm not going to spend too much time on the slide because you all know it.

This is the timeline of the strategic attempts to expand ICANN in the region. Let me point your attention to the fact that we had a Russian language session in November of 2016, and we looked there at the issues faced by the countries of our region. Today, it is October of 2017, and this means that we will have the same session again in a year, and it will be an opportunity to discuss the challenges that we'll have raised today.

On this slide, we have listed the general strategic goals that have been set by ICANN as an organization. Obviously, there are many more of these overall, but we wanted to list here those that are most priority for our region. This is a more active and in-depth work and engagement with stakeholders. It is globalization and

development of language access to resources, and it's also awareness about Internet ecosystem, about ICANN's place in it. Also, it's all about increasing trust, because without trust, obviously nothing can be done.

Also, it is in our interest to provide to our stakeholders and partners the information and the skills that will enable them to participate in the process more meaningfully. We have stressed two objectives that are really interconnected in terms of strategic goals. On the one hand, we would like to be your trusted partner in a number of issues, because I am a regional representative and I should be the source of information that you need, and I should be the source of updates or help for you. On the other hand, obviously it's important for us to make sure that communication and engagement with our stakeholders is meaningful. We want to make sure that our communication at trainings, at events, that it strengthens our positions and that it brings more expertise to the ICANN community overall that our region has and that others might not.

This is a more in-depth discussion about improving and expanding trust in us. We try to update you in a timely manner about important news. Please let us know if we're not always successful, we will try to find new tools for doing that. It's very important for us to understand what topics and issues are most important and significant for you, for the region. And obviously,

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we always talk about what ICANN is, what ICANN ecosystem is, what is the community, what the corporation is. It's more of a systematic, consistent topic that we will always have as one of our objectives.

On this slide, we're talking more about involvement and engagement with stakeholders. I always talk about it being a two-way street, because on the one hand we obviously want to give you the information and the skills and the help that you need for resolving issues that you're facing. On the other hand, we try to facilitate access to global ICANN community and to provide options to be involved in the global community.

On this slide, we have listed main focus areas and I've added point three from last time. Our main priority is the first one. Obviously, the most important thing is the security, stability, and resiliency of the system of unique identifiers. Generally speaking, in terms of ICANN overall, the technical development of the DNS, various aspects of the issue of security, these two are always number one, and you can see it. It's a thread that I've noticed over the past year for sure, and others as well.

The second focus area is something that we will need to put a little bit more effort into, and this of course applies to where it's important. This meaning the DNS industry. If we can help within our remit, we would like to help in this area.

And then the third focus, you have probably noticed that ICANN meetings now try to do at least a couple of sessions about looking ahead into the future, thinking about things and topics that haven't become key yet but that are generating a lot of interest, for example new technologies, new identifier systems.

Specifically at 10:30 actually there is a session about identifier systems, and that session will be looking at digital object architecture, blockchain, DNS, etc. I advise all of you to go, because it's an interesting topic. Why do we do those? Because the community asks us, and it tells us of topics that we should be looking at looking ahead, meaning that we shouldn't only be looking at operational, everyday things, but about the future as well. So this session and these types of sessions are more about forecasting and about how we can fit into those new topics.

Here you see listed some of the examples of work we've done over the past year. This is not everything that we've done, these are just the highlights, or at least the things that I consider to be highlights. We definitely did expand trainings with our SSR teams: security, stability and resiliency. We did two trainings in Belarus, two in Georgia, there's one planned for Ukraine for the end of November. These are trainings for law enforcement agencies, and it's very highly in demand. We hope to continue working with them.

The second item here is engaging and building trust with the tech community. I've always said and continue to say that there's a lot of interest here. We do a session on information security, on cybersecurity. Every time we have to explain what our place is, what it is we do in this aspect, and a lot of times we need to dispel myths about the fact that ICANN is in charge of cybersecurity. That is not the case. It's very important. The word cybersecurity has become a [non-enveloping] one, but for example there is DAAR project. It's not an easy one, but very complex. I need your help. I know some of you have already volunteered to help.

There is the [Netascope] in Russia that is very similar to it. It's a good one for looking at statistics about DNS abuse on various platforms. A lot of you have heard me talking about KSK rollover, about the key signing key change which is a part of the DNSSEC architecture. I'm afraid this will take us a bit longer than we were planning it to take, but in any event, all those who are part of the community who could help us professionally and with a necessary expertise who are able to help us with the challenges that made us postpone the rollover itself, if you want to help us, we will be very happy about it.

And then the next part listed here is facilitating a few L-root instance installations. This is an extended type of work, and you can't really just kind of put a checkmark next to it as done. This

is a long-term project, and it takes a lot of successful successive work. L-root instances over the first quarter of this year, we have finished a project with [MTS with Moscow.] There is another one going on in Moscow again with another company. If anyone is interested from our region, please come and see us.

In terms of the industry overall, we had a very interesting study with did with Higher School of Education. I hope [Mikhail Komarov] will say a few words about the study. And then this year, the Georgian and the panel that works on label generation rules, really these rules have already gone through the public comment period and are now part of the latest set of label generation rules, and we presented – [inaudible] will talk more about it. We have presented about the Cyrillic panel finalizing its work. That work will go through public comment, and hopefully we will be done with that soon as well.

And then the third bullet point here, I can't really say that we were involved, but it was good to know that finally we also have the first data escrow agent accredited in Russia. Hopefully, one of the presenters here will talk about it. This is about us, our community responding to regulatory challenges that we can't ignore.

This slide lists challenges. First off, the GDPR. This is the confidentiality directive issued by the European Union. Another

thing listed here is emerging identifier systems and technologies as well as DNS abuse and accountability issues. Accountability meaning accountability of our partners throughout the ICANN ecosystem. But I want to also hear from you what other challenges there are, because challenges appear all the time.

This slide lists some of the other engagement activities that took place this year, and this is of course working with higher education institutions, there's Higher School of Economics, Taras Shevchenko, and University of Georgia. Actually, the last one has just started, but [Valeria] is here and Lado is here with us as well. This project is just starting, but I think it has a good future.

I'm going to talk fast a bit because I want to give you time to talk. But you'll know that we've increased awareness programs, but what we do, we did a webinar and we talk about it all the time in person to person discussions. But really, those who get involved in the NextGen and Fellowship show there's a lot of interest from the stakeholders. And of course, we would like this engagement to not be a one-off but that they continue working with us and engaging with us. I know [inaudible] will say a couple of words about her work with the constituency.

We now have a new Internet governance school in Armenia. This is very good news. We fully support it, of course. There's Eastern

European DNS Forum, and we've already actually had two Eastern European DNS Forums since our last session here. We had a hostmaster-hosted forum last year in December, and we just had another one two weeks ago in Minsk. [inaudible] will also say a few words by phone today.

And next to last, something that we've been fighting for for a long time. I don't know if you've noticed, but when you go on the ICANN webpage, you click on Russian, which should go to Russian content. Somehow you went somewhere else. But I would like to tell you the good news: there is an ICANN site-wide effort to revamp it completely.

There is a lot of content that needs to be organized. You probably heard Göran Marby talk about it last year. This work is ongoing, it's going to take a while, but I can tell you that Michael and I lobbied for it and lobbied to have some sort of an intermediate, preliminary version of the site to allow those who end up on the ICANN resource to have something at least in a language that is used here in our region.

So now I can tell you that there will be landing pages in Russian that will provide basic content in various languages. It was first planned as a Russian language only pilot, but we decided to do it for all the languages, to have a landing page in all of the ICANN languages. And it is of course the correct decision. This will be

the first interaction that you will get in Russian, and then from there, you can move on to other resources that still have a lot in Russian as well.

Obviously, this is not an exhaustive list, but on this last slide – sorry, it took a while – you were asking us for the following last year: you asked us about expanding and improving awareness about MSM and ICANN mission. We did that. We have been developing strategy. How did we do this? Every event is an opportunity to engage with partners. It also presents a new view, a new vision, a new understanding of what is done in the region, and every event adds a piece to this puzzle.

I've already talked about linguistic, language accessibility, quality of translations. [Maya] and I, we are working on this together. We have a glossary, we work on it together, and whenever there are issues, I go to some of the community members for help. [inaudible] helped me. There was a big battle for the KSK rollover presentation.

Now moving on to contractual, the escrow – this is not us that did it, it's the community that did it, and we're very happy that we were able to resolve this together with the community. Now, moving on to the culture of involvement and involvement in developing ICANN strategy, I think this will come with time. You asked for support of local projects and initiatives. We're trying.

And then capacity building, this has to do with trainings that we do. It's very much in demand. Please let us know if there is anything we need to improve here.

And then one more thing that you've asked for but we can't really brag about any successes here much, we did talk about it, however we would like to bring you into this issue. And of course, this is the IDN e-mail solutions and universal acceptance. This is a pain common to us. I haven't really seen any improvements here for some, unfortunately.

Now, you know how to get in touch with me and my colleagues. I would like to hear from you, from all those, whoever would like to say a few words. I would love to hear your feedback about what you just heard, about things that you would like to highlight that have been done over the past period, and I would like also to know about the challenges that you're experiencing that we might not see, but that need to be included in what we do. I would like to ask Igor Mkrtumyan to say a few words. Please, Igor, if you would.

IGOR MKTRUMYAN: Good morning, dear colleagues. Very happy to be here. This is ISOC Armenia. First off, I would like to express my deep gratitude to ICANN, and to Alexandra personally for the help that is being provided to the ISOC Armenia. We always feel the support. We

are very grateful to ICANN and to ISOC. They are our partners, and they are always part of all of our events. We are very happy to see you all here, to see Alexandra, [Alexei Kolesnikov,] Andrei [inaudible] and other representatives who come and help us.

I would like to say a few words about our work, the work we do to develop Internet community and Internet policy in our region. Maybe I will touch upon some of the specific things that we're planning to do in the very near future. First off, we are launching this year a mediation solution for trademark disputes. There is an existing procedure that we used, and that was the WIPO procedure, but it was a bit difficult because it requires significant expense. Instead, our lawyers have developed their own procedure, and this is something new for us even though it might not be new for a lot of other countries. This will help resolve disputes that arise about domains and trademarks. This is one of the things that we're looking forward to and that is about to launch soon.

And then there is another aspect of what we do, and that is keeping up with ICANN requirements in terms of policy developments that involve us and that affect us. I would like to touch upon the Internet governance structure in Armenia. We have an ISOC chapter, it's an open structure. We also have a registry that's a substructure of ISOC. ISOC chapter is part of our community, and obviously, we could say that we could involve

anyone that uses Internet. However, that would be nonsensical, because only [lazy] people don't use Internet, right? But our Board includes representatives of important organizations from the Internet, academia, government, service providers, etc. And it is thanks to that that we are able to govern the internet as in developing the policy. And because our registry is our substructure, our branch, it means that everything that we develop is a requirement for the registry.

We have a lot of opportunities here consequently because the registry implements the tasks set by ISOC. We do a lot of work in many areas that have to do with Internet, but I would like to touch upon the most significant ones, for example the Internet of Things. I would like to thank our representative [inaudible] who is one of those who launched the [IoTC] special Internet group together with Lado and together with our colleague Yuri Kargapolov, they created the special interest group, and we hope that it will be successful. I also wanted to mention that along with Andrei Kolesnikov's [fund,] we have signed a memorandum of understanding in the area of Internet of Things, and we hope that this work will continue successfully.

I would also like to touch upon our successful projects. One of them is the school of Internet governance which is being taught by Lianna Galstyan who is probably known to a lot of you. She's done a lot of work, and it was very successful. We're very

pleased to see young, talented, extraordinary people in our school, and we view them as our potential for future growth. They got a great charge. During a week, they were lectured by the leading specialists in various areas in Armenia, and they got a charge of knowledge in this area. And of course, Lianna also leads our annual conference which was also completed successfully this year for the third time. It has become a tradition for us, a traditional conference for Internet Governance.

I would also like to mention the great work that is being done by our dear Siranush who is one of the leading figures in the Internet Society who's very helpful. She helps us to resolve various issues. So we are feeling constant attention and care on the part of ICANN, and we're very much grateful. As far as the rest of things, we could still talk a lot about them, but it was very important for us to set up one of the root servers for the ISOC K-root server in Armenia, although it could have been an M-root server probably, but we decided – it's not too late, possibly.

I also wanted to mention that there's still a lot of work ahead of us in implementing new requirements set by the European ICANN community as far as the protection of personal data. That places a great responsibility upon us. Also the WHOIS servers which have to work in a new way based on new requirements now. We're paying a lot of attention to the young generation. Here we have with us our young representative at NextGen, so

this is also very important to ensure this succession of generations in our area. So thank you so much for your attention.

ALEXANDRA KULIKOVA: Thank you, Igor. It is true, the Armenian society is one of the champions as far as activities, and I hope everybody else can say the same. I would like to give the word to Lado Svanadze. He will say a few words about our joint activities this year and about some proposals. Five minutes, Lado.

LADO SVANADZE: Thank you, Alexandra. Thank you and greetings to everyone. My name is Lado Svanadze. I represent the noncommercial organization in Georgia, Tbilisi. Thank you, Alexandra, and thank you, ICANN, for organizing this meeting. It is very important for our region.

Our organization within the last two years since its establishment has been very active, and I would like to point out the activities that are specifically related to ICANN in the region. First of all, that would be IGF since ICANN supports our forum for Internet governance in Georgia. I would also like to point out another good project that we've launched, that's training for law enforcement in Georgia. Two such trainings have already been

conducted. One was in last December, and this year was in September. About 20 participants took part in these trainings from various structures and government agencies that are involved in dealing with cybercrimes and cybersecurity.

There's also a great initiative that we have in cooperation with the academy. We've created a center for studies and research of the Internet under the Georgian University together with Michael Yakushev. We began working, and this year we've continued this work in September with [Alexandra], so this work has already begun, and I think this is also going to be a great project. And in the future, it'll bring us a lot of good things. As far as activities related to ICANN, in the future there will be more close collaboration. We have a lot of plans, especially with academia. Thank you, Alexandra.

ALEXANDRA KULIKOVA: Please don't be shy. Speak up. Mention something that may have been a bit of a failure. This is not a formal political bureau meeting. We don't report just our successes. We could also talk about shortcomings, things that need our attention. It doesn't have to be right now as well. I know. I know. Also, whatever wasn't mentioned today should and needs to be sent in writing so that this information will not become lost. I'm taking notes, I'm writing down whatever I can. Oleg Levchenko is next.

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OLEG LEVCHENKO: Greetings, colleagues. It's a pleasure to get together here once again, and to speak in our native language. I represent the administration of the domain registry .ua. In one month and one day, we will have 15th anniversary of delegation. Right now, there are 550,000 domains in the zone. In the 25 years, we've managed to preserve the structure of regional public domains – so the 25th anniversary. The zone was subscribed, and so the DNs are being delegated in all zones, except for the second level.

We support the [Anycast] technology. We have our own servers that support this technology, and we also use several suppliers of this service such as IAC, PCH, and CommunityDNS. In addition, we have set up three K-root servers in Ukraine: Odessa, Kiev and [Kharkov.] And we continue to work in this direction with other companies such as Verisign. Verisign for instance, recently we had a server of this company set up in Kiev in Ukraine. All registrations under the .ua domain – I'm sorry, not all of them, most of them, there are only a few [regional] domains left. Another UDP registry was launched recently, and several more public domains were included into the UDP domain registry system.

Currently, we are developing – we periodically get together with our stakeholders, with the registrars and lawyers, and we

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discuss possible areas of future development, and in the nearest future, we will develop possibilities for developing registrations in IDN and for new license-based agreements for registration of trademarks on the second level. We will also develop a policy for RDP registration that will happen in the near future, and we'll continue developing Anycast as our own as well as outsourced.

In addition, I would like to escalate the procedure that currently exists within ICANN for upgrading servers to root. There's the following problem: when we set up these servers, when they were set up, we purchased them ourselves and then offered them to ICANN for installation. Now we have to purchase a server in the United States, transport them over to our country, and so there are two questions that arise.

One of them is the procedure for a company like ours that doesn't do shipments on a regular basis for clearing customs. For instance when the server was sent, this transaction of shipment and receipt took approximately three months, even though it seems like it shouldn't be a big deal. So that's one issue. The other issue is support for this hardware that will be located very far away from the United States. Who will be dealing with this? How will this be happening? That is the problem that may not be an emergency, but it will gradually emerge.

We're involved in educational programs. Every year, we hold – and we will continue to hold – our own forum. Last year, we held it together with ICANN and we called it Eastern European DNS forum. This year, we will continue calling it [Europe House] as it's been called for seven years. We invite everyone to visit it. It will take place on December 1ˢᵗ of this year. Thank you.

ALEXANDRA KULIKOVA: I wanted to clarify. As far as the root servers, I understood the question and I will try to clarify for everybody else who may be interested in installing an instance in L-root. The procedure has changed somewhat. As the colleagues are saying, it improved or changed for the better. So I think with the new candidate, we will soon learn how to work with it.

In my experience, [I should say that was the first setup the root service for MTS,] that was my first project when I came to ICANN in November of 2015. November and December is when we completed it about March or February of this year. So the document turnover is extremely complex. And as far as purchasing, installing, providing support, that is a very complex issue if more than two partners are involved in this project. And when there are intermediaries that also come to the picture. If I understand correctly the essence of the reform that has been

implemented for this procedure, the process will be accelerated as much as possible and automated as much as possible.

As far as updating and technical maintenance, I will clarify this issue myself because I'm also interested to find out about it. It's not a burning, emergency issue. It's just there are certain – in Ukraine there are four or five of these servers. Microphone, [inaudible] please.

OLEG LEVCHENKO: No, we're not the only ones who installed L-root. In any case, there are three ICANN servers, in Kharkov, Odessa, and Kiev. They're gradually becoming obsolete, and they will need to be replaced. So this procedure is so far planned for 2018. And how will it occur? So far, we are not sure yet. We're working on that.

ALEXANDRA KULIKOVA: Thank you very much, Oleg. I will thank you specifically for the birth of our new forum that allows us to unite us all in this regional platform. And on this note, I would like to give word to Helen Belskaya. I think she was able to connect to us remotely. Helena works for Hoster.by, which is a company that hosted us during this year's forum which took place in October 12-15. It took place along with ENOG which brought them together for the Internet week in Minsk. [inaudible] Hoster.by [there] decided to create an umbrella brand, and they got a very interesting result. So we have Helen online. Helen?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: She's also the secretary of [our SIG.] Helen Belskaya, congratulations on that.

ALEXANDRA KULIKOVA: While we're resolving the technical issues, I will say a few words for the colleagues who may not be as familiar with this format. It must have emerged in a sense because there was never an ICANN conference in our region so far, for various reasons. Mostly, there is not enough initiative, and I hope that this initiative will emerge soon and that there will be the desire to host it. I think it's not as complicated. I think one of the main problems in addition to the lack of initiative is the technical ability to host. Helen, can you hear us?

HELEN BELSKAYA: I can hear you. Can you hear me? Hello?

ALEXANDRA KULIKOVA: Yes, a couple of minutes, I'm going to finish my phrase here. The last forum that took place in Minsk, one of the main achievements of this forum was that it was possibly a bit smaller as far as the scope than the first experience in Kiev, but there was a bit better representation, a bit more balanced as far as the

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region. And there were even representatives from the outside of our region. There were guests from Serbia – Dusan is sitting here in the back – there was [George] from Slovenia, there were representatives from Latvia, Lithuania, even our friends from central Asia attended from Transcaucasian countries which are joining Europe very successfully in our activities. So there was a lot of interesting collaboration. Helen, the word goes to you.

HELEN BELSKAYA: Good morning. Thank you very much for introducing me, Alexandra. Helen Belskaya, Hoster.by company. I would like to speak briefly about the results of interaction with ICANN this year, and emphasize two major events: Belarus IGF and Eastern European DNS Forum. Both of these events brought a lot of interest from the regional community, and there was a lot of great feedback due to the changed legislation as far as the five-year visa-free entry into Belarus. These events help us bring in a lot more representatives of the global community.

Belarus IGF, ICANN annually supports this event, being one of the main partners. And the representatives at the ICANN were some of the major speakers at IGF. After this event, we held an electronic survey of the visitors, and we found out there was over 90% satisfaction rate of this forum. So there were various representatives of different stakeholders, the academia,

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business community, technical community, the civil society, and the government.

As far as the DNS forum, as Alexandra noted correctly, it took place on October 12 and 13, and it gathered over 160 representatives of the Belarus and foreign technical societies. The net forum was visited by representatives of different countries: Russia, Ukraine, Armenia, Lithuania, Serbia, United States, and many other countries.

Among the representatives and speakers, we had very important guests, representatives of ICANN. The Internet ombudsman and the representatives of the Belarussian government and the law enforcement. As far as the foreign speakers in the DNS forums shared unique experience which was unique for Belarus, which caused a lot of heated discussion during the event itself and the event sessions and during the coffee breaks.

The goals that we have set as part of the Belarus IGF and the DNS forum, such as improving the information promotion in our region, I think that was achieved, and us, our company [Hoster.by] are very grateful for the trust and for the support of the initiatives in our region. We hope that we will continue the successful collaboration. Thank you very much.

ALEXANDRA KULIKOVA: Thank you, Helen. I believe that one of the lessons that we all learned based on the last experience with the DNS forum is that the efforts in improving the information are still ongoing, and in some areas we still have room to grow, but I believe that overall, that is very good. It gives us a few prospects, some way to go for the future, especially in the technical aspect. And I think that together with hoster.by, we have accomplished the mission of shedding light on many issues that have to do with the activities of the industry, with the DNS technology, in order to show the local community the areas of work that are being accomplished in the country and outside of the country and even globally. And I think that was – I hope that was helpful. Now the microphone goes to Andrei [inaudible] from the Information Center of the [RURF] domain names from Russia.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Good morning, colleagues. I think as far as reporting on the successes in developing the national domains, I'm going to skip that part, especially since everything is included in the brochure that we brought with us, and I will go straight for the business, for our agenda. I support Oleg in expressing gratitude for the ICANN organizing the forum in our native language, or if not native, the language that is close and understandable for most of us in order to hold the working sessions and the Eastern European DNS Forum.

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If we look at the history, in 1998 in the coordination center together with our registration society initiated a regional branch conference. Now it's called TLDCON. There was a tenth such conference held in Almaty in September with the traditional support of ICANN. This was one of the main tasks to make sure that our community can get together and discuss its professional problems in Russian. And moreover, there are other related problems in our region. So this has been demonstrated by the topic of our meetings. The first one was held in Hyderabad, and here's our second one.

What I would like to express as far as wishes and hopes for the future, as was shown by the Belarussian and Kiev events, we need to involve registrars. I know that it's complicated. Our ten-year experience shows that in order to get the registrars and have them actively participate, we need some sort of practically oriented presentation so that it reflects their business interests and so that there would be some more clearly formulated ideas that is often lacking.

I'm very glad that over this last year, we were able to identify and to break down and see that we have now a more global eastern European conference, that there's a clearly technical day, the TLD forum conference is still dedicated to the discussion of the issues of interaction of registrations and

registries, interaction of registrars and the law enforcement and the judicial authorities, so it's more practically oriented.

Speaking of the recommendations for the eastern European forum, we'd be happy to host it in Moscow. We mentioned that back in Minsk, and we're repeating our invitation once again. If there is the desire, then please, we could even do it in 2018. It would be very useful to invite representatives of [inaudible] because the interest towards the UDRP procedure and the dispute resolution is great. A lot of Russian registrars are not ICANN accredited, so they encounter these issues in practice. So it's not theoretical, it's quite on the surface.

What else among the hot topics? For us, this topic of jurisdiction of ICANN is very important. In ICANN, there was a bit of euphoria in Hyderabad because of the transition of the IANA functions. There was a PTI formed, but after that, there were still questions, including questions in our country, our government. We need more specific answers to these questions to be able to work as a trusted partner, which is something that Alexander mentioned at the beginning.

If it's once again a long discussion that'll take many years, and there will not be a clearly formulated roadmap, then I'm afraid that there will be problems with building this trust–based relationship. There was the DAAR project which was mentioned

many times during this conference and during last years'. It's very much our [Metascope] project in many ways, and here we should move forward a little bit. If DAAR is mostly the platform for gathering statistics, for processing it, analyzing. As far as our national domains, .ru and .rf, this has become a platform for competent organizations that have certain powers in order for warning [registrars,] for relinquishing delegations of such domain names.

We have also discussed that our region is well-known for the fact that our people like various circulated guidelines, or maybe things that are typical for the United States [is to] discuss, to come to some agreement in general principles, but not ever come up with any document, any paper document. In our country, in our culture, yes, it's much more important to have something in writing, something that the community can produce and show, especially to the government authorities, to the respective authorities.

So I also would like to maybe offer our experience as an example without being excessively modest, and say that [Metascope] has done lot of work in this area, and there are more than two million domains that [Metascope] has analyzed in this respect. It also tells us about as far as the problems that have not been resolved, [the ID mail.] This is [ID] where we have the largest IDN registry, and the absence of Cyrillic mail certainly restricts the

development of the RF domains. I know this is just not our problem, it's a problem for all the Cyrillic and other IDN registries.

I would like to also express a few words of gratitude for supporting us. We have changed somewhat the format that we do our Russian IGF. In following the appropriate directive from the global IGF, we gamified some of the parts of it, we have translated it into English. This is all done to involve the next generation, even high schoolers. They do a module on the Internet and then they can ask questions. We did – and actually, it's starting tomorrow – we are launching sort of like a competition, and there are partners who support us. Thanks, ICANN, for providing information for those educational modules. This is all very helpful, the educational model and the competition are all very helpful in our work with the next generation. I know that in 2018, the IGF will take place in Saint Petersburg, and [industry-related] university departments will also be involved. Thank you very much.

ALEXANDRA KULIKOVA: Thank you very much, [Andrei.] I would like to respond to a few things you said. So far, we are not yet at the stage where decisions are being made. It is the community that actually presents the recommendations based on the analysis of

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statistics, and the platform itself actually is not something that is developed by ICANN staff but by a third party in partnership with ICANN. So it's kind of sort of a hybrid type platform that we're talking about here.

I'm sure that this topic will be with us for a while. There are things that we can take from [Netscope,] from their experience. We are in touch, and I know that we will continue supporting the option for our experts involved in DNS abuse, supporting their ability to get in touch with experts from our region. That could help us develop this DAAR platform. Thank you so much for your readiness to cooperate with us. And I actually stressed that as one of [the unresolved] issues, and I'm very happy that you are here to support us. Dusan who is here, he did a session in Minsk and did a hands-on exercise where we sent an e-mail in Cyrillic to him. Was it successful?

DUSAN STOJICEVIC: Sorry, Alex, 73.3%.

ALEXANDRA KULIKOVA: So over 70% of those who sent an e-mail to Dusan on his Cyrillic domain, those e-mails went through. I know he will use that experience for the future. Thank you, [inaudible]. I think it's April 6 that IGF will take place in Saint Petersburg, and actually, that

is a center association of managers – that event will take in Moscow on May 30, that's a center event. Yulia, do you want to say a few words about [jurisdiction?] This is the GAC representative from Russia, Yulia Elanskaya.

YULIA ELANSKAYA: Hello. Well, first off, just a few words about the fact that there is a community within ICANN, there is a community of government representatives. It's a committee, but it has a challenge as in it is not equal to all the other stakeholders because we're just an advisory committee. So sometimes, GAC's recommendations that are consensus-based – which is not always easy, because every region and every country has their own interests – but sometimes these recommendations aren't necessarily accepted by the Board, which creates its own challenges that sometimes evolve into something bigger. For example right now, there are [second level two level] domain names. That's an issue. There is an issue with .amazon domain that has still not been resolved. We're working on it, even though the Board is sort of ignoring the GAC, but we hope that good sense will prevail.

In terms of jurisdiction, I do think that it's an important thing and topic. A lot of organizations make decisions that are regionally oriented. It makes sense because neighbors understand each other's problems better, and a lot of times, it

helps countries when they communicate not always at community level. It can be ccTLD level and community level. And ICANN because it has a regional representative, there is an option to centralize opinions, and I think it will help develop a shared opinion.

An international organization in and of itself is a difficult thing to do. A consensus decision is something difficult to achieve, and it's good to have a regional consensus that then is elevated to the international level. I think this is very useful, and I know and I believe that we need to use this mechanism.

Jurisdiction is an important thing, and it is somewhat of a sensitive one for our country because there are sanctions and political sanctions. They can be one sided and they can affect companies that have nothing to do with politics at all. These companies that have to do with ICANN, ICANN says that public interest is part of its mission, but then there are sanctions, and so there is kind of somewhat of an unresolved question and kind of contradictory statements then coming out. So I'm happy we're working together as a region.

ALEXANDRA KULIKOVA: Thank you very much. We will be looking forward to your updates about the discussions taking place in GAC. And of course, this is not a request only for Yulia, but also for Mzia. She

left the session, but Mzia Gogilashvili, she's the representative of Georgia, and to the left of me, we have the representative of Ukraine, Oleksandr Tsaruk, so please do share with us what we discussed.

OLEKSANDR TSARUK: I would like to share a new piece of news that I just got. They just elected a new Chairman of GAC, it's Manal Ismail, the representative of Egypt. So we have a new head.

For my side, I can say that ICANN has a lot of initiatives going on. A lot of those are known in our region, a lot of those are not as well-known. I know that Alexandra is a professional in communications, and I know that these bridges, these paths, virtual and real ones and physical ones, they will be built in our region.

ICANN also has community.icann.org where regions publish their plans for their work and discussions. Unfortunately, our eastern European page doesn't have information, any content there yet, but I hope that will change soon. I read the newsletter regularly, and usually it has an overview of the work done globally and regionally. Unfortunately, the Tblisi Laboratory, nothing about it there. And I know that every country has initiatives that are done but that aren't necessarily published in the newsletter, which is understandable, but I believe that the

workspace is the place to share information and links, and I will invite everyone to do that. I hope that Alexandra will start overseeing that as well. Thank you very much. I would be very happy to discuss this as well.

ALEXANDRA KULIKOVA: Irina Danelia also wanted to say a few words about her domain.

IRINA DANELIA: Actually, I have a few comments here about what was discussed here last year. Last year, I had along presentation. This time, I will be brief, just a few comments, because a lot of things have already been said here today.

First, this is not just for ccTLDs but more for gTLDs that the [inaudible] domain is also a part of. There's a topic that is still very urgent, and that is a conflict between national legislation and ICANN contracts in the part that has to do with personal data and publication of personal data. This issue is being actively discussed again. That's not because we're the ones who have raised it but because the GDPR regulation is becoming effective in Europe. It might resolve our issue, but for now, things have not changed.

Partially – and thankfully – this issue will actually get resolved because there is now an ICANN-accredited escrow agent. For

now, it is only accredited to provide services for registrars, but I hope an escrow agent for registries will also appear. I would also like to stress this and bring your attention to the urgency of this issue.

Also, there was a universal acceptance steering group-led session yesterday that lasted an hour and a half. I was very happy to hear an update from them about the progress made. Progress has in fact been made. In addition to them developing various documents, they're trying to establish a dialog with the software makers, with IT company management.

But what concerned me somewhat was the fact that for them, the priority is new ASCII domains, .example, etc., as in the domains that came about thanks to the new gTLD [program.] So those are all ASCII or Latin script-based domains. The non-ASCII ones, IDN domains, they are somewhere on the list, but they're not a priority. So we would be happy to see work done in that area and initiatives that have to do with IDN domains, specifically those that are active in our marketplace.

I absolutely support any and all effort made to involve and engage the next generation. I do believe that this is extremely important. New blood is very important because this community can't become a club for seniors, right?

It's very good that ICANN site is being revamped, and I very much hope that the new version will also contain a kind of navigation guide for pages that are in Russian. There are pages in Russian, but they're very difficult to find. This is exactly why the landing page has come about. This is to make sure that Russian language resources that are a priority for our community, that they are highlighted on the [landing] page. We are looking forward to it. I'm not seeing it yet, but it's coming about in the next week or so after the meeting. We just finished the discussion on the landing page here in Abu Dhabi.

ALEXANDRA KULIKOVA: Elena, if you would please say a few words.

ELENA VORONINA: MSK-IX. Thank you very much, dear colleagues. MSK-IX, well, we work in the telecommunications market, and our skills in this area have allowed us to work with the coordination center, and this has been a very long-term relationship. We defend the interests of the domain business. We built a network that uses [IX traffic] in Russia. We launched in Riga as well recently, so overall, we have about ten platforms with other Internet exchanges.

We also use Internet exchanges to install five root servers in Moscow, Saint Petersburg, Novosibirsk, and [Rostov.] We also provide a service in that we actively work with ccTLDs. We host their servers in our datacenter. Please talk to us if you want to work with us.

And also sort of as an outcome of all of the above, and because our partners in the Russian market have this need, we have embarked on obtaining an accreditation as an escrow agent. This is a recent development, so at this point, we have one of the leading Russian registrars test our [platform,] and we are planning to fully launch the service on our platform provided as a paid service. By the end of the year we're planning to launch this. Please, I welcome everyone to work with us.

Now a few words about working with ICANN. We don't have much experience here. We worked with the relevant departments very actively during the accreditation process, but I have to say that everything went pretty smoothly. Thank you very much, dear colleagues. In terms of the future of this relationship and about whether or not this service is going to be successful and in demand, well, the future will show. We will keep you updated. Thank you very much.

ALEXANDRA KULIKOVA: Thank you very much, Elena. This is an important achievement, and I think that next year, we will actually be able to look at the results of this work, and at the experience accumulated over the year. I also had a few questions for Dima Belyavsky Can you say a few words about the Cyrillic Generation Panel? And also a few words about the experience you have and see looking at your work as part of the WHOIS Review Team.

DMITRY BELYAVSKY: Thank you, Sasha. Well, I would like to again say that yesterday, there was a presentation of the Cyrillic Generation Panel. It worked on using Cyrillic symbols in top-level domains and the root. Thanks to Dusan, our proposal has been released for public comment. Please, if you see anything that's wrong, do submit a comment.

Also, I will continue what was said about IDN e-mail. Well, it turned out that there are no technical obstacles to universal implementation of IDN e-mail, but we do have to work on convincing the biggest players, and it will have to be on a case-by-case basis. We just haven't had the time to do it all, but really, IDN e-mail needs to become a requirement and have the same specifications as regular mail. There's the [EPP] protocol, and we are finalizing the IDN e-mail. The relevant documents will soon become RFCs. I urge you to look at them. I think it will be useful.

And also the WHOIS Review Team membership, well, this is something very new. It's a very long-term technical process. I am a technical representative, so I deal mostly with technical side of things, and of course there is again the IDN issue that's being discussed that I am involved it. There is RDAP to replace WHOIS. The WHOIS Review Team is holding its second round because the WHOIS Review 1 concluded by saying that it should be a regular exercise, so this is the second exercise. I'm sure that they'll keep going, but it's very interesting.

ALEXANDRA KULIKOVA: Please keep us updated. I want to say that Dmitry is an active IETF participant. I think you made a presentation this year for the first time in a while, right?

DMITRY BELYAVSKY: Well, for me this was my first time in IETF.

ALEXANDRA KULIKOVA: Okay. Well, that's a separate topic that we won't go into now. We have very little time left, but I wanted to go back to the engagement of the next generation. We do have some representatives from various educational programs. There is NextGen alumni, Fellows program is represented by Michael

[Kamarov.] I don't know if we'll have time to go into the Higher School of Economics study.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: There are a couple of people who are two-time fellows. Well, Alexander Isavnin, [inaudible] is here. Michael [inaudible], [inaudible]. All four of them represent our region in the fellowship, and there is NextGen as part of NextGen ambassador. That's right. And Olga as well. We also – just to remind all, [Kateryna Oliinyk] is another fellow, so we actually have five fellows, and [Kateryna] is a second time fellow. We have two Katerynas, right?

ALEXANDRA KULIKOVA: So first off, we had a webinar about fellowship and NextGen programs in the spring, I believe. That's when we were describing the programs and participation in them. This is a way to become involved in ICANN community, and I think that we did manage to generate interest. Well, at least the experience and the candidates that we did see, they have very advanced experienced, we're very happy to see them. Maybe I'll ask Kateryna to say a few words, and Siranush as well.

KATERYNA OLIINYK: Thank you. Thank you very much. Finally, I have been kind of – if you will – identified here. Well, here's what I wanted to say. Involvement of ICANN in Ukraine is expanded, but understanding ICANN's structure and strategy, well, I was able to get involved only thanks to the fellowship program.

I have to say that this program is not sort of the only thing to do. It's really a step one in getting involved in ICANN, and this is really an introduction into how policies are developed and how stakeholder groups work so that later on, we can participate and so that the region can be heard.

This is my second fellowship program, and I can see that the region is better represented, which is of course happy news. This time, I'm here as part of the IP constituency, and this group is extremely important. We can see the challenges that the new rights protection mechanisms create. We also see data protection issues and data exchange in the digitalized economics environment. All those are very important, and we're very welcoming of all ICANN initiatives.

I would also like to stress the following extremely important thing: Fellowship in ICANN is really sort of something that brings us together in the region, and it's something that paves the way for a dialog between regional representatives, and this also helps identify, unify the voice for the region.

ALEXANDRA KULIKOVA: Thank you so much. I would like to welcome all of you and ask all of you to share the names of those who would like to participate and to really spread the word about ICANN and this opportunity. Now, we have a few minutes left. I would like to ask the veterans in the community. I'm looking at [Andrei and Dmitry.] Dmitry was definitely here with us last year in Hyderabad at this session. What are you thinking? Do you think what we're doing is good, or do you think we need to change things? Yes, please go ahead.

DMITRY BURKOV: Thank you very much, Sasha. Thank you for the presentation. It's strategy, and that's very interesting. For me, it looks somewhat as a good marketing strategy. I think the rest could be called a roundtable. I think that would be a better option.

To be perfectly honest, I'm not very interested in ICANN's strategy, because there are contractual relationships. But really for what ICANN does is working on contractual relationships. Irina already said that we need ICANN to take into account the fact that the world isn't just California, but there are lots of other countries and not just the European Union countries, there are other issues, actually.

But really strategically, there is only one issue, only one thing that ICANN should be involved in. Those are contractual relationships. There used to be an umbrella in Washington, and today, there is no umbrella. Everyone understands this. This is why the discussion has started in the working group [too.]

There is a change of legislation in the U.S. that happened in August. There are sanctions in place, and it's just that the sanctions haven't been implemented. But really, the sanctions are there, and really, I don't know what ICANN is thinking with in terms of this new environment that has been created in light of these new sanctions. And how do we now work and fulfill the provisions?

[I've asked] these questions of the Board a lot of times, asked about how they're planning to work in light of the new [inaudible] provisions. I know that there are kind of non-session discussions, backdoor discussions. There used to be the Department of Commerce umbrella, but now it's not there.

There's [ISTAR] that started working back in Washington from the very beginning, but today, the issue is open, and there is no umbrella. And how are they planning to implement the law that affects Russia, Iran, and Azerbaijan as well? It will just go – it's going to have a trickle-down effect. You will feel the effect of the U.S. sanctions as well.

I am worried about the fact that we are an issues-fraught region, and this is a key issue for us. How are you planning to live under these sanctions? It just hasn't been applied yet. There was one case, but we weren't involved. But at one point, we will be affected, and I don't know what will happen, and I don't know how we will respond, and I don't know how it will impact the rest. I don't know how this system will withstand. So really, the entire structure will be challenged.

But really, ICANN is all about contracts, and I'm not interested in Internet missionary work. I'm surprised that it's even an issue, but I have already identified the issue. I think this is a lot of financial aspects.

ALEXANDRA KULIKOVA: Really, we're talking here about the engagement strategy, the issues that you just raised, they are not going away. These are very legitimate concerns, however, but we are here to discuss engagement, and what you just identified is also just as important.

DMITRY BURKOV: [inaudible] it's one of the problems. ICANN now combines two roles: the commercial one and the role of the missionary. The missionary role sooner or later will fall away. What we need are the rules of interaction between us, not any kind of hierarchy. That's only one part. It's being mixed together, because here we

generate the rules and contractual obligations. This game will not have a good outcome. It'll turn into cartel discussion.

We need to remember that about the monopolies, cartels, commercial regulators. We need to divide apples from oranges. There has to be some clarity of positioning. And the problems in the agenda in the meeting for our region, they're being concentrated for everyone. I mean as far as the [GDPR] effect, the distinguishing these problems. If it continues this way, then along with Europe and China will increase our trade barriers.

ALEXANDRA KULIKOVA: It's because it's about the markets. I can say that as far as GDPR and the fact that this is not so far just a precedent work, but it will not be the end of the process. there is this understanding. Of course, on my part, I will speak about this as well, that such loss could arise in any country and we'll have to face it. It's part of the normal process.

DMITRY BURKOV: Well, you know, I'm opening Facebook and I'm reading recommendations about the presentation of one of the largest American corporations. Free nations should start investigating their platform for nationalizing the Internet. So this is where we're going.

ALEXANDRA KULIKOVA: So on this optimistic note, we're completing our [interaction] for today. Thank you very much. I would like to ask everyone who didn't have a chance to speak to please convey your important and valuable thoughts about what is not being and what should be done, to me especially, and we'll go back to this discussion on other platforms. And I'm sure we'll discuss it more than once before our next meeting in spring. Thank you.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]