**IGF 2018 Report**

*By Olga Kyryliuk, NCUC Supported Traveler*

**The report should be about your experience at the meeting, what sort of outreach and activities you performed on behalf of NCUC and your activities/why this fellowship was important.**

During the IGF 2018 I co-organized and moderated a session [#269 Do(not) Touch: Self-Regulatory Harbor of Social Platform](https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2018-ws-269-donot-touch-selfregulatory-safe-harbor-of-social-platforms)s, and was a rapporteur at the [WS #227 Blockchain for Social and Humanitarian Applications.](https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2018-ws-227-blockchain-for-social-and-humanitarian-applications) I also had a bilateral meeting with Reporters Without Borders (Germany) on social network regulation, as they are currently preparing respective recommendations for the German government, and were collecting expert opinions on the issue. The meeting was scheduled in advance and resonated both with the session topic and the project I was working on during the last two years within the framework of my organization. I was truly surprised how precise and timely we have selected a topic for this year’s IGF session, as references to social platforms regulation were made by many participants – starting from President Macron during his opening speech and up to chats over the coffee where this issue somehow popped up again and again.

On the first day, I helped with arranging the NCUC booth, and the following days responsibly carried out my shifts at the booth explaining to the visitors what is NCUC, its mission and the process for joining. Unfortunately, I couldn’t join in person the NCUC session “A Multistakeholder Approach to HRIAs: Lessons from ICANN” on the last day, as I had to catch the flight back home, but I’ve read a report and transcript to be aware of the discussions that happened over there. Every time in conversations and whenever it was suitable I was trying to bring up a topic of NCUC and make a short “marketing campaign” for others to join and contribute to the work done by the Constituency.

Among others, I attended the following sessions: The Past, the Present and the Future for Multistakeholderism; ICANN Open Forum; Book Launch “Internet Governance and Regulations in Latin America” Commemorating 10 years of the South School on Internet; High Level Panel Discussions following the Opening Ceremony; Regulations for a neutral and open Internet at the age of online platforms; and Before you know it, Internet governance will be irrelevant.

From the development perspective I had bilateral meetings with colleagues from Moldova, the USA and Afghanistan, where we agreed on possible modalities for cooperation, and discussed the projects that are of common interest for our organizations.

This fellowship was very important for me for two reasons. Firstly, it helped me to stay connected to NCUC and community, and be able to promote the Constituency outside the ICANN space. Secondly, it gave me a chance to be present in person during the IGF and actively participate in the discussions. Till the very last moment, I was not fully sure whether I’ll be able to travel to Paris on my own, but I was so much eager to go having my session proposal accepted. Even though online participation significantly helps when there is no way to attend a meeting onsite, I believe that personal communication is at the end much more enriching experience.

I’m deeply grateful to the NCUC for the support and positive consideration of my fellowship application. At the same time, I want to mention that it is always my absolute pleasure to help with initiatives and activities undertaken by the Constituency. With that I not only make my smallest contribution to the NCUC, but also get a lot in return in terms of my professional development.