4th Central Asian Internet Governance Forum:
Internet for Empowering of Cyber-Unlocked Central Asia

Since the shootings in Christchurch New Zealand that killed more than 50 Muslim worshipers, calls for regulating the Internet have grown louder.[1] In Europe governments called for stricter controls on privacy and new digital copyright protection, and worldwide countries are calling for the imposition of digital borders and data sovereignty.

The Internet emerged as a historical break from the traditional model of regulated telecommunications which existed prior to the end of the Cold War. The internet's inherent openness: open protocols, open standards, open flow of data, was responsible for its success, and, placed it at the core of the new emerging global digital economy. But can the Internet adapt and survive to the new age of government regulation? Is it possible to balance the interest of community safety and security, and define new property rights appropriate to the digital economy while maintaining the internet's benefit as an open and global network? How to countries of Central Asia ensure that they benefit from participation in the global knowledge and digital economy through policies that balance regulation, with a commitment to openness, interoperability, and open standards.

The Internet is continuing to transform the Central Asia region. Access to Internet is becoming more ubiquitous and affordable driven by expansion of mobile infrastructure. New initiatives in E government, Open Data and biometric identification are expected to lead to greater adoption of ICTs in government, economy, and society. At the same time, access is not universal and government and industry must work to ensure that rural and remote populations, as well as the poor and other marginalized groups can benefit equally from the information revolution.

As more Central Asian citizens come online, the Internet itself is becoming a reflection of society, and of the global geopolitical climate. Cyber security, the protection of critical infrastructure, the status and rights of citizens in handling of their biometric data, and terrorist use of the Internet are issues that urgently require developing new approaches. With increased importance of digital media platforms for civic activism and expressing critical voices, most governments in the region are taking steps to introduce greater control, new surveillance tools and legal frameworks against online dissent.

These are difficult challenges that require a multi-stakeholder partnership of government, industry, and civil society to work together. For instance, renewed efforts are needed to promote basic digital hygiene and help citizens learn the skills necessary to protect themselves online and abide by recognized community standards – to help define acceptable online behavior. The challenge of the Internet of Things, is quickly becoming the challenge of the "Internet of everything" as new devices and services emerge, creating not only opportunities for new economic activity, but also significant cybersecurity challenges.

The main purpose of the Forum was the creation of a public platform for the discussion of government policies regarding Internet governance in Central Asian countries. The Forum addressed issues related to cybersecurity, Internet freedom and regulation, development of the DNS industry and access to the Internet as well as global and national approaches to Internet governance. Specialists in the field of Internet governance and development – representatives

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1   In the United Kingdom and Australia, governments are considering stricter controls over social media companies that envision jail sentences for those unwilling or unable to take down violent extremist content.

from Central Asian state authorities, telecommunications and ISP companies, research institutions and nongovernment organizations from around the world attended the event to discuss the most crucial topics for further development. The Forum was co-organized by the Ministry of Communication of the Uzbek Republic and the Public Foundation «Civil Initiative on Internet Policy» with support from the SecDev Foundation (Canada), Facebook, Kaspersky, RIPE NCC, OSCE, MITC, UZTELECOM, ICANN, Internet Society and IGF Support Association.

Steering committee was organized based on participation of representatives of all interested parties to provide multistakeholder process of organizing IGF and guarantee balanced debates around IG issues.

Agenda of the 4st Central Asian IGF

Day 1

8:00 - 9:00   Registration, welcome coffee

Moderator: Mambetalieva Tattu, PF CIIP

9:00 - 10.00   **Welcome speech**

Sh. Sadikov -Minister, Ministry for the Development of Information Technology and Communications of the Uzbek Republic

Vahan Ovsepyan - External Relations Officer RIPE NCC, Central Asia and the Caucasus

Hans-Ulrich Im - OSCE Office in Tashkent

Vladimir Zakharov - Advisor to the Secretariat of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)

Mikhail Komissarov - Deputy Chairman of the Information Committee of the Ministry of Information and Public Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

M.Dzhalalov -Acting Director of INHA University

10:00 - 12:00   *Plenary session: Internet governance to address the geographical limitations of Central Asia in the digital era*

●   Multilateral Internet regulation to reduce time and space barriers to interactive access to regional and global markets

●   Data-oriented industries (data industry, "innovative agriculture", "green" energy, distance economy, industry of meetings and tourism, digital healthcare, digital education, mobile industry, blockchain, e-Commerce, fact-checking) as competitive advantages of the region's countries in the digital economy

Speakers:

Representative of Ministry for the Development of Information Technology and Communications of the Uzbek Republic

Ceren Unal - Regional Policy Manager-Europe, Internet Society

Kamila Amirzhan - JSC ZERDE

Eneken Tikk - OSCE

Natalia Mochu - ICANN

| 12:00 - 13:30 | Lunch |

| Location: | **B - 304** | **B - 306** |

| Moderators: | **Asomiddin Atoev -** Regional Director, SecDev Foundation, Canada | **Dmitrik Nikolay -** Head of the Laboratory of Legal Informatics and Cybernetics, Law Faculty of Moscow State University Lomonosov, Russian Federation |

13:30 - 15:30

Transforming geographic challenges into digital opportunities in Central Asia

● Digital dividends of independent government regulation;

● Transnational digital projects to strengthen the region's economy

● Data: big, open and not quite open

● Digital Transformation - Focus on Citizens

Speakers:

Alex Semenyaka - Director for External Relations - Technical Advisor for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, RIPE NCC.

Andrey Sushko, Laboratory of Digital Freedoms, Human Constanta, Republic of Belarus

Aibek Kurenkeev, Association of Telecom Operators, Kyrgyz Republic

Muhammadi Ibodulloev - Director, Civil Initiative of Internet Policy, Republic of Tajikistan

Digital rights in a transnational context

● Terms of cross-border data exchange within various countries

● Protection of personal data in the conditions of digital transformation

● Digital Citizenship Issues

Speakers:

Alexey Kozlyuk - Laboratory of Digital Freedoms, Human Constanta, Republic of Belarus

Nikolay Dmitrik - Head of the Laboratory of Legal Informatics and Cybernetics, Law Faculty of Moscow State University Lomonosov, Russian Federation

Sarkis Darbinyan - Center for Digital Rights, Russian Federation

Ruslan Dairbekov - Republic of Kazakhstan

Diana Okremova - Legal Media Center, Republic of Kazakhstan

Meeting of communications administrations of Central Asian countries with representatives of regional and transnational companies(side-event)

| 15:30 - 16:00 | Coffee-break |

| 19:00 - 21:00 | Evening program and dinner (for foreign guests) |

Day 2

| Location: | **304** |

| 9:30 - 10:00 | Registration, welcome coffee |

| Модераторы | **Ahadbek Dalimov,** independent expert |

10:00 - 12:00

Plenary session: Using the Internet to strengthen the resilience of the region

● International norms and recommendations to improve national legislation

and policies on cybersecurity

● International cooperation to address transnational challenges to cybersecurity

● Best practices to strengthen confidence-building measures in the area of cyber security

● Use of the Internet to counter and prevent extremism and terrorism online and offline

● Protection factors (education, family, community and other values) to reduce the risk factors of radicalisation in society

● Deep web: monetization or demonization?

● Human rights and security as complementary components of cybersecurity

● Critical infrastructure priorities

Speakers:

Representative of the General Prosecutor's office of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Kavitha Kunhi Kannan - Facebook

Eneken Tikk - OSCE

Nicolas Ott - OSCE

Andrei Kureraru - Chief Consultant, Service of the Supreme Security Council, Republic of Moldova

Valeriy Zubanov - Commercial Director, Kaspersky Lab in Central Asia and Mongolia

12:00 - 13:30 Lunch

Location:	**B - 304**	**B - 306**
Moderators:	**Arman Abdrassilov -** Cyber-attack analysis and investigation center, Kazahstan	**Anton Rakitskii**, - IT-service, Uzbekistan
13:30 - 15:30	***Cybersecurity of individuals, society and the state***	***Protective factors against risk factors for prevention of extremism and terrorism in Central Asia***

Cybersecurity of individuals, society and the state

● Cyberspace - a new territory of military operations or augmented reality of new economic opportunities

● Cybersecurity with a focus on the citizen in the context of the digital economy

● Regulatory framework for critical infrastructure protection

● Deep web in the digital economy

Speakers:

Eneken Tikk - OSCE

Protective factors against risk factors for prevention of extremism and terrorism in Central Asia

● The role of civil society in strengthening protection factors

● Regional and international efforts to counter extremism technologically (Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism, Tech Against Terrorism)

● National and regional studies to combat and prevent violent extremism online

Speakers:

Representatives of the Prosecutor

Nicolas Ott - OSCE   General's office of the regions

Mika Kertunen, Cyber Policy Institute

Viktor Mikhailov - Center for the Study of Regional Threats

Mikhail Anisimov - ANO "Coordination Center of the National Domain of the Internet", Russia

Facebook representatives

Andrey Pazyuk - Cybersecurity Academy, Ukraine

Asomiddin Atoev - Regional Director, SecDev Foundation, Canada

Bratitsa Mykola, Communications Department of the National Commission for Communications Regulation and Informatization, Ukraine

Nurgul Abdykerimova - Center for Media Development, Kyrgyzstan

Gulmira Birzhanova - Legal Media Center

Kirill Vyatkin - Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Belarus

15:30 - 16:00   Coffee-break

16:00 - 17:00   **Summing up the Forum**

Summary

Given the high level of participation from Central Asian countries, delegations from Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Azerbaijan, Armenia, discussions were held around the attitude of Governments towards Internet governance in the Central Asian region.

One of the strategic directions was the development of the Internet as an acceleration tool for opening new opportunities for the economies of countries. Internet access was considered as the first entry point.

In view of common concerns about government encroachment on personal rights and freedoms, the forum addressed issues in cybersecurity, Internet freedom, ICT regulations, access to information and global approaches to Internet governance.

The event and follow-up yielded the following results:

- High-level agreement and endorsement of Internet freedom principles, including the need to balance cyber security and providing a network openness and building trust.

- High-level participation from Central Asian countries, delegations from Russia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Armenia and Belarus, and representatives from civil society, independent media, private sector, as well as official delegations from Ministries of Communication, and Security Agencies.

- High-level endorsement from regional organizations including OSCE, ICANN, ISOC, RIPE NCC, RSS, SecDev Foundation (Canada), MITC, UZTELECOM and private sector actors including Facebook, Kaspersky Lab.