

Statement of Interest (SOI)

To serve on the

IGFSA Executive Committee

Dear IGFSA,

Since 2015, I am engaged and contributor in my personal capacity and as initiator and coordinator of Albania IGF for internet policy development and internet governance with my contribution in national, regional, European and global internet governance.

I am very much interesting and highly motivated to do my best being member of IGFSA Executive Committee providing my educational, professional and experiences capacities, in the fields of digital policy development, internet policy development, internet ecosystem, digital transformation, internet governance, broadband and connectivity and ICT, as from my personal and over 12 years professional capacities in those fields, in national, regional, European and global level, including my greatest experiences won in last five years of contributions and engagement to internet governance initiative as initiator\coordinator of Albania IGF internet governance and internet development works through ICANN, RIPE NCC, etc.

As a short briefing, please I would like to bring back to you that my educational background is on Computer Science. During the years 2007-2017 I have worked for Albanian Government Institutions in the positions as ICT Expert /Head of ICT and cybersecurity Expert, my main duties and responsibilities were on cybersecurity, Innovation and ICT management and development which is set to be priority for Albania as a development country. Therefore, during 2008-2017 I had worked with the most of national strategies, projects, initiatives and some regional initiatives related to cybersecurity, innovation and ICT development in Albanian and regionally.

During the years 2011 -2017, I have been member of National Technical Council for Innovation and ICT management and development in Albanian Government expert.

Furthermore, since 2018, I am Head of Unit on Policies and Strategies Development of Telecommunications and Posts, Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy. I am charge and responsible to contribute to the implementation of “Digital Agenda of Albania 2020”, 5G Roadmap and implementation, law of telecommunication, telecommunication code in line with EU, broadband development and connection, government gateway, security agenda of Albania, digital transformation projects and internet governance on Information Society within the National Strategy for Development and Integration 2020. Also, through this department, I am charge to drafting policies/strategies in the field of Electronic Communications and Posts with

some of most important National Broadband Development Plan 2020-2025, Spectrum Plan, Frequencies Plan and internet policy regulations related EU and global standards and policies.

In addition, my duties are on drafting policies development electronic communications and posts sector, drafting and analyze the development of broadband infrastructure in Albania and regional, Stabilization and Association Agreement related electronic communications sector with EU Integration, Roaming Agreement in Western Balkans and by fulfilling my duties and responsibilities from international agreements in the field of telecommunications on ITU, UPU, CEPT, MAP-REA and EU design and implementation of the Economic Reform Program (ERP) for issues related to the telecommunications sector, assist the implement Roaming Agreement for WB6 and EU, Contributor to National and Regional projects related, Innovation, ICT and Cybersecurity projects, initiatives (Western Balkan Digital Summit, RCC, MAP-REA/4 Digital Pillars, etc.) and Strategies drafting and Implementing Broadband and Telecommunication in Sector Projects, drafting and contribute on Strategic Framework for Implementation of Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS), Development of Regional Broadband Infrastructure, Regional Sharing Broadband Infrastructure Development, Artificial Intelligence in Albania, etc.

This year Albania is hosting the biggest and most important event related digitalization and digital transformation “Digital Summit Western Balkans 6 (WB6) on 26nd - 28rd of October 2020(Virtually) & Digital Ministerial 2nd November 2020, Tirana Albania”. This Digital Summit is organizing on four digital pillars 1) Network & Services Connectivity, 2) Trust and Security, 3) Digital Skills, 4) Digital Economy. In Digital Summit are planning to participate virtually around of 2000 participants from Governments, Telecom Regulators, Telecom & Digital Industries, international organizations, Academia, civil societies, best start ups in WB6 and biggest EU companies, industries and EU Delegations. Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy and my department are charged and responsible for the organization of this great event this year.

Starting from 2015, I am engage and contributor as volunteer to internet policy development and internet governance with my contribution in national, regional, European and global internet governance community by participating and contributing on IGF 2015-2020 (as global internet, NRI planning, Policy Options for Connecting and Enabling the Next Billion Phase II, Cybersecurity BPF, MAG works, human rights, internet governance, access & literacy, IoT, ect), in this year IGF Albania IGF is co-organizer of Collaborative Session "Cybersecurity local policies and standards", 4th November 2020 and NRI Session "Digital economy: trans-territorial regulations and impact on digital sovereignty" by proposing a speaker for each session coming from Albanian Government, EURODIG 2016-2020(as smart cities, e-government, broadband connection, 5G, security, cybersecurity, human rights, internet governance, access & literacy, IoT, ect), SEEDIG2016-2020 (as security, cybersecurity, human rights, internet governance, access & literacy, IoT, ect), APrIGF2016, Diplo, RIPE NCC 2016-2019 (RIPE 76, 78), Stockholm Internet Forum 2019 and continuous to contribute as volunteer and as an expert and a professional that want to contribute in global internet governance initiative and from the other side rising awareness and promoting internet governance in Albania and lastly, I have been

selected as South Eastern Europe Dialogue on Internet Governance (SEEDIG) Ambassador 2019.

During 2015-2016 I have been the focal point of Albania IGF and since 2017, I am the initiator and coordinator of Albania National IGF initiative in Albania Community, we have launched our first Albania IGF on 29th of March 2018, with the outstanding support of IGF Secretariat, the executive sponsorship of IGFSa and the support from the other partners as from the European (EURODIG, RIPE NCC, CoE), regional (SEEDIG) and in national level. Thanks to all partners and supporters Albania IGF it's become a very important initiative and actor relate internet governance issues and internet policy development in Albania as has been invited on discussions, boards, working groups and events as from Albanian Commissioner for the Right of Information and Personal Data Protection, ALNOG2, National Authority for Electronic Certification and Cyber Security, UNICEF Albania, Council of Europe office in Albania, etc. In March 2019 South Eastern Europe Dialogue on Internet Governance (SEEDIG) in collaboration with Albania IGF and Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy organized SEEDIG Road Show in Tirana, and now we are looking forward for the next Albania IGF event.

Since 2016, I have been selected four times ICANN fellow and since 2017, I am board member and Secretary position of EURALO Individual Association (two times elected). The mission of EURALO Individual Association at ALS is to contribute and have active participation to policy process development within the ICANN organization and its communities to Internet and to Internet governance, actually I am focusing and contribute on Implementation of European General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (Euro-Specific approach, framework interpretation,) ICANN policy development process, regional project development, outreach, and all the most hot topics for this year agenda. Also, in 2017, I have join and contribute to the ICANN task forces working groups as: At-Large Technical Issues, At-Large Technology and At-Large Taskforce, lastly join At-Large Consolidate Policy Working Group (CPWG). Finally I have served as Board Member Selection Process Committee (BMSPC) 2019-2020.

I am strongly involved to internet governance initiative not only for promoting internet governance in Albania but also, as I want Albania to be part of this excellent initiative related internet governance in the region (SEE), EU and World Wide, sharing ideas, experiences and collaborating with other colleagues with a multistake-holder approach by spreading the word on Internet Governance in our countries, region and worldwide, for a better global internet ecosystem for all.

In conclusion, I would like to mention one more time that I am very much motivate to continue contribute as a volunteer and on my personal capacity, to strongly involve in internet policy development, internet governance, internet ecosystem, digital transformation, broadband and connectivity with a long experience and expertise on ICT, cybersecurity, and ICANN, RIPE community works. But, I am even more interesting, motivating and eager to serve as member of

IGFSA Executive Committee it's self by providing my personal capacities as initiator and coordinator of Albania IGF and all my professional experiences and capacities.

Serving as a member of IGFSA Executive Committee it will be a great opportunity for me as an individual and expert coming from Albania which have not so much individuals or experts involved and engaged in internet governance, by giving the first ever opportunity that part of IGFSA Executive Committee being serving by someone from Albania and so Albania and Western Balkans to be represent it.

Looking forward for my statement of interest for nominating myself to serve to the IGFSA Executive Committee to be considered, please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

**With Kind Regards,
Fotjon KOSTA**

12 October 2020