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Information of the Working Group on Geographical Names of the Interstate Council for Geodesy, Cartography, Cadastre and Remote Control of the Earth established by the CIS state-members

Submitted by the Russian Federation**

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Summary

In 1996 the Interstate Council for Geodesy, Cartography, Cadastre and Remote Control of the Earth of the CIS state-members established the Working Group on Geographical Names.

Since then, the Working Group held six meetings (in 1996, 1999, 2001, 2004, 2005 and 2006) to exchange information and experience in handling geographical names (current status of legislative and normative base for the geographical names standardization, application of Romanization systems, compilation of gazetteers and dictionaries of geographical names, development of the national databases of geographical names, etc.).

The Working Group focused on a regular exchange of information about all changes in the geographical names in the state-members of the CIS. The Information Bulletin "Changes in the geographical names in the CIS countries" and three supplements (№ 1, 1999; № 2, 2003 and № 3 2006) were compiled and issued. They enlist more than 1 700 renamed geographical objects in 12 countries. The accumulated experience in inter-state cooperation allows to further improve the documents devoted to renaming of geographical names. It is planned to include national names of the renamed objects there.

The Working Group on Geographical Names was established in 1996 by the resolution taken at the meeting of the Interstate Council for Geodesy, Cartography, Cadastre and Remote Control of the Earth of the CIS states-members. The Working Group was formed as an advisory body that would work out suggestions and recommendations for the Interstate Council to take decisions on geographical names in the state-members of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

The Working Group is responsible for the following issues:

- preparation of suggestions and recommendations pertaining to geographical names for the Interstate Council;
- compilation and publication of information bulletins containing changes of geographical names in the CIS states.

The Working Group held regular working meetings to exchange information and experience in handling geographical names (current status of legislative and normative base of the geographical names standardization, application of Romanization systems, compilation of gazetteers and dictionaries of geographical names, development of national databases of geographical names, etc.) Since its foundation, the Working group arranged six meetings (1996, 1999, 2001, 2004, 2005, 2006).

At the Working Group's meetings, detailed recommendations were adopted and their implementations were later considered.

The Working Group focused on a regular exchange of information about all changes in the geographical names in the state-members of the CIS. The mutual efforts resulted in compiling and publishing of the Information Bulletin "Changes in the geographical names in the CIS countries" (1997) and two Supplements (№ 1, 1999; and № 2, 2003.) By now, Supplement № 3 is prepared. Its final version was discussed and spread on a CD at the meeting of the Working Group in Lvov (Ukraine.) The Cartography and Geodesy Service of the Russian Federation supervised the Bulletin's compilation, while the corresponding services of the CIS state-members were responsible for submission of appropriate materials.

The Bulletin provides the following data in tables:

- location of an object (country and its administrative unit);
- former name of a geographical object in Russian along with a generic term;
- new proposed name of a geographical object in Russian along with a generic term;

- date of name change;
- standardized Russian spelling of a new name.

The Bulletin and three supplements provided an access to the changes of geographical names of more than 1700 objects in 12 countries. The statistics is given in the table below.

Num	Country	Number of renamed geo objects				
		Total:	In Bulletin 1997	Including:		
				in Supplements		
№ 1, 1999	№ 2, 2003	№ 3, 2006				
1.	Azerbaijan	114	31	2	57	24
2.	Armenia	57	18	37	2	-
3.	Belarus	319	2	-	-	317
4.	Georgia	68	17	-	51	-
5.	Kazakhstan	279	202	63	13	1
6.	Kyrgyzstan	90	16	-	19	55
7.	Moldova	87	39	-	48	-
8.	Russia	266	110	56	34	66
9.	Tajikistan	15	10	-	2	3
10.	Turkmenistan	88	12	53	23	-
11.	Uzbekistan	183	14	142	11	16
12.	Ukraine	154	119	3	12	20
	Total	1720	590	356	272	502

Collection, analysis and exchange of information about the changes made in the names of geographical objects will be continued. The accumulated experience in inter-state cooperation allows to further improve the documents devoted to re-naming of geographical names. It is planned to include national name forms of the renamed objects there.