18 March 2022

RE: Concerns for Continued Access to the Internet and Relief for Registrants in Ukraine and Surrounding Region

Pavel Blotsky, Illia Rudenko, and Alexander Loboda
Internet Invest Ltd, Hosting Ukraine LLC, Center of Ukrainian Internet Names

Dear Pavel, Illia, and Alexander,

Thank you for your [letter](#) of 7 March 2022, which has been published to the ICANN correspondence page.

First and foremost, our hearts go out to the millions of people in Ukraine and the surrounding region who are suffering from violence as well as the related consequences that are impacting their lives.

Your correspondence focuses on two immediate concerns that fall within ICANN's mandate, namely the security, stability, and resiliency of the Internet's unique identifier systems, and the ability to uphold domain name registrants' rights in Ukraine and the surrounding region in light of recent events. Last week, we announced three important decisions intended to alleviate at least some of the pressure with regard to your concerns.

- On 6 March, the ICANN Board approved the allocation of an initial sum of US$1 million to provide financial assistance to support access to the Internet in emergency situations. The ICANN Board expects that this distribution will focus on support for maintaining Internet access for users within Ukraine. ICANN org is working on a plan to swiftly distribute these funds in alignment with ICANN's mission, and in compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

- On 7 March, ICANN invoked section 3.7.5.1 of the 2013 Registrar Accreditation Agreement, thereby giving registrars the flexibility to extend the domain name registration renewal period for domain name holders as a result of the extenuating circumstances in Ukraine and the surrounding region. ICANN org has reiterated the call for registrars and registries to support this action and take these circumstances into consideration when reviewing impacted registrants' renewal delinquencies in affected regions.

- On <u>9 March</u>, ICANN announced the addition of terms in English, Ukrainian, Russian, Polish, and other appropriate languages to the Domain Name Security Threat Information Collection and Reporting (DNSTICR) system watchlist to search for malicious domain registrations related to the Russia-Ukraine war. When evidence of maliciousness is found, the results are reported to the corresponding registrars so that they can determine the appropriate action, such as suspending or deleting the domain name.

ICANN stands for a single, global, and interoperable Internet that serves all people around the world in exercising their fundamental human rights, including the human right to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas. It is through unimpeded access to the Internet and the free flow of information that people can gain knowledge and exposure to a diversity of viewpoints and information.

ICANN org will continue to monitor the situation and evaluate additional methods of supporting those affected.

Sincerely,

Maarten Botterman
Chair, ICANN Board of Directors