

## Youth IGF-UA and IGF-UA

Oksana Prykhodko, director of iNGO European Media Platform

INGO European Media Platform (EMP) and Ukrainian Internet Association (UIA) – both EURALO ALSes – were among co-organizers of VIII Youth IGF-UA and XVI IGF-UA. ICANN (as well as RIPE NCC) sponsored these two events. Both fora took place in a hybrid format: with a point of invincibility for some moderators, and on-line for the majority of participants.

VIII Youth IGF-UA took place on 19 November 2025 with overarching theme: “From Retrospective to Perspectives: Ukraine’s Role in Internet Governance” and was opened by Valeriia Dubytska (EMP). Welcoming remarks from co-organizers and sponsors were enriched by the short “Introduction to Internet governance” from Gabriella Schitteck, ICANN Stakeholder Engagement Director, Nordic & Central Europe.

Next session - “Disinformation and information warfare” – was organized and moderated by Dmytro Kushnir. Anayit Khoperiya (Ukrainian Center for Countering Disinformation – CDD) shared their experience in countering disinformation and state information threats, Benjamin Delhomme (Senior Expert on AI, NATO StratCom COE) revealed the role of AI in modern information operations and identified the challenges for democratic societies, Max Bernhard (CORRECTIV.Faktencheck) presented case study of investigating fake news magazines and mechanisms for creating disinformation. This combination of Ukrainian experience, NATO StratCom COE international analytics, and investigative journalism of CORRECTIV proved to be particularly valuable for the Forum participants.

Session “Cybersecurity” was moderated by Eliza Rohotska (Privacy Associate at Axon.Partners) and was aimed at discussing practical and strategic aspects of Ukraine's cyber defence, critical infrastructure protection, and improving cyber hygiene among youth. Special emphasis was made on the Ukrainian experience in countering cyber attacks, which is unique and relevant for the international community. Andrii Mankish, cyber threat intelligence specialist, prepared the report “Possibilities of using AI in cyberwarfare”. Mykola Titov raised specific and important issue of the strategic role of NTP servers in critical infrastructure and cybersecurity in his report “Time under control”. “Basics of Cyber Hygiene. Responding to Cyber Incidents” (practical recommendations for citizens and organizations, first steps in the event of a cyberattack, the human factor in cybersecurity) were highlighted by Denys Poslavskyy from CERT-UA.

Next session was devoted to the presentation “BCOP RIPE Task Force: documented experience in maintaining the stability of Ukrainian networks during the war (based on NOGUA and RIPE NCC)”. This presentation was prepared by Eliza Rohotska and Solomiia Yaremenko, Lawyer at Task Force BCOP RIPE NCC. The BCOP (Best Current Operational Practices) Task Force was formed at RIPE 67 in October 2013 to initiate and coordinate the process of documenting important common operational practices in the field of Internet networks. Since the start of the full-scale invasion, RIPE has been carefully studying the unique experience of Ukrainian operators and, based on NOGUA, already has good practices that form the basis of documented network resilience recommendations for the entire global community.

VIII Youth IGF-UA was concluded with the session “International possibilities for Ukrainian youth” (moderated by Solomiia Yaremenko). Nadia Tjahja (YouthDIG), Laura Lorenzo (RIPE NCC Fellowship), Anja Gengo (IGF Secretariat, Youth IGF) and Olena Kushnir

(EuroSSIG) shared very practical information on all programs, fellowship and other opportunities.

XVI IGF-UA took place on November 20-21.

The opening session was moderated by Svitlana Tkachenko (Hostmaster). The session began with a minute of silence in honor of the fallen defenders of Ukraine. Oleksandr Savchuk, Chair of the Board of Ukrainian Internet Association (UIA), ICANN VP, Stakeholder Engagement & Managing Director – Europe, Ivan Petuhov, Ukrainian League of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs Vice President, Oleksiy Semenyaka, RIPE NCC welcomed participants and stressed the importance of the IGF-UA, especially in time of war.

Ivan Petuhov moderated the session “Cyber section with focus on digital cyber resilience and artificial intelligence”. The section considered the current issues of ensuring the defense and private sectors with digital cyber resilience in conditions of war and changes in national legislation, namely, the transition from the Comprehensive Information Protection System (CIPS) to RMF and the implementation of NIS 2 without a preparatory period. Practical cases were also considered and experience in the implementation of RMF and the implementation of NIS 2 was exchanged. Dmytro Lande (Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute), Igor Stelnyk (Institute of Modeling Problems in Energy of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine), Oleg Gaiduk (Parkovy Data Center), Oleg Shemetov (Ministry of Defense of Ukraine), Valeriy Tsyupa (International Cyber Academy), Konstantin Korsun (independent cybersecurity expert) and Maksym Kozyrsky (Head of the Information Protection Service of a Military Unit) presented their reports.

The session “Deoccupation of Internet and reducing russia's influence in the digital space” was moderated by Olena Kushnir (UIA). Yuriy Matsyk (GAC ICANN), Tetiana Dolinska (SUNIC), Victoria Opanasiuk (Telecom Ukraine) and Svitlana Tkachenko (Hostmaster) proved that the digital front is one of the key ones in the war for Ukraine's sovereignty, and de-occupation of the Internet is a strategic component of national defense. It requires both technical solutions and legal mechanisms, as well as active diplomacy and the participation of international partners.

Olena Kushnir also moderated the session “The role of women in the electronic communications sector”. Nataliia Tkachuk (National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine, Top Cybersecurity Woman of the World 2025), Tetiana Popova (“Telecommunications Chamber of Ukraine”), Vanda Scartezini (Brazil, DNS Women), Olena Lutsenko (RETN), Liljana Pecova-Ilieska (North Macedonia, IMPETUS), Anastasia Bryguinets (State University of Information and Communication Technologies) and Svitkana Tkachenko (Hostmaster) demonstrates, that women are an indispensable part of Ukraine's digital resilience. They maintain the cyber front, manage the telecom infrastructure, advance Ukraine in international processes, and shape the future of electronic communications.

During the session Internet access resilience during war (blocking, Internet shutdowns) Oleksiy Semenyaka (RIPE NCC) called for a review of the global taxonomy of Internet shutdowns, taking into account, among other things, hostile actions of other states (including in cyberspace) and the consequences of military actions. Yuriy Matsyk (GAC ICANN) provided unique facts that demonstrate the scale of the challenges at the national level. Internet providers from Kherson shared invaluable practical experience of the

organization of uninterrupted work, new regulations, and engineering solutions under conditions of occupation and shelling as an example of exceptional adaptability and professional heroism.

The session “Comparison of Council of Europe and UN approaches to fighting cybercrime” was moderated by Oksana Prykhodko (European Media Platform – EMP). Giorgi Jokhadze (Council of Europe Cybercrime Programme Office) told about long and very fruitful cooperation between Ukraine and CoE, which is especially important in time of war, and is in line with Euro-integration process of Ukraine (Ukraine ratified Budapest Convention on Cybercrime in 2005). Oleksiy Tkachenko (Representative of the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine at the EU Cybersecurity Agency ENISA) informed that Ukraine did not participate in the process of developing of the UN Convention against cybercrime, adopted by the UN in 2024 (with strong support from Russia, Iran, North Korea and other non-democratic countries). UN Convention creates cybercrime-evidence framework parallel to the Budapest Convention and, while complementing it in many aspects positively, brings risks of lesser safeguards in the fight against cybercrime and fragmentation, potentially having effect on freedom of speech and other human rights.

Oksana Prykhodko (EMP) also moderated the session “Actual issues of DNS”. Speakers of this session (Svitlana Tkachenko, Hostmaster, Ivan Petuhov, ULIE, Oleksandr Olshanskuy, Internet Invest LLC, Oleg Chernobay, Chernobay&Partners, Oleksiy Semenyaka, RIPE NCC, Tetyana Dolinska, SUNIC, Yuriy Matsyk, GAC ICANN) noted the exceptional stability of the administration of the .ua domain (both at the technical and administrative level and at the level of international cooperation). At the same time, there are already certain problematic issues related to top-level domains in Ukraine, and the next round of new gTLDs brings more challenges than opportunities.

The discussion of “IGF Mandate and future of Internet Governance” moderator Oksana Prykhodko tried to organize in the form of bets on whether the IGF mandate would be extended. Anja Gengo (IGF Secretariat), Dimitris Zacharius (ICANN), Oleksiy Semenyaka (RIPE NCC), Amrita Choudhuri (IGF Supporting Association), Olivier MJ Crepin-Leblond (EuroDIG), Ivan Petuhov (ULIE) and Tetiana Dolinska (SUNIC) refused to place bets, but all participants emphasized the importance of the existence of such an open multi-stakeholder platform that allows for discussions (or at least to initiate such discussions) at the national, regional, and global levels.

Tetiana Dolinska (SUNIC) moderated the final session of XVI IGF-UA, during which all moderators of the previous sessions provided short summaries of the discussions held, and suggested starting work on the preparation of XVII IGF-UA.