BARCELONA – Regional Strategy Outlook (Eastern Europe and Central Asia)
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ALEXANDRA KULIKOVA: Greetings. I'm asking everyone to please sit closer. They're going to move the tables in a moment. Sit close. Greetings. We are going to start in a couple of minutes. I would like to turn your attention to the fact that the slides that we are going to see on the screen are also available on the site, the same one that has the schedule, the webpage of our session. We're going to drop this link into the Adobe Connect chat in a moment. So, if anyone feels like it's going to be more convenient to look at it on the screen, on your computer, not on the screen, it's available.

Greetings, everyone, once again. Thank you, everyone, who came to attend our regional session for Eastern Europe and Central Asia. If you need interpretation, it is available in English. Please take the headphones in the back of the room. Apologies for this minor delay. We had some technical difficulties after the previous session, but apparently everything has been resolved.

I would like to point out once again that the slides are available on the web page of this session so you can see them there or you can follow us on Adobe Connect. Whatever is more convenient for you. I'm very happy to see everyone who came to attend this session. This is the third time when we're gathering in this format to discuss the latest news of our joint activities in the Eastern European, Central Asian region. This time, the format is somewhat different. We're changing it.

Our session will be a two part. First, I'm going to say a few words about the most notable events of the last year and the last time we held this session was in Abu Dhabi at the 60th ICANN conference. The second part of this session will be dedicated to a project that we have launched just a few weeks ago.

Our region became one of the pilot regions in order to see how the survey works and I would like to present to you the results of this survey and to use the opportunity of great representation in our region. We have a lot of familiar faces here, some that we're not so familiar with and it would be great to hear your opinion, your thoughts, on the results of our survey.

I'm not going to go in depth into the framework of the regional strategy because we discussed this in detail during the last two meetings. If you're going to look at our presentation … Could I have a microphone that I can walk around with? Next slide.

These are the slides that you're all familiar with. You've seen them all. We've discussed them last time we met. This time, I'd like to just turn your attention to a couple of things. During the last year, we have now one more representative of our region in the empowered community. Andrei is sitting right next to me. That's him. Andrei represents the At-Large community, and starting this year, he's also a full-fledged member or one of the members of the community on the SSAC for stability and resiliency.

One more piece of news. The RDS-2 Review Team completed its work this year and there will also be a representative of our region, [Deema

ICANN 63
ANNUAL GENERAL
BARCELONA
20–26 October 2018

Belovski] – unfortunately, he's not present here, but hopefully he will participate remotely and maybe he's already connected. I'm not going to try to switch between these slides on my own, but apparently I'm not able to do that. Next slide, please.

This is the timeline which we're going to clarify. These are the strategic goals that the strategy was based on for the last several years. As you're aware, we're working on the strategy for the next several years. These goals determine the strategic goals or the strategic objectives that we have already gone into for our work in the region, so I'm not going to go into them into detail. I believe everybody is familiar with this. Once again, next slide, next slide.

These are three main focus areas where we're working on these objectives and meeting these objectives. I would like to go into detail on a few highlights or achievements. The most interesting events that have occurred during the last year. Once again, the next slide.

First of all, we're capable of developing the training format for security, stability, and resiliency. Two of them were held twice in Kiev in November and in April, and for the first time, we held this training in Moscow, Russia, in September based on FinCERT, Bank of Russia. This format is developing, so that's very pleasing. It's been seven trainings in four countries in the last few years and it's great.

Another highlight is a rather global story. As you're aware, for the last few years, we've been working very closely with the community talking about the KSK rollover. This event finally took place on October 11th. At least the KSK rollover is still ahead or the final stages ahead in

November, but overall we can say that this process was completed with a lot few losses than what we expected and what we were preparing our community for. I'm pointing this out because there was a lot of interest in the media to this topic and we were working very closely with the journalists. We answered questions. Sometimes we had to ameliorate all the concerns. Some were upset by the fact that nothing happened, that there were no sensations.

I would also like to express my support for the colleagues that helped to dispel myths in different countries. That was very useful in Russia, Ukraine, in Belarus. So, thank you so much for the informational support. We're continuing to work closely on the situation with the root mirror servers. Right now, we have two more cases. The L-roots. I'm not going to go into detail once again, but we're continuing to work on that and that's also great. Next slide, please.

Here we'd like to point out regarding the industry. There are a few interesting trends or even achievements. In Armenia, they found that the Center for Domain Name Dispute Resolution or settlement – hopefully we're going to hear the representative in a few moments. There is also an interesting reform that's taking place in Georgia, domain name registration reform. That's been continuing, if I'm not mistaken, for over a year. It's a very interesting process. It involves a great number of not just local stakeholders, but of global ones as well and it's a very interesting case, so I believe we're going to discuss it in more detail at one of our meetings.

The third point, or third bullet, my impression is that there is additional interest to ICANN accreditation. In a sense, this also influences the fact that we're now preparing the format of trainings for registrars which is now already active in the Western European region, so we are preparing it for our region. Next slide, please. [Another Language 17:30 – 19:008]

There is an expanded use of DNS and we will discuss this separately. There are black swans, regional black swans, that mean events that might be unexpected, sort of like GDPR had for WHOIS. Nobody expected that. Nobody expected such an impact that ICANN community have in terms of policy making.

I want to talk here about Kazakhstan. It's not impacting accessibility of online resources, but multi-lingual development of Internet is something that is impacted by this.

There are other things. It was important to sign a Memorandum of Understanding that we signed in Armenia in January of last year. Then, in IGF I did a presentation on ecosystem and the governments in the GAC and their role. We haven't had presentations like these in the past. Actually, this helped build some relationships that hopefully will help us in the future and that we can develop further.

We had an ICANN CEO and CTO come to Moscow with an official visit. We had high-level meetings. This was the first meeting of this type. And last ICANN President's visit to Russia was six years ago. Goran went to Moscow. That was a very important and significant step. We met with the ministry with the President's administration. We had meetings with the community. Unfortunately, not everything unfolded as we would

have wanted it. Unfortunately, we had to curtail the visit somewhat due to family circumstances. But we did have a good meeting with the technical community with some of the security-related companies, cybersecurity-related companies. ICANN CTO made a presentation at the Cybersecurity Congress and I think that we will repeat something like this in the future.

We'll have to also mention fellowship and NextGen and the fact that they're growing. The participants are very active. I see four people this year. Three of them are here on those programs for the second time. Katrina, for example, became a coach.

Now, moving into academia relationships. The School of Economics is something, the school that we might be having a relationship with. I had a very interesting experience in Belarus because at the very beginning of October I was able to do a lecture at the Belarus State University and a lot of … It's interesting to do because students always ask very strange questions, and sometimes deep, unexpected, and I think Belarus students are very promising for the Belarus IT community.

Then then there are some new formats unexplored, but here I talk [inaudible] International Congress. We were talking at the Saint Petersburg International Economic Forum. There is also the Eastern European DNS Forum which is taking place in Moscow on December 4th and 5th. Please come. We look forward to seeing you there.

So, this slide contains a bit of information about the updates over the past year. We will try to connect some of our friends remotely. While we wait, is there any desire in the room to give any other updates about

some of the past events? Maybe you have some interesting trends of observations about things happening in your countries.

ALEXANDER ISAVNIN: Hello. Alexander Isavnin, the coordinator of CENTR for International Interaction. We had an event on the 22nd of September. The [inaudible] Fest. Unfortunately, we didn't have any ICANN representatives there because they were busy elsewhere, but we discussed and promoted DNSSEC implementation. We were talking about why it's good for the Internet, that nothing bad is going to happen during the KSK rollover.

So, communities that's outside of ICANN, non-ICANN communities, are also working. It would be nice to have ICANN be more actively involved.

ALEXANDRA KULKOVA: Thank you very much for the [civic forum]. It reflects very well the civil society work. This was a great platform. That happened last year, last November. So, I'm talking about the past year, the year that lapsed since the last time we had this session.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Hello. [inaudible], Armenia. If you could say a couple of words. Any settlement decision means that local bodies need to confirm it. This means that arbitration has to take place in the local courts. This means that it is a two-step procedure. Also, there is an issue that has to do with our courts being qualified for doing this. I think this is an issue that affects many judges in many countries. They don't understand how

DNS works. So, there are training programs for future [arbitrators]. Our legislation allows that. Today, we already have [arbitrators] that have gone through training, both on the legal side as well as on the technical side. The training explains what domain names are and how the WIPO procedure works.

So, once the final registration decision is made, we will already have 10-15 trained [arbitrators]. When the domain name registrar contracts are signed, after that, all the arbitration decisions will be made within this framework. We've been working on this for the past two years and this is the state of affairs as of today. Thank you.

QUESTION: When did you finish this?

ANSWER: Well, it's completed. This program is completed, but we are still working on finalizing the online platform. So, I think that all the decisions and all the documents will be submitted online to avoid wasting any time.

ALEXANDRA KULIKOVA: Thank you very much. I know that in Ukraine we have colleagues working on the same issue, in the same vein, so I think we will be working on following up on that. Thank you very much. Too bad that you weren't able to be here with us in Barcelona, but I'm happy that you were able to connect here and I welcome all.

Now I would like to ask the other Gregory who presents FinCERT from the Bank of Russia. Hopefully, he will be able to join remotely. Also, I would like to note that there was a very interesting event this year that to place in Tbilisi, EuroDIG. Went there this year. There is a representative here in the room, too. The event went very well. The government support was excellent. And I believe that it gave some sort of an impetus to the local community and provided an opportunity to discuss local issues, but also global ones. I think it was a great opportunity for the regional community to meet and come together. We have two Gregorys and we're waiting for the other one to join.

Any other comments on this first part of the presentation? Something you would like to share with us, maybe. Okay, good. Then, while we wait for the second Gregory, I will move to … Oh, I think there is a question.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: [inaudible] speaking, Ukraine. I would like to repeat myself and say that it was very nice to see ICANN support of initiatives by the legal community in the region. There is the DNS abuse tracking platform being put in place. I think this is very important and the support as well. It helps raise awareness, generally, and because stakeholders and the community overall was sort of closed and these days it's opening up. So, it's very important in terms of right holder disputes as well. So, it's important to make sure that the legal community formulates the thing they are defending correctly.

ALEXANDRA KULIKOVA: I would like to unfortunately say a couple of two, three negative things. There is a lot of interaction, but there are some gaps. We can't and haven't been able to move the community to be more active in the universal acceptance area. The Cyrillic script, so far we haven't been able to build bridges with the operator community with browsers, so this is something that remains unresolved. So, any ideas are welcome.

I would like to, of course, see more effort in terms of educational programs. I would like to remind all of ICANNLearn platform. It's been in place for a while but it has been greatly improved with lots of new content. Soon, fellows program will have a requirement for fellows to complete the relevant courses. Unfortunately, resources are not expanding. I think a lot of you know this. We will obviously be trying to make sure that things that we aren't able to cover personally we will be trying to cover remotely. There is already content there available, not just in English, but as much as possible and over time content will be in all the languages including Russian. So, I'm hoping that it will be helpful as well.

This, of course, doesn't preclude personal interactions and personal relationships with government, etc. I know that our region has some issues in that respect. It's not always obvious to raise awareness and ensure that everyone understands what the role of governments is in this area.

So, let's see if we're able to connect Gregory. We'll move to the next part of the presentation now.

I needed to discuss some of the highlights of the past year first, and now in the second part, I would like to look at the more hands-on or applied parts of our objectives.

The objective reality is such that the financial side of things related to working with the community and to outreach, they are being reduced. It's not a catastrophic reduction, but it does involve some limitations that we need to take into account when we plan our work going forward.

Now, if we look at the region I'm responsible for, I can say that we don't have enough people on staff. Over the past year, it's only been me – even longer than the past year. This limits the opportunities for responding to some of the demands that our region has. So, we've been thinking about what our region needs. It's important for all of us and it's central to understanding where the resources should be going. So, we decided to come to you for answers and see where exactly capacity building efforts should be going to, especially in areas where ICANN is the leader.

I would also like to look at what our priorities are, both for the organization as well as for the community. This is a very hands-on task. That's why we decided to ask the community about areas that are actually a priority in terms of capacity building.

So, our objective wasn't to come up with a shopping list. We wanted, on the one hand, to see where interests lie and what areas are most interest and we also wanted to see what leading topics are, sort of what is at the peak of this needs pyramid.

So, the pilot survey was done in our region as well as in the African region. The results will be presented by our colleagues in a couple of days from that area and we will present our findings now.

So, here's what we did. We assessed the formats that are already in place, not necessarily in our region, but elsewhere. And to assess the needs, we decided to ask you for feedback to look at priorities for you and then to roll that into strategic planning for the next five years. You know that this is the current approach, so this information is rather important.

Because the survey was pilot survey, there is an asterisk next to the results and the findings. So, at this stage, there was a survey. Please raise your hand whoever filled out the survey. I see the majority did. We collected preliminary data. The survey is still open because we want to keep collecting data. Don't worry, we're not collecting any personal information. And like Gregory was saying, we believe that the results will be taken into account in the future in our work.

For those who haven't seen the survey, it's only a three-page survey. We asked you whether or not you are a part of the ICANN community in any formal capacity, and if so, which one. Asked you for the country you're from. We then split all the formats into two types and those were skills and knowledge and then the other part was personal skills.

So, in all of them, you also needed to evaluate, self-evaluate. We have some presentation materials we can distribute. Those who didn't take the survey, we can provide you with a description of the categories. You

can see them here and there is one category that's very wide and that is awareness about ICANN and DNS.

Then, the second slide on this is what I call personal skill building. So, in the first case, in the first category, we split that into four subcategories. Those are general awareness about ICANN. Second, ICANN's technical rule as one of the coordinating bodies. Then there were special DNS use trainings, something that I was talking about that's going on in the region and then trainings for registrars and registries.

Then, the second category, the personal skill-building, those are split into four subgroups and that's drafting policy directly related to ICANN community work meaning participation in meetings, etc. This category, I think it was somewhat complicated. It might not have been formulated well enough, but really, this was train the trainer more. So, this is a format that isn't developed well enough for now, probably.

On this next slide, let's look at the findings and the results. Oh, and also, the reason I said that you should look at these with an asterisk, if you will, is because … Well, the number of responses was just 53. That's not a lot. The survey was sent to 250 people. So, obviously, there are some statistical anomalies, if you will.

However, we can make some conclusions. There weren't many surprises, at least for me. Most participants were from Russia. In terms of the stakeholder group, there is more or less uniform distribution. There is somewhat more bigger percentage of responses that came

ICANN
ANNUAL GENERAL 63
BARCELONA
20–26 October 2018

from businesses, from the business community. But then you also have the civil society and others. So, there is no significant outliers here.

Then, out of the people who categorize themselves by group and mention affiliations, the split is more or less even, 25 versus 26. Next slide, please.

As far as distribution, the majority were from ccNSO, but I believe that even if we had 200 participants of the survey, I think this would have been a sizable group as well. Right now, this really is our closest partner in various activities, national registries, so possibly the response was a bit higher among them as well as among the At-Large and the non-commercial stakeholders from GNSO. Next slide.

So, this is the picture we got when we asked you to evaluate two major groups here. In the first place, we see increasing knowledge about ICANN and DNS overall. So, out of the number of people who thought that that was number was 28 and those who thought that that was number two issue were 15.

As far as personal skills, yes, there's no great advantage, but let's also account for the number of people that we've surveys, so 22 and 20. So, there is a slight advantage and that goes for knowledge, the subject knowledge, subject-matter knowledge.

Another interesting thing is to see the sub-categories. If we look at the sub-category, the first major block that turned out to be of a higher priority, the greatest number of responses that thought that this was the highest priority topic was Internet governance overall and the

ICANN ecosystem. So, apparently, we still have a demand for general knowledge in the region, what type of area this is, what are the players in it, and what is the technical mission.

At the same time, we should note that those who thought that this was the least interesting category, that that number is not that small as well, 11 people. And the second place we have the Security, Stability, and Resiliency of the identifier systems blog, the training that covers this topic in particular. That's actually about DNS here. We see a more clear picture. We see that there is a much bigger difference between those who thought that this was a first priority subject and those who thought that this was the least priority subject.

The next place on the list goes to the technical functions or the role of ICANN as a technical coordinator. Here the results are really not that different from the trainings for registrars and registries. It's probably not well-represented yet, but in the future I think there will be a training on that. Next slide, please.

As far as the skills that are important for the policy building, policy development – and once again, I'm stressing that this is not really happening in our region yet, but for the future, it's interesting to know how much of a priority that would be, how much interest there is in this subject, so here I would like to also clarify. Maybe somebody would like to explain or maybe somebody out of those who have participated in the survey had some doubts about the final category.

So, it turns out one of the favorites is the category that offers training conducting skills or ability to teach or train in a certain area. Here we

have technical skills, but I believe that we're not just talking about technical skills.

And the second place we see the specific skills for policy writing or participation in the policy development process, next, in the last place or the last two places are held by two other categories that have to do with chairing meetings and reaching consensus, facilitating consensus. This is, of course, very important for GAC meetings, for example, where you have to have consensus in order to reach a decision.

So, it was important in the last three categories, at least in this picture. In the lowest category, we have the lowest priority. We have 11 people. So, these are rather conflicting results. In this entire major category, we don't have a clear favorite. The difference between the highest result and the lowest result is not that great. Possibly this will be clarified if we have more survey participants.

All of these breakdowns, as far as the numbers, are available. You can take a look at them. All of the results are listed.

So, this is the overall picture. It may be not entirely obvious yet, not giving us any clear messages, but if we just take a look at the numbers, my impression is that if we look at the first category – let's go back one slide. If we look at the first category, the picture here is a bit more clear, more obvious. We can tell that we still need a bit more of the [inaudible] pyramid basic level or general knowledge of the ecosystem, Internet governance in general.

After getting this data, I started to think about what measures, what activities, were prioritized during this whole time, which were the most numerous ones. It is true that, most of the time, we have to talk about this subject and this goes for the interaction with the government, with the private sector, with the academia because, one way or another, the conversation begins with what we are doing. That's the basis. That's the foundation. And because the level of knowledge in the region is somewhat lower than in other areas, this remains a priority. So, if we're talking about formats, then the national, regional IGFs is one of the most common events. And to be fair, this is the platform where we can see practically all of the stakeholders out of completely different groups.

The other hand, as I already mentioned during the first part, it is completely obvious that this is also not unique for us. There is definitely a clear appetite for specific topics that concern security, DNS security. The issues that have to do with cybercrime investigations and ICANN, of course, is not the major stakeholder here, not the main stakeholder, but we have expert groups that, on one hand, participate in rather important international projects, on investigating major crime groups, but also have the knowledge that should be shared with the community throughout the world. So, right now, we still don't have the ability to bring these experts as often as we would like. But, the numbers do reflect the interest in this subject.

Next, speaking about the technical mission of the organization and the genre that is not developed yet. So, here, the picture is evident. Next slide.

Also, if we take a look at the future, at the prospective, the trainings we haven't held once yet, which we haven't offered, then we see that even though the interest is diverse, but the interest is there and this is information for us. This is food for thought, so that we can turn our attention to the content that we could offer in our platform, an ICANNLearn platform and that could be translated into Russian and so on. I believe that that is really our next step, the next structure that we can build once we have the informational foundation.

So, this is what I would like to share as far as the numbers. Now I'd like to ask you. And probably, first of all, those – maybe not first of all. It would be good to hear the opinion of those who have participated in the survey. What are your impressions as far as the format, the methodology and the results? Or maybe you have any additional information because we did not compare. We did not look at the results by country. This can be done in the future. Right now, it hasn't been done. We purely wanted to see what the breakdown would be as far as responses and how many people responded, out of what countries, but possibly you have some ideas, some thoughts, and right now is the time to speak about this, either during the session or maybe later during conversation or in writing. The main thing is that we do need this feedback about what you really need.

For many of you, before this meeting, I suggested that you should think about this, so that you can share your thoughts here what we should pay attention to and how to dispose of the resources of which we do not have more, which are decreasing. This is for those who have

participated in this survey. By the way, you can still do it and we're going to watch and see how the results change.

So, what questions do you have to the methodology, to the format, and maybe some concerns that are country-related. So, these are my initial questions to you. I would be very happy to hear from you and I think Andrei will help me, if there is any other way … Yes, we already have a question. Yes, there is Mikhail Sasha. Whose hand was first? I saw Mikhail first. Go on, Mikhail.

MIKHAIL KOMAROV: Greetings, colleagues. This is Mikhail Komarov. I really wanted to mention that, in my opinion, the results of the survey show that there is not enough proactive position of ICANN and part of capacity building. Right now, we can see objectively that there is a great number of good-quality resources. I went through the ICANN course on the ICANN platform. The events or the measures that are in person-to-person format do not resolve the problem in our country, of the territorial distribution, meaning in Russia.

For people, it's difficult to get to in-person events. So, my opinion is that we need to approach the format of remote hubs and organize some sort of a digital event as part of a conference or a forum and bring in universities. I believe bring in academia would be possible. This is possible and fortunately, or unfortunately – I'm not sure – but students don't always understand that the issues of domain development, the security issues, concern them as well or they will concern them in the

ICANN 63
ANNUAL GENERAL
BARCELONA
20–26 October 2018

future. So, involving them through the platforms of the academia or of the academic institutions would be a good [start].

In addition, I would like to point out – maybe we'll discuss this separately. The question of collaboration is, let's say, of Internet work day which is held in Russian schools, for example, with the support of the Council of Federation of the chairman of the Council of Federation. So, I'm not sure how that can be brought together with ICANN. That's probably a separate question. But, as far as involvement of the schools in this process, this format proven itself as usable in Russia. This could be something we could use in the future.

As far as the proactive approach in this format, I think that would be very interesting. This would allow us to gain more respondents, more responses, and form a community.

I would also like to separately point out the IGF format which slowly but surely is moving along. In Moscow, we have more than one university now that are connected to this format and I think other cities will come in as well. Without the proactive position, this will not happen. So, the presence of information on its own will not be enough. Thank you.

Everything is clear about the practical approach but what about the fac that we have a certain resource and XYZ, possibilities for proactive actions. So, what should be in the first place? What should be prioritized? What's happening with the mics?

ALEXANDRA KULIKOVA:	So, overall [inaudible] information in the society, including schools, okay, we understand all that. Okay, thank you. Sasha?
UNIDENTIFIED MALE:	Great. So, Russian hackers broke it and they fixed it, too. Great. I will support Mikhail fully and I will actually speak a bit more broadly. ICANN has so many possibilities to do something in Russia compared to other regions and we can see what's happening in South America, in Asia. But something just needs to be done. So, this is not to you, Sasha. This is for the record. Maybe we should reduce communications in the US. Everything is going great and carefully transferred to our region and I hope to bring this up at the public forum.

Also, if possible, not to use standard communication. The ccTLD, in my view, did everything they could do during this time and it's unlikely they can do more. So, go away from the simple methods of communication using, for instance, country domains or local IGFs. If the country domains do go broader – universities are great. I'm glad that Mikhail proposed this, although we have a difficult time communicating with universities as well. Do something. That would be enough. |
| UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: | Thank you so much. Yes, true, there are a lot of possibilities and that's what I talked about. This is obvious. This is visible and it, in a way, [inaudible]. Yeah. This is a message to ICANN executives. But please, answer me now. If you were to choose the area, the subject, if we're |

talking about, for instance, about capacity building, that's not all ICANN is doing in the region.

So, once again, if somebody is not completely clear about this, we are not talking about all of the activities that myself and colleagues are engaged in in the region. This is a separate format for very practical objectives. The growing potential or capacity building, the subject matter or growing skills, improving skills.

So, what I'm curious about is if we take only this part, only this piece, because there's lot of demand, tell me, what's the priority here? Maybe it's not needed. Maybe we should do away with it.

In my view, in Russia – and I can't talk about the entire region, just about Russia, something that we've omitted or is the understanding that ICANN is about policy because technical skills are great I think throughout the entire region, but understanding of the fact that ICANN is, first of all, policy development that goes into use later, that's why the universal acceptance is a complete failure, because operators don't feel like they are part of the community. They don't know that they're in [SPCP].

So, based on that, facilitating consensus, [inaudible] drafting meetings will grow based on that, but understanding that ICANN is policy development and that it's a very open community for everyone, not just for ccTLDs. I'm sorry, dear ccTLDs, but unfortunately I feel that there is this misunderstanding in our countries, specifically In Russia. So, broad understanding and policy, understanding that it's about policy.

ALEXANDRA KULIKOVA: Thank you, Sasha. Anything else?

ANDREI KOLESNIKOV: What I would like to suggest – maybe it's the format that was mentioned by Mikhail, but ICANN has this great format for communication. It's called webinars for capacity building and there are many different webinars and all kinds of different stakeholder groups. So, maybe it makes sense to maybe do a quarterly session using Adobe Connect or maybe Zoom. Zoom works better, in my view. And invite participants to various – from the region to various discussions or various topics, various issues.

In addition, I feel that what else is lacking? Once again, everything depends on the region specifically. But, in this case, let's speak about us. In ICANN, there is a great number of practical materials, manuals, sessions. There are huge archives completely [incomprehensible] in their size. I'm not sure, but right now there is a session going on, DNSSEC For Everybody.

As we know, the DNSSEC topic in our region is completely forgotten. Speaking about the subscribed domains compared to the entire number of domains, it's practically absent. It's not there. Even though the topic in itself is very interesting, moreover, we have enough – and I'm not just speaking about Russian – technical knowledge in the region and of people who fully understand what this is, but for some reason, nothing is happening. I'm not sure [but we] should push this. Is it a

priority? Of course it's a priority. This is what ICANN is doing. This is what ICANN is involved in and not just policy development, as Alexandra mentioned. There are also some practical things that need to be done and they need to be brought to the attention of our community, all these wonderful things that are happening. A lot is happening here.

This actually goes into the category that we had in second place, knowledgeability, possibly. So, what you're saying, this actually confirms the results that we obtained. It's possible, I guess. Thank you.

ALEXANDRA KULIKOVA: Anything else? Oh, I would also like for you to introduce yourself because we had Mikhail speaking from the Higher School of Economics out of Moscow. Alexander [inaudible].

ANDREI KOLESNIKOV: Andrei Kolesnikov, Association of Internet of Things in Russia. I am the outgoing ALAC member and now I'm the SSAC member.

ALEXANDRA KULIKOVA: So, this is the only and first one of our region. By the way, in this capacity, I have a question for [Andrea]. What's your [inaudible] in the participation in the events in the region? Next year, I'm going to organize at least two events. I would like to have you as a speaker as the outgoing ALAC member and incoming SSAC member. Two months in advance. Thank you. Could we hear representatives of other

countries and their opinions as well? It would be great. Ukraine, Belarus?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Greetings, colleagues. My name is [Sergay Pabolusiv]. I am the director of [inaudible]. Our company is the technical administration of the domain zone. So, we're a registry of domains in [inaudible] and we're the organizers of the Belarusian IGF. I was one of those who pushed for IGF. I put it as the highest priority, the highest points for ICANN. We're definitely interested, among other things, in the financial support and for this event because if this event is held as it should be held at the highest, the best level, then of course the expenses are huge for an IGF. Thanks to ICANN support, it's been going on for three years. By the way, the last IGF was held October 3rd of this year and ICANN also provided us huge assistance. We hope that in the future ICANN and representative Alexandra Kulikova in our case will continue supporting this event. We hope that it will help us not just financially but help by providing speakers. That's about it. So, briefly, give us more money, in short.

ALEXANDRA KULIKOVA: So, if I understand correctly, IGF right now remains the biggest priority for you?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Thank you. We are ready to work with no money, just [inaudible]. We need [knowledge]. Let's not go into this. We're really not asking for

money. We're providing an opportunity and we really want ICANN to come and interact with the community. Yes, true, it's not just money. There's sponsorship. There is support, plus staff who are coming very often. Maybe not very often. We would like to see them often. We'd like to see experts more often. Subject matter experts from different countries and many of them are actually beyond the ocean, so overseas. That is really a great stress for the budget, so hopefully – unfortunately, we will have to do with the experts that are close in the future, only those.

So, I don't see one single recipe. We see that each case has its own need, has its own priorities and we come to an [inaudible] in each case. But this funding, this financial support, it's provided because of how it is helpful, how it is helpful in reaching these objectives. The capacity building, the spreading information, outreach. So, we have a chance to make a difference, to make a small step forward. So, I think we'll continue working in this format.

It's important for us to understand what specifically we improve for each community when we held a specific event. That's a very important connection we need to make. It is very obvious. So, when the field of possibilities is broader, sometimes we lose it. We forget about it. Right now this will become more acute and it's important for us to be ready for this now. It's important to be clear about what our objectives are and how we are intending to solve our problems. [inaudible], anything you have to share?

We have [inaudible] constructive collaboration. Maybe we need to change something [inaudible] ccTLD. I guess I may have started on this a bit early. I'm talking about Sasha. This horse is going to still run for a bit, meaning ccTLD. It's too early to take off your horse shoes. I think that … Well, we had a conference together with ICANN two years ago in Kiev. Our expenses were comparable and this gave a certain [inaudible] for the IGFs and for the future conferences and this will continue in the future and we're always ready to help with what's happening today in the region.

Here's a question. So, we truly started working with you in this format or we tested this forming with you, the format of trainings on security. [Carlos Alvarez] came twice. It was very successful in different formats with different structures, with different organizations. So, do you believe that this format should be considered as a priority and moved up on the list compared to IGFs?

It's very difficult for me to pose this question because, in a way, all the formats, all the platforms, are important in their own way. But I would like to see what your vision is and ask you what you think about possibly changing priorities, especially in the conditions when we maybe need to say no to something, have to say no to something. Can there be other opinions? No, there can't be. As I mentioned again, we haven't selected all the ideas. We haven't spoke about all the ideas we have. We spoke about the [inaudible] University which has a very strong math department, very strong experts that are interested. They can be involved and this should have been done. It would be a great step

towards the use of IGF. This would be an additional push. We can't cover it all. We don't have enough resources. They're not unlimited.

Yes, exactly. In the situation where we have limits, what must remain in any situation, under any conditions? What has to remain and continue developing?

I think the IGF is a good platform for new topics under development. This year, we discussed some and I think that we can continue that at the [inaudible]. I am going to use this opportunity to invite everyone. It's on the 7th of December. So, thank you.

[SVETLANA]: I that there is nothing discussed about competition. There are some [inaudible] things done in the region, but we don't get the results that we would like. We're talking about systemic things, like this could be online webinars. We can discuss participation, different events. But I think that resources like ICANNLearn and webinars and all that I think should be the priority.

ALEXANDRA KULIKOVA: Well, I definitely agree with you about the systemic nature and about diversity, obviously. We have to make sure we fill in the gaps. We are talking about IGFs that are very strong. Sometimes, it's trainings that really add value and are very important and give great results. But I am torturing you here about priorities. Obviously, comprehensive approach is some ideal we area all striving for and that is why there is

ICANN
ANNUAL GENERAL 63
BARCELONA
20–26 October 2018

the multi-stakeholder model. And obviously in an ideal world, we try to create balanced relationships with everyone, right?

But communities are different and needs are different in different communities. So, in a situation with some scarcity of resources, we need to make some hard decisions and that is why I am asking you the question that I am asking. Maybe you have some thoughts. Five years, I do have some thoughts but I can't share them all.

So, there were some things raised here. People were saying that you have to ask ICANN for money. I think we should be asking ICANN for money because when you don't ask, they forget about you completely. I mean, they don't completely forget about you. I'm being blunt. But, something along those lines.

In Azerbaijan, for example, in 2012, we held an IGF and we've been holding a regional one there yearly. I think since then we haven't asked ICANN for money a single time and I don't think that's a good thing. I mean, on the one hand, it's a good sign that we are able not to ask ICANN for money, but on the other hand, when we don't ask for money, this means that it's almost like ICANN isn't needed, even though that's not true. I know that ICANN is very much needed. So, in terms of financial support, that's important. It's usually aimed at very specific things.

Now, in terms of priorities, all the countries are trying to expand the number of domains, but also you need cybersecurity. I think this is something that affects every country.

ALEXANDRA KULIKOV: Well, right. Speaking about Azerbaijan, for example, what should we do together in the next 12 months?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Well, we should probably develop everything. I mean, okay, ICANN has to do with domain names and IP addresses to the technical side. As soon as we start talking IGF, IGF involves many organizations that are involved in holding it, including ITU, UNDP, and many others. They all are happy to provide resources for IGFs. So, maybe ICANN should do something similar.

You gave us updates about things that have been achieved over the past year. Armenia, Georgia, Belarus. I know lots of things are happening there but they are being quiet. So, essentially, it looks like every single country has its successes, but why doesn't that model expand to other countries? Why don't you clone us?

ALEXANDRA KULIKOVA: This is a good thing you raised.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I think that the success stories that we see now at our neighbors, it would be good to replicate those. You might need to adapt it to local laws and local environments, but it does need to be done, I think. Obviously, nobody is saying that Alexandra Kulikova needs to do everything. It's the countries. It's up to the country, for example, up to

Azerbaijan, to do this. But maybe we need some tips. It's always useful. Sometimes, you're trying to do something and you're kind of stuck, right? And you might benefit from help from help from your friends, right? This is why these meetings are so good. We meet. We share. We see what others are doing. We try to do the same thing.

ALEXANDRA KULIKOVA: Essentially, you agree with the results, in terms of topics.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Well, yes. Essentially, the survey, this is the first time it's being done. Let's just nicely say that it's not conclusive because the participants are very few. We will probably be expanding it.

ALEXANDRA KULIKOVA: Obviously, this is a very general overview, but do you generally agree with the feeling that this survey provides?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Yes. Yes. [Michael Anisivov] dot-RU Coordination Center. Well, I have more of a question. So, there is a strategy in the region and the objectives are clearly set. Have you had a chance to analyze survey results and then to plan some things to maybe adapt those and modify and update those objectives based on the findings? What do you think? Survey has showed that there is a demand for something. What can you say about the ability to satisfy that demand?

ALEXANDRA KULIKOVA: Well, I think I've answered this partly, but really, this data is very fresh. This is a pilot survey done in our region and in the African region, and obviously the first assessment will be based on these results. Obviously, in our case, the results are not extremely representative but at least they give us an idea about what things need to be modified. Please, if you have any comments, let us know, so that we can update both our survey and our actions in the future.

But, really, changes and modifications, that's what we'll do in the future. Right now, we are in Barcelona and I can see you all. I see the European region and obviously I see you much more at the regional events. But I'm just using this opportunity to hear you, to see what you think, and then to take that feedback into account for the future. Please, if you don't agree, please let us know.

But, really, in terms of events and work, awareness raising and capacity building, I think we've been doing that lately and I think Internet governance, ICANN, and community, I think those are the most basic of materials and if you don't know those facts, it's hard to do anything else.

So, I think that we're seeing that we're not at the right maturity level. Different communities are different maturity levels and obviously lots of my colleagues know that, and I keep talking about it. About the fact that, in our region, we have this demand. This demand for the technical side of things, technical knowledge. The attention to security issues. I

intuitively thought so and now I got a confirmation. So, I believe that there's general support for what we've been doing so far.

Now, in terms of adding other areas, things that [Katina] was talking about – the comprehensiveness, for example – that's great. I did want to see how that comprehensiveness could be achieved when you need to do at least the minimum at first.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Well, the devil is in the details, as usual, even though in general I agree with you. Technical knowledge in our region is actually not bad in our region. Likely we need to stress some other areas. But my question was the following. Maybe even request.

So, when the results of the survey are analyzed and assessed, maybe if you could share with us just how much your initial expectations matched the survey results and how does ICANN see work in the region. That key, that difference, will be even more interesting than the survey itself.

ALEXANDRA KULIKOVA: Well, actually, one of my slides said and was talking about the survey, about the pilot, and the reasons for doing it. And the reasons being that we will process the findings and that we are collecting answers for very hands-on and practical reasons. Obviously, we weren't talking about money as much here as about the resources. The resources available for this region.

So, very important to hear your honest opinion. Obviously, we will incorporate it and use it to update what we've been doing so far. Some things will need to be changed. Some things are working well enough already.

So, obviously, in the future, we will need to do a more comprehensive overview and analysis of the results, taking into account financial aspect as well. Obviously, I will be sharing next steps.

This actually takes us to the end of our session.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: If I may. This is a wish. So, the strategy talks about objectives, but it's hard to track them without some sort of an expected result. You can call it KPI or anything like that. So, some sort of an indicator, quantitative or qualitative indicator, that would enable all to understand whether or not all of those objectives are topical and current. It will also help all of the regional participants to maybe review their own efforts and work, aimed at achieving our common goal. That way, we can think about specific steps to be taken.

So, let's look at trainings. How do we measure the success? Is it the number of trainings? Is it the number participants? I understand this is a very basic indicator, but it's just a general wish. If we could make it a bit more formal or more specific, that would be very helpful.

ALEXANDRA KULIKOVA: This is actually part of the future steps. Obviously, the results we obtain, they need to inform future strategy. For now, we are looking at it organization-wide, looking at the new strategy plan and obviously this will affect regional strategy outlook as well.

The granularity you are talking about, it will become apparent after we get and process the results and formulate findings. Findings having to do with desired objectives and indicators. We'll be able to prioritize things and then we will update our regional strategy.

In terms of strategic outlook, I think no one is objective. You need to have a strategy to develop the specific steps, right? And those also depend on the results of the survey.

So, thank you very much. If you have anything else to add, please talk to me. We're here for another several days. I hope we had an honest discussion here. Hope it continues. Thank you very much. Have a good meeting.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]