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Partnership Among State, Business Community
and Civil Society in Ensuring Information Security
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Dear Vladislav Petrovich,
Distinguished guests and colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

The Internet is growing — and as it grows it offers more functionality, more social, cultural and educational resources, and more business opportunities. All these new features present more challenges — challenges that range from global participation in Internet technology and policy development to information security and cybersecurity.

Through its multi-stakeholder consensus-building model the ICANN community and the global Internet community are developing policies that influence the way the Internet works. These policies also affect the way the Internet's domain name space and marketplace work. And they affect how we protect valuable information stored or transmitted on the Internet — and the Internet infrastructure itself — from attack and predation.

Participation by the entire Internet community — governments, the business community, the academic community, the technology community, the private sector, and civil society alike — will ensure that all the benefits achieved by the Internet community accrue to us all.

So I'd like to focus on these inter-related topics today — bringing you up to date on activities of past months and how we think they will influence the future of the Internet. They are —

- Multi-stakeholder participation through ICANN's bottom-up consensus-building model in creating and maintaining the technologies and policies that ensure a single, globally interoperable Internet;
- Collaboration by the global Internet community in ensuring the stability and security of the Internet's infrastructure as well as the information stored or transmitted on the Internet.

(development and implementation of IDNs)

First, let me take a minute to remind you of ICANN's mission, which is —

- To coordinate, overall, the global Internet's system of unique identifiers, and to ensure stable and secure operation of the Internet's unique identifier systems. In particular, ICANN coordinates:
 1. Allocation and assignment of the three sets of unique identifiers for the Internet:
 - Domain names (a system called the DNS)

- Internet protocol (IP) addresses and autonomous system (AS) numbers
 - Protocol port and parameter numbers
2. Operation and evolution of the DNS root name server system
 3. Policy development reasonably and appropriately related to these technical functions

In fulfilling its mission, ICANN is guided by four founding principles. They encompass the following —

1. Contribute to stability and security of the Internet
2. Promote competition and choice for registrants and other users
3. Forum for multi-stakeholder, consensus-based bottom-up development of related policy
4. Ensure an opportunity for participation by all interested parties on a global basis

It is within that framework that I wish to speak to you today. Because many of the issues I will touch on are quite complicated, I intend to lay the foundation for further discussions that are scheduled during the rest of this forum.

Multi-stakeholder participation through ICANN's bottom-up consensus-building model

Internet users around the world have come to rely increasingly on the Internet's global system of unique identifiers, including the domain name space, to communicate, transact business, share information, and gather together in virtual communities.

This Internet will become even more dynamic with the deployment of top level Internationalized Domain Names — or IDNs — and the transition from IPv4 to IPv6. These and other initiatives that are intended to improve openness, accessibility, diversity and security demonstrate that the Internet stakeholders — including the stakeholders here — are working hard to make the Internet truly global. IDNs alone will bring about the most significant change to the Internet since its inception nearly 40 years ago.

Since the domain name system's beginnings in the early 1980s, cooperation and consensus-building through a multi-stakeholder model have successfully guided the Internet's rapid evolution and innovation while maintaining its global interoperability, security and stability.

A continuation of this global approach would, in my opinion, deliver the most satisfactory results for the interests of all users of the Internet.

As an internationally organized, multi-stakeholder non-profit organization, ICANN seeks to reflect the values of coordination, cooperation and collaboration.

We believe that the current multi-stakeholder model will see greater overall participation by the Internet community. And it encourages more and

more governments to participate in ICANN's activities and processes through its Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC). Today more than 100 countries are members of the GAC.

Indeed, Russia's public and private sectors have been constructively engaged with the global Internet community through the Internet Governance Forum and the World Summit on the Information Society for the past several years.

In addition, Russia's technology community has been actively involved in Internet policy development for some time now. ICANN has exchanged letters with the dot-ru Coordination Center, which also joined recently the ICANN's Country-Code Names Supporting Organization. For the past two years, ICANN representatives have participated in events as the Russian Internet Forums, the Russian Association of Networks and Services, and the Institute for Information Security Issues forums.

Importantly, the issues related to implementation of Cyrillic script in top-level domains were recently discussed between Presidents Parvnov of Bulgaria and Putin and Medvedev of Russia, as well as between the Bulgarian Prime-Minister Stanishev and the two key Russian politicians. Russian foreign minister Lavrov also has had this topic on his agenda at the meetings with his Bulgarian counterpart, Mr. Kalfin. This only shows that the Cyrillic IDNs are important for all countries, using the Cyrillic alphabet, and some of them have already shown interest in actual work on the implementation.

Collaboration by the global Internet community in ensuring the stability and security of the Internet infrastructure

All this work together demonstrates that in mutual cooperation there are mutual benefits. We are now building on that collaboration to make sure those benefits flow down to the Russian Internet community — and, equally importantly — to the security, stability and interoperability of the global Internet.

DNS Security, Cybersecurity

Now I'd like to briefly discuss Internet security, which is of concern to everyone. We will get the chance to discuss this topic further throughout the conference. The one key point I would like to make now is that ICANN approaches the Internet as an ecosystem involving the interplay of a diverse range of actors and communities.

Many types of actors — individuals, corporations, governments, international and global organizations, hacker groups, and many others — inhabit the Internet ecosystem. Numerous considerations govern interactions in the environment — the presence of physical routes for connections provided cables and streams of digitized transmissions, the rules established by the TCP/IP protocols, agreements and routing setting orchestrated between ISPs, the social rules and laws that guide and govern the behavior of individuals in using the Internet environment.

The environment and actors interact in a complex, organic way that produces outcomes that impact the ability to use the Internet, the technical architecture of Internet-based networks and the ability of actors to detect and

mitigate malicious activity. As with all ecosystems, the Internet has and will evolve based on changing conditions.

This multi-stakeholder ecosystem is key to our analysis and approach in fulfilling ICANN's mission according to Article 1 of its by-laws: To coordinate, overall, the global Internet's system of unique identifiers, and to ensure stable and secure operation of the Internet's unique identifier systems.

Within global Internet community, ICANN has long provided the Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC) as a key venue for analysis and recommendations on many of the technical security issues related to Internet. Established in 2001, the SSAC has examined a range of issues to such as impact of DDOS attacks against the root servers and TLDs on DNS resilience, the utility of employing DNSSec and IPv6 support among commercial firewalls.

Other formal mechanisms within the ICANN community to include the Root Server System Advisory Committee, the Governmental Advisory Committee, the Generic Names Supporting Organization also have addressed security and stability issues, often engaging the expertise of the SSAC. For example, the GNSO with advice of the SSAC, has studied the security purposes of Whois databases and privacy of the data in this system.

Over the past few years, these ICANN committees and the ICANN staff have more actively engaged with other organizations such as the Internet Governance Forum, the OECD, APEC, and the Regional African Forum on Cyber Security. ICANN is also participating in ad-hoc communities such as Anti-Phishing Working Group (APWG) to help address key challenges.

ICANN is committed to usefully engage in fora to clarify its limited role in the ecosystem's response.

Other security concerns

In light of the pending implementation of new gTLDs and IDN TLDs, ICANN is also investigating the possible scale and barriers to scale of new generic and country-code TLDs, the IPv6 landscape and progress, DNSSEC analysis and plans, and understanding the technical limitations of the new TLD strings.

Myth of 13 root servers

Now for some good news. There is widespread misapprehension about the root servers that underpin the Internet which has reached mythic proportions. It is most often used to point out the vulnerability of the Internet. It states that there are only 13 root zone servers in the entire world, and that most of them are located in the United States. This myth may be reinforced by the 13 alphabet letters — A through M — used to designate the original servers.

Rest assured — those original 13 servers have reinforcements. There are more than 150 of them today, and they are located all around the world. There are two in Russia and two here in Germany. This redundancy — together with advances such as Anycast technology — are helping to make the Internet infrastructure increasingly resilient and resistant to attack. Anycast enables DNS server operators to distribute query loads, and hence aids in managing distributed denial of service attacks.

Ladies and Gentlemen

The Internet is the most powerful and pervasive means of empowering individuals in recent human history. It requires the continuing efforts of all stakeholders, from governments, the private sector, civil society, academia, and the technical community to preserve and strengthen this model. By doing so, we can ensure the resiliency and utility of the Internet — and guarantee the rapid and successful development of a secure, stable and globally interoperable Internet.

I would like to conclude with my strong recognition and continued welcoming of the participation of all of you in the work of ICANN and its processes. I am confident that your effective participation will greatly and positively contribute to the Internet as a whole, bringing valuable and novel views to the dialogue from which the global community can benefit.

It's always a pleasure to meet with colleagues from around the world to discuss the evolution of the Internet. And it has been my great pleasure to speak to you today. In that vein, I'd like to extend special gratitude to our all our hosts and to the many people whose efforts brought about this important forum.

Finally, allow me once again to express my personal delight at being here with you. I'm looking forward to the results of your discussions and wish you all the success in your deliberations.

Thank you.