



9 May 2008

Mr. Alexei Sozonov
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Messrs Sozonov and Sharikov

Thank you for your letter of 28 April 2008, regarding the introduction of internationalized domain names (IDNs) at the top level and the IDN string from Russia to use in its ccTLD.

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. An Issues Report containing a recommendation whether or not to initiate a ccPDP is expected to be submitted to the ccNSO Council early June 2008.

Recognizing that the ccPDP will take in excess of two years to complete and that there is a strong indication for near term demand for IDN ccTLDs in some countries, territories and areas of geographical interest or their subdivision 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 where that near term demand is demonstrated. At the Los Angeles meeting, the ICANN Board approved the formation of an Internationalized Domain Name Working Group (IDN WG). The purpose of this working group is 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 IDN WG commenced work in January 2008 and has made considerable progress in considering elements which would enable the introduction of a limited number of non-controversial IDN ccTLDs without pre-empting the outcome of the ccPDP. I understand the IDN WG will be finalizing its report for presentation to the ICANN Board at the Paris meeting on 26 June 2008.

I have been advised that the .ru Coordination Centre, as members of the ccNSO, have been involved in the IDN policy discussions currently being undertaken and that Andrey Romanow is a member of the IDN WG.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Twomey
President and CEO
Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers