

Berlin, 14 October 2020

Dear colleagues,

I am writing to express my interest in joining the Executive Committee of the Internet Governance Forum Support Association.

For those who do not know me, please allow me a few moments to introduce myself.

I am a public interest technologist with experience working with industry, policymakers, civil society, and governments around the world to address a range of technology, media development, and privacy and data protection issues.

I have worn a few different hats. I currently produce the Internet governance history podcast, POWER PLAYS, with funding and support from Grant for the Web (a partnership between Coil Technologies, Creative Commons, and Mozilla). I have been a technology policy fellow with the Mozilla Foundation, I have represented the interests of European civil society organizations on the Council of ICANN's Generic Names Supporting Organization, and as an independent consultant I have performed research for a number of organizations, most recently the National Endowment for Democracy. I have experience in research, engagement, fundraising, and grant writing, and I consider these skills useful for someone serving on the Executive Committee.

I have been based in Berlin, Germany for three years now, but have previously called Argentina, Australia, Canada, Indonesia, and the United Kingdom home.

I have been a member of the Internet Governance Forum Support Association since 2016. I have now had the good fortune of attending four Internet Governance Forums, as well as an array of other conferences in the Internet freedom and Internet governance spaces, where I have made a number of thoughtful contributions. I believe that the Internet Governance Forum is a wonderful experiment in bringing stakeholders together to shape how a shared resource is managed. However, after observing and participating in agenda setting and decision-making fora in other settings, I understand the opportunities and challenges better and I'm now ready to step forward to work through the Internet Governance Forum Support Association to better support the Internet Governance Forum so it can become a more impactful space.

I believe that my experience, knowledge, and work ethic can be useful as the Internet Governance Forum Support Association works to ramp up its fundraising efforts so to better support the future of the Internet Governance Forum as it evolves and, importantly, builds upon the great success of the various National and Regional Initiatives.

I would like to make a difference here, and I would like to help the Internet Governance Forum Support Association's small secretariat, dedicated Executive Committee, and other members as we work together to build up the Internet Governance Forum Support Association's international standing, bolster its finances, and find solutions to unaddressed procedural issues.

I believe in transparency and would like to help the Executive Committee report back more regularly and thoroughly to members on its activities.

I invite you to contact me directly at ayden@ferdeline.com if you have any questions or concerns regarding my background or suitability to serve on the Executive Committee. I would be happy to speak with you. Finally, I ask for your support and your vote – thanks!

Yours sincerely,

Ayden Férdeline