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Agenda Item 5

REPORT OF THE CENTRAL, EAST AND SOUTHEAST EUROPEAN DIVISION  
ON ACTIVITIES PERFORMED IN AREA OF GEOGRAPHICAL NOMENCLATURE  
STANDARDIZATION IN 1989 - 1991

Paper presented by the Central, East and Southeast European  
Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical  
Names

The UN Regional Group X held in succession its 10<sup>th</sup> session in the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, in Prague, 10-14 June 1991 being attended by representatives of Poland, Hungary and the CSFR. For other member states, Bulgaria had apologized for its absence but sent the written report on activities.

The session had been convened in order to discuss the state of fulfilling the resolutions accepted by the previous session as well as to prepare common regional group lines on topics placed on the agenda of forthcoming 15<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names /Geneva, September 1991/. Information on performing the tasks as defined by the minutes of the 9<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Regional Group X on Standardization of Geographical Nomenclature /Bratislava, March 1989/ was presented by the chairman of UN Regional Group X.

Hungary, Poland and the CSFR presented reports on activities in area of geographical nomenclature standardization in the period since the 9<sup>th</sup> session of the Regional Group X. Information on Bulgarian activities was documented in written form. Close considerations were devoted to issues connected with revision of countries lists, attention was paid to the Glossary of Technical Terms Used for Standardization of Geographical Nomenclature, to achieved outcomes in elaboration of the International Glossary of Geographical Names Used in General Geographical Maps, to matters of toponymic directions publishing, exonyms reduction and national lists edition. Application of systems of non-Latin scripts transliteration into the Roman alphabet was dedicated a special attention and participants generally agreed in necessity to transliterate the names of geographical objects situated in countries where non-Latin script systems are used into the Roman characters. Participants of the 10<sup>th</sup> session recommended the deliberation of the UN Group of Experts to inquire into this issue and to accept an adequate measure.

Record of activities in section of international exchange of standardization outcomes was viewed as insufficient and therefore a measure was commonly accepted to assist an improvement. Besides, a statement was accepted that the Newsletter, an information bulletin, had become a significant source of information and a useful tool of the Group of Experts publication activities. All participants of discussion agreeably confirmed handiness of the Newsletter existence and a need for better information flow into the countries of the tenth regional group. Simultaneously, a necessity of an active approach of the concerned countries to contributing to the Newsletter bulletin was called.

The session showed that most of the Regional Group X member countries had only partly fulfilled the tasks resulting from the minutes of the 9<sup>th</sup> session of Regional Group X /Bratislava, March 1989/. The reason should be seen in complex economic and political changes that have passed in particular countries. To intensify the co-operation and information supply among the members of the Regional Group X /the agreed exchange of publications includingly/, the participants concurred on necessity to enhance the order of mutual contacts.

In the CSFR the standardization of geographical nomenclature in scope of non-settlement geographical objects is controlled by the following two bodies:

1. The Secretariat of Nomenclature Commission within the Slovak Authority of Geodesy and Cartography /for territory of the Slovak Republic/;
2. The Secretariat of Nomenclature Commission within the Czech Geodetic and Cartographic Authority /for territory of the Czech Republic/.

Nowadays, the Geodesy and Cartography Act has been amending and is supposed to lay down also an obligation of geographic nomenclature standardization in sphere of non-settlement geographic objects.

A parallel standardization and publication of settlement names changes have been undertaken within other CSFR authorities, i.e. Ministry of Interior of the SR and Ministry of Interior of the CR.

In the evaluated period the following lists of standardized names were published in the CSFR:

- Geographical Names of Stará Ľubovňa District
- Geographical Names of Senica District
- Geographical Names of Liptovský Mikuláš District
- Geographical Names of Košice City and Košice Provinces Districts
- Geographical Names of Rožňava District
- Geographical Names of Vranov upon Topľa District
- Names of Water Streams and Water Areas of the Slovak Republic - Bodrog and Tisza Rivers Basin
- Geographical Names of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic

In Hungarian Republic a change occurred in arrangement of the Committee on Geographical Nomenclature Standardization. The former Committee on Geographical Nomenclature Standardization established on base of the UN conference on geographical nomenclature standardization /Geneva, September 1967/ was incorporated into the Geodesy and Cartography Office within the Ministry of Food and Agriculture in 1989. Since 1990 it has become an interministerial committee with responsibilities independent from any sector authority. The committee is justified to consult directly the different national authorities on issues of nomenclature in accordance with respective responsibilities they have been entrusted with.

In Bulgarian Republic that responsible for the given task is the Board on Transcription, Orthography and Cadastre. In these days, the competencies of geographical nomenclature standardization entrusted to the Board on Transcription, Orthography and Cadastre is expected to be reacknowledged.

In Polish Republic two bodies responsible for nomenclature are as follows:

- Commission on Definition of Names of the Polish Territory Settlement and Physical Geographical Objects established within the Board of Ministers of the PR;
- Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names out of the Polish Territory established within the Ministry of Education of the PR.

Both bodies operate in close co-operation with the Ministry of Planned Land Use and Building which has incorporated the geodetic and cartographic services.

In Poland the publication entitled *Nazwy geograficzne rzeczypospolitej polskiej* was published in 1991.