



The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

5 August 2008

H.E. Oleg Shchegolev,
Minister of Telecom and Mass Communications of the
Russian Federation
7, Tverskaya ul,
Moscow 125375,
Russian Federation

Dear Minister,

Thank you for your letter of 19 June 2008, regarding the Russian Federation's interest in internationalized domain names (IDNs).

The introduction of IDNs is an important issue for ICANN and many efforts are currently being undertaken to ensure both the technical and policy elements associated with the implementation are sound and in a manner that ensures the continued security and stability of the Internet. Since the Sao Paulo meeting in December 2006, ICANN's Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO) and its Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) have been working collaboratively with others in the ICANN community to identify and commence work on resolving issues related to the selection of IDN ccTLDs associated with the ISO 3166-1 two letter codes.

On 12 September 2007, the ccNSO Council requested an Issue Report be prepared to establish whether the ccNSO should launch a policy development process (PDP) to develop the policy for the selection and delegation of IDN ccTLDs associated with the ISO 3166-1 two letter codes. This is the first step in the process of launching a ccPDP, as outlined in Article IX, Section 6 and Appendix B of the ICANN Bylaws.

In recognition that the ccPDP will take in excess of two years to complete the ccNSO, in consultation with the GAC, felt it appropriate to look at options that would enable the introduction of a limited number of IDN ccTLDs. At the Los Angeles meeting in November 2007, the ICANN Board approved the formation of an Internationalized Domain Name Committee Working Group (IDNC WG) to develop and report on feasible methods, if any, that would enable a fast track introduction of a limited number of non-contentious IDN ccTLDs while the overall policy is being developed through the ccPDP.

The IDNC WG, comprising representatives from the ccNSO and the GAC among others commenced work in January 2008. During the ICANN meeting in Paris, the ICANN Board received the final report from the IDNC Working Group on the feasible methods that would enable the timely and efficient ("fast track") introduction of a limited number of non-contentious IDN country code (cc) Top Level Domains (TLD), while an overall long-term IDN ccTLD policy is being developed. The ICANN Board subsequently directed staff to:

1. post the IDNC WG final report for public comments;
2. commence work on implementation issues in consultation with relevant stakeholders; and
3. submit a detailed implementation report including a list of any outstanding issues to the Board in advance of the ICANN Cairo meeting in November 2008.

The final report has been posted for public comments until 15 August 2008, and is available at <http://www.icann.org/en/announcements/announcement-15jul08-en.htm> and staff has commenced work on the implementation issues.

I was pleased to meet with your representative, Mr Vladimir Vasiliev, in Paris and I sincerely welcome his participation in the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) as an observer. I understand that he also made a valuable contribution to the discussions undertaken by the IDNC WG during the meeting.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Russian Coordination Centre (RCC) for the .ru ccTLD for their participation in ICANN's wiki-based test of non-Latin scripts strings, introduced into the domain name system. The test enables end-users, application developers and registry operators to explore and test how IDNs work when the entire domain name string is localized. The Russian language area for this test has been well supported and has been one of the most active areas of the wiki.

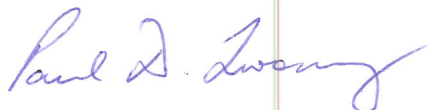
In cooperation with the RCC and the Internet Society of Bulgaria, ICANN is organizing a meeting of all ccTLDs from the region to be held in Sofia, Bulgaria, from 8 to 10 September 2008. I understand that one of the topics to be discussed there will be the implementation of IDNs.

I hope that both your Ministry, and the RCC with which ICANN has had a good working relationship with for some time, will continue their participation in ICANN's IDN discussions and ICANN discussions more broadly in the future. ICANN's Regional Liaison Manager for Russia/CIS, Veni Markovski, will continue to keep representatives of your Ministry and the RCC advised of developments on the IDN ccTLD "fast-track" implementation.

I look forward to continuing our positive dialogue and interaction with you and members of the Russian Internet community in the years to come.

Attached is an unofficial Russian translation of this letter.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Paul Twomey
CEO & President