

Candidature for the IGFSA Executive Committee election 2019

STATEMENT OF INTEREST

I stand ready to be considered as candidate for re-election to the position as an IGFSA Executive Committee Member. I feel that my past work for IGFSA since its inception in 2014 qualifies me well for such a position. First, I served as Secretary and, since 2016, as Chair of the Executive Committee. In both capacities I have been dealing with all incoming funding requests, including the payments to our beneficiaries.

My involvement with IGFSA predates its inception. When working for ISOC I launched the concept of a mechanism to raise funds in support of the IGF and the National and Regional Initiatives (NRIs) and create synergies between them. The ISOC Board of Trustees approved the concept at its meeting in Buenos Aires in November 2013 and agreed to make a substantial financial contribution to launch such an Association. At the IGF 2014 in Istanbul in September 2014 the IGFSA was officially set up by a constituent General Assembly.

Since then, IGFSA has been recognized as an official donor to the UN IGF Trust Fund and has proved its usefulness by contributing USD 270'000 to the UN IGF Trust Fund and USD 400'000 to NRIs.

If re-elected, I would be happy to continue my previous tasks and, in addition, I would be keen to explore how better to make use of crowd-funding mechanisms and mobilize small contributions by individuals.

For most of my career I have learned to communicate and interact with people from different walks of life. I have been involved in Internet policy and Internet governance for the past 17 years – first with the Swiss Government, then with the United Nations, from 2004-2011, subsequently with the Internet Society from 2011-2014 and with ICANN from 2014-2017. I have come to this field of activity from the world of governments and diplomacy, but I learned to appreciate the innovative ways of the Internet community in managing a global resource and I have become familiar with the distributed, open and inclusive governance arrangements of the key Internet institutions.

In my various capacities I have delivered numerous talks on Internet governance and policy and I written several related articles in journals, books and other publications.

Throughout my involvement in Internet policy and governance, I have promoted an open and inclusive approach to these discussions. After the

second phase of WSIS in Tunis in 2005, I was asked to continue with the UN and head the IGF Secretariat. The IGF created a new annual meeting space where all stakeholders gather to discuss Internet policy issues. The IGF established itself as the annual go-to meeting where governments, private sector, civil society and the Internet community can interact and exchange ideas. I am a firm supporter of the IGF and believe in its continued importance. The IGF has proved its usefulness as a forum that may not take decisions, but can shape decisions which are taken elsewhere. In that sense, IGFSA plays an important role in strengthening the IGF and thus also the principles and values underpinning a global, open, and trusted Internet.

I would be honoured to be re-elected a Member of the IGFSA Executive Committee. Many thanks in advance for your kind consideration of my candidature.

Yours sincerely

Sig. Markus Kummer