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*Open letter of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine
to the Editorial Boards of international scientific journals,
on the position of the Ukrainian scientific community
regarding publications from Crimean and Donbas institutions
with inappropriate country affiliations*

Dear Colleagues,

It has come to our attention that some research articles and scientific contributions from research institutions of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (NAS of Ukraine) located on the Crimean Peninsula (Autonomous Republic of Crimea, Ukraine) and in the Donbas region were published or accepted for publication in international scientific journals with inappropriate country attribution – Crimea (Russia). We find it important to draw your attention to the inappropriate country attribution of the Crimea-based and Donbas-based ' institutions.

The city of Sevastopol and Autonomous Republic of Crimea are internationally recognized as Ukrainian territories temporarily occupied and unlawfully annexed by the Russian Federation (see, for example, *international documents regarding the Crimea*:

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2014/ga11493.doc.htm> ;

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=MOTION&reference=P8-RC-2016-0173&language=EN>;

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/12/19/executive-order-blocking-property-certain-persons-and-prohibiting-certain>). The Donbas region is also internationally recognized as belonging to Ukraine.

In 2014-2015, many Ukrainian researchers were forced to leave their homes and institutions in Crimea and other Ukrainian regions affected by the Russian aggression and Russia-backed separatism and to move to Kyiv and other Ukrainian cities and regions.

By accepting articles with inappropriate country affiliations (attributing the “Republic of Crimea” and city of Sevastopol to the Russian Federation or Russia and the Donbas regions to the self-announced “Donetsk / Luhansk Republics”), the publishers and editors of international scientific journals and other media actually endorse and support the Russian aggression. We urge the international scientific community to refrain from such practice.

We would highly appreciate if you correctly attribute to Ukraine the publications produced by scientists based in Sevastopol, Simferopol, Kerch, Yalta, Nikita, Feodosia, Nauchny, Simeiz, Yevpatoria, Saki, and other cities and towns of the Crimean region, Donetsk, and Luhansk, in particular the Crimean Laser Observatory of the Main Astronomical Observatory, the Marine Institute of Hydrophysics, the Crimean Nature Reserve, the Karadag Nature Reserve, the O.O.Kovalevsky Institute of Biology of the Southern Seas, the Donetsk O.O.Galkin Institute of Physics and Engineering, and others.

We insist on appropriate attributions of Crimean and Donbas research institutions to Ukraine in any publications, especially in international journals. In those cases when items with inappropriate country affiliation have been already published due to neglect or for some other reason, we request the soonest possible publication of corrigenda or editorial notes, explaining the temporary occupied status of the Crimea and the Donbas. In those cases when Crimean or Donbas authors, for fear of repressions, provide for communication reasons their current addresses as Russia or Russian Federation, the editorial disclaimer has to be made indicating the real status of Crimea and Donbas as a constituent and integral part of Ukraine, with proper reference to the relevant international documents adopted by the UN and/or other bodies. An example of such a disclaimer could be as follows:

“The author(s) from the Crimea / Donbas of the article(s) appearing in this Journal is/are solely responsible for the indication of his/her/their actual postal address(es) and country affiliation(s). However, the Journal states that the country affiliation(s) indicated in the article is/are improper. Our Journal expresses its respect for international law and states that the Institution is located in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea / the Donbas region that is a part of Ukraine temporarily occupied by Russian Federation”.

We believe that the international research and editorial community should stand together against the overt military aggression, follow high standards for research publication, and will remain committed to peace, order, and international law.

Hoping for your understanding and support,

Sincerely,

Vice-president
of the NAS of Ukraine



Anatoly ZAGORODNY

Chairman of the Publishing
Board of the NAS of Ukraine



Yaroslav YATSKIV