Dr. Paul Twomey

Chief Executive Officer

Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

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Dear Dr. Twomey,

We are writing this letter as a follow-on to our discussion with ICANN and IANA during the last ICANN meeting in Lisbon on March 26-30, 2007 and subsequent meetings with the ICANN delegation in Moscow on April 4, 2007. We found these discussions to be a good starting point for further negotiations on the current status and future disposition of the .SU domain.

We fully understand and agree that the "SU" code element has been removed from the ISO 3166-1 standard and that the ISO 3166 Maintenance Agency (ISO3166/MA) considers the code "transitionally reserved". We understand that current ICANN policies require the list of country code top-level domains (ccTLDs) be derived from the ISO 3166-1.

On the other hand, the current .SU top-level domain user community, which largely established itself in the period between 1992 and 1998 when all the former Soviet Union countries received top-level domains, consists of more than 8,000 second level domains and more that 100,000 third level domains. These numbers suggest the wide adoption on the Internet of the former SU (virtual) space and reflect the existence of a community that identifies itself by a common language, distinct cultural roots, a unified history, and human, business and scientific links.

It is also important to mention that from the beginning, the .SU registration model was based on a geographical/administrative principle that suggests most of the individual domains are at the 3rd level. This delegation model has created a situation in which the .SU domain as a whole continues to grow even when the delegation was restricted at the 2nd level as has been the case since 2000.

In order to resolve the current uncertain and contradictory situation regarding the .SU top-level domain, the current .SU administrator "Fund on Internet Development" (FID) together with the domain operator Russian Institute for Public Networks (RIPN) started the ".SU Policy Development Project" (.SU-PDP) in September 2006 in order to investigate possible ways of resolving the .SU problem.

At the previously described meetings between ICANN/IANA and the .SU administration, we presented our vision on possible steps to resolve the .SU problem, namely:

- As a first step we would like to state our overriding priority as our desire to protect the interests of the .SU user community within the constraints of ICANN/IANA policies and procedures. We believe ICANN understands the

desire of FID in achieving this priority.

- As the next step, we will investigate and discuss options on how we can keep the .SU domain while continuing to comply with current ICANN/IANA policies and procedures.

With regards to the second step, we understand that should ISO-3166/MA add the two letter code element "SU" to the exceptionally reserved or indeterminately reserved ISO3166-1 list will not be sufficient to clarify the status of .SU as current ICANN/IANA policies require a venue in which legality of actions can be determined. We also understand that redefining the SU string as a sponsored community oriented TLD contravenes existing ICANN/IANA policies that reserve two-letter top-level domains for ISO 3166-1 defined code elements.

In the event that no solution can be found for maintaining the .SU top-level domain, we will be ready to start the migration process for the current user community to a new TLD. We anticipate a period of 10-15 years would be sufficient for migration purposes. We appreciate ICANN's understanding that migration of such a large international and geographically dispersed user community to a new TLD will be a complex task and that steps will need to be taken to minimize disruptions encountered by users of the .SU TLD.

We understand that implementation of the discussions/vision summarized above will require active consultations. We are planning to undertake these consultations in the framework of the FID SU-PDP project mentioned above and look forward to ICANN's active participation. On our side, as a first action in respect to communication with the .SU user community we will immediately inform the .SU user community about:

a) the start of the current talks; and

b) the possible outcomes, including the chance of having to migrate the .SU user community to a new TLD

We appreciate your understanding and are ready to discuss further any related issues regarding the resolution of the .SU domain problem.

Yours Faithfully,

Alexey Soldatov (FID)

Alexei Platonov (RIPN)