**Intervention of Andrii Nabok, Ukrainian representative in GAC**

7 March 2022

***“One World, One Internet”***

This slogan is wonderful.

**“*Multistakeholder model*"** – a community-based consensus-driven approach to policy-making.

This model is great.

Ukraine admires both this slogan and this model.

Ukraine believes both in this slogan and in this model. The Ukrainian government showed its support for them in its numerous actions and statements before.

Believes or did believe?

On February 24, at 5 am, my family woke up from explosions. We saw a lot of fire and smoke in the window - our city was shelled by rockets. I can not put into words the feeling when you have to explain to your 7-year-old daughter that we urgently need to leave home to save our lives.

In a few minutes, my friends from all parts of Ukraine confirmed that there had been missile strikes in the whole country. At once, all the values ​​you lived with yesterday cease to exist. Now the main task is to save our families, relatives and friends.

So, Russian missiles attacked Ukraine. Putin said it is a “special military operation” in the territory of the independent country. Putin said the goal is "demilitarisation and de-Nazification" to ensure the security of Russia". Security of the largest country in the world with the most enormous nuclear potential seems to be defending itself against ghostly Nazis without nuclear weapons...

The logic has left our chat.

Today is the 12th day of the war. Not some "operation", but a war, a war in Europe! Undeclared Russian war on Ukraine. It is the 12th day of Russian bombing of peaceful Ukrainians cities and even villages, schools, kindergartens, maternity clinics. Nuclear stations.

But Putin’s Blitzkrieg became blitzfailure.

The whole world admires the courage of Ukrainian soldiers and civilians – in social media, in private messages, on TV. Unfortunately, thousands Ukrainians have been killed (including 38 children). Millions of Ukrainians have been forced to leave their homes.

Many of you sent us many words of support, sheltered us and helped our army. Many thanks to you!

Many of you have understood that the real goal of the Kremlin and Russian dictatorship is to destroy freedom, peace and human rights. Right to life, right to dignity, right to freedom.

And the right to Internet.

Last year, our team carried out a large state infrastructure project for deploying fiber-optic networks in the most remote villages of the country. According to our last data, we had the highest level of coverage of high-capacity networks among all European countries. About 97% of the Ukrainian population had the opportunity to connect to Internet based on fiber-optic technologies.

Those settlements, where the Russian army enters, are cut off from the Internet. For example, in one of the villages where my relatives live, there are currently several thousand russians. As soon as they captured the village, they immediately cut the optical cables and shot at the mobile operator's base station with a machine gun. People are now cut off from the world.

Today is the 12th day of destroying Ukrainian Internet infrastructure by Russian bombs. Our heroic ISPs rebuild it under fire risking their lives to save communications.

Thanks to our heroic ISPs and Elon Musk’s support, people in bomb shelters still have a chance to know whether their relatives are safe (or not), whether they are alive (or unfortunately no more).

Our cybersecurity is also under threat. Thanks to heroic efforts the .ua domain is stable. All servers and services have been moved to backup positions and function independently from the Ukrainian infrastructure. Hostmaster LLC strengthened anicast secondaries to prevent possible attacks on domain servers.

"ICANN has been built to ensure that the Internet works, not for its coordination role to be used to stop it from working" – I fully support these words of Goran Murby, ICANN CEO.

But I would like to ask you – will it be OK for you if Internet is working for all except Ukrainians? Just because Russian assassins will kill Ukrainians?

Of course, this is an apocalyptic scenario that will not be implemented. Ukrainians will not allow this.

Yes, Ukraine has already received invaluable support from nearly all ICANN constituencies (and at an individual level). We are grateful for your help in strengthening the cybersecurity of .ua, as well as other items of our critical infrastructure. We welcome the decision of the ICANN Board to allocate an initial sum of $1 million to be used to provide financial assistance to support access to Internet infrastructure in emergency situations. It would be great to spend a part of this sum to buy more StarLinks for Ukrainian Internet users.

Of course, ICANN cannot close the sky over Ukraine. But I would like to ask all of you to appeal to your governments to protect Ukraine (and the infrastructure of the Internet, for that matter) from the barbaric actions of Putin’s Russia.

We fully support ICANN's commitment to ensure a single, global, interoperable Internet. Moreover, we’ve already asked to limit the Kremlin's influence on our common free digital space, since the "national Russian peculiarities” of Internet Governance are well known worldwide. Kremlin wants – and will be happy – to get the “sovereign Internet”. And they will get it – by destroying “One World, One Internet” – if we do not unite against such threats. On March 11 Russia will completely disconnect from the global Internet. But the Russian representative will retain his role as one of the 12 holders of DNSSEC root key. Are you serious?

That is why, we call on ICANN community, IANA, registrars and registries, and the vendors who make the internet free and available for everyone on the earth, to join the enforcement of the sanctions of the civilised world recently imposed on Kremlin, Russian companies, and individuals. Do not allow them to use the Internet as cyberbattle field against fundamental human rights and do not allow them to attack critical infrastructure for bloody warfare. We also call on public and private entities to make steps in technological exodus from the Russian Federation, the empire of evil, the terrorist state number 1, the fascists of the 21st century.

Last person out turns off the lights. I hope it will not be ICANN.

Thank you, dear community, for your support. We believe that you are also on the side of freedom and light.