Dr. Roman Chukov | MAG Member (Government, 1 term)
Moscow, Russia – Research fellow,
Federal State Budgetary Science Institute of Economy
of the Russian Academy of Sciences
Submitting in individual capacity

With growing digitalisation of the world economy, Internet Governance Forum is a very important platform to ensure multistakeholder dialogue on the future of the Internet as the basis of the digital economy and favourable working environment for international cooperation. Realisation of its mission and mandate requires more focused approach on elaboration of the specific aspects of the global Internet governance.

To address the 2018 work programme and 13th IGF and suggestions for 2019 and 14th IGF I would give a considerable prominence to focus on several points.

B) What suggestions for improvements could be made for 2019?

1. IGF in 2019 could potentially concentrate its attention on drafting the final document, which would drastically enrich Forum's fruitful discussions and give it more practical importance.
2. Another suggestion is to further deepen discussions of the issues directly relating to the Internet governance, as set out in the IGF mandate. These issues should not disperse to other topics beyond the scope of the IGF, as without understanding of the main agenda focus is also difficult to form national delegations.

D) How could the IGF respond to President Macron's "call for action" made during his speech at the IGF 2018 Opening Ceremony?

As a whole, the initiative of President Macron is interesting, as it contains many correct and timely provisions. From a procedural point of view, the IGF is hardly authorised to officially support or promote it. In order to give legitimacy to the initiative of any state (moreover, when it comes from the leader of the country), an interstate consensus is needed. Therefore, it seems to me that we are authorized only to take note of this initiative.

F). Do you have any specific inputs for the HLPDC in relation to the IGF?

The development and safe functioning of the Internet is very important for the development of humankind at the current stage. The proper functioning of the Internet has become a vital function for any state, its population and economy. Currently, there is no open and transparent system for the Internet governance, which is especially important in the era of the fourth industrial revolution and the efforts of states to develop the digital economy.

Main components of the Internet governance system could be three levels: national, global and basic.

Regulation at the national level should remain exclusively the prerogative of the state whose citizens are users of information. States must preserve national sovereignty in the information sphere, guarantee their citizens protection in their jurisdiction, ensure proper management, strategic stability and security of their IT infrastructure (communication networks, national Internet segments, data storage and processing centres, information security systems), security of national market of virtual products.

Global level – ensuring the unity and coherence of the international Internet, coordination of concerted work of national segments of the Internet, development and regulation of global Internet services, protection of personal data in cross-border transmission. Regulation at this level can be carried out by an international organization (including ICANN) with an active, balanced and equal participation of all parties: private sector, representatives of the multilateral community, including NGOs and states.

Regulation at the basic level should be carried out by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), which will determine the international public policy regarding communication networks. While developing international standards, ITU will ensure effective, safe and uninterrupted access for all people to the opportunities provided by modern information and communication technologies.