

Date: Saturday, 2 March 2024

From: Sally Costerton

To: Dmitry Noskov

Subject: Concern Regarding Approval of UA Day Keystone Global Event in Belgrade, Serbia

Dear Mr. Noskov,

Thank you for your messages regarding Universal Acceptance (UA) Day and the Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG). The ICANN community formed the UASG in 2015 to help promote UA. Since then the community has developed the scope of UA, assessed its technical challenges, and looked into potential solutions. The ICANN organization continues to support the community for UA-related work, including the UASG. This includes supporting UASG working groups, technical studies, and outreach through UA Ambassadors and UA Local Initiatives.

With regard to this year's global UA Day event to be held in Belgrade, Serbia, the host RNIDS is a member of a UA Local Initiative and the IDN ccTLD operator for Serbia. It was selected by the member countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States Eastern Europe's UA local initiatives to host the regional event for UA Day in 2024. It then proposed to hold it as the main UA Day event for 2024. The UASG leadership team discussed the CIS-EE UA Local Initiative initial proposal for the main UA Day event and agreed to proceed with it. This is similar to the process followed for which the choice of Serbia also allows to host the UA Day event in Europe in 2024, given it was hosted in APAC region in 2023.

With regard to statements of interest for the UASG, there have been ongoing discussions by UASG leadership team and the community. These discussions have been centered on the governance of the UASG, and ensuring transparency in decision making and participation. ICANN has asked the UASG to address the governance issues raised by its community. This includes documenting the UASG's operating procedures and addressing key questions being raised by its members, such as term limits for working group chairs, and the introduction of statements of interest to ensure transparency in who is participating.

The topic of UASG governance was discussed at [ICANN78](#). UASG members and the broader ICANN community expressed strong support for the institution of statements of interest as a requirement for UASG member participation. This

practice is consistent with other members of the ICANN community (e.g., see [SOIs for GNSO](#), or click “New SOIs” on the left menu [here](#).)

The UASG will again discuss [governance at ICANN79 on 5 March](#) at 10:30 a.m. local time, in Room 203 BC. We encourage you to join this discussion and raise your concerns there. If you have further questions following that session, please let us know and we can arrange a meeting with senior ICANN org staff. We look forward to interacting with you at this session at ICANN79.

Thank you,

Sally Costerton

cc: Tripti Sinha, Board-Ops Team, Secretary, Correspondence, Wendy Profit