

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

23 July 2012

**Tenth United Nations Conference on the
Standardization of Geographical Names**

New York, 31 July – 9 August 2012

Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

**Reports by Governments on the situation in their countries and on the progress
made in the standardization of geographical names since the Ninth Conference
(for distribution only).**

National Report of Turkey

Submitted by Turkey**

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** Prepared by the Board of Experts for Geographical Names of Turkey

NATIONAL REPORT OF TURKEY

(2007-2012)

Prepared by the Board of Experts for Geographical Names of Turkey

1. Summary

The committee that is responsible for the standardization of geographical names in Turkey is “the Board of Experts for Geographical Names of Turkey (BEGeoN_T)”. BEGeoN_T is affiliated, hosted and chaired by Ministry of Interior and carries out its activities in cooperation with the representatives of related national institutions. This report highlights activities of BEGeoN_T since the Ninth Conference. The main activities carried out during this period could be summarized as follows:

- BEGeoN_T had several meetings (at least twice a year) and represented in Division meetings of East Central and South-East Europe Division and Asia South-West Division (other than Arabic) which took place twice during this reporting period in Zagreb and Tehran respectively. BEGeoN_T was also represented in 26th Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names which took place in Vienna.
- Tasks and organizations of the working groups (WGs) are revised and the number of working groups decreased from nine to five.
- The working group on Turkish Exonyms of Country Names and Capitals published first version of the list of country names and capitals in the beginning of 2012. This version includes the countries that are recognized by Turkey officially.
- The working group on Toponymy Guide has continued to work and the first versions of documents that are envisaged to be part of the guide is prepared.
- “Gazetteer for Turkey and its neighbouring areas is prepared and started to be published since the end of 2010.

2. **Activities carried out in the period of 2007-2012**

- BEGeoN_T had several meetings (at least twice a year) and represented in Division meetings of East Central and South-East Europe Division and Asia South-West Division (other than Arabic) which took place twice during this reporting period in Zagreb and Tehran respectively. BEGeoN_T was also represented in 26th Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names which took place in Vienna.
- BEGeoN_T revised the tasks and organizations of working groups and, therefore, decreased the number of working groups from nine to five by the evaluation carried out at the end of 2009. Currently the following working groups exist:
 - a.1. WG on Turkish Exonyms of Country Names and Capitals
 - a.2. WG on Glossary of Toponymic Terminology
 - a.3. WG on Gazetteer and Geographical Names Database of Turkey
 - a.4. WG on Toponymy Guide
 - a.5. WG on Gazetteer for outside Turkey

a. Turkish Exonyms of Country Names and Capitals: In the work carried out in the period of 2007-2012, firstly a list is drafted containing the lands that have ISO post. However, later BEGeoN_T confined this list to only those countries recognized by Turkey officially. This list is published in the websites General Directorate of Provincial Administration of the Ministry of Interior and General Command of Mapping. This list will also be included in Toponymy Guide that will be published in the next period.

b. Gazetteer and Geographical Names Database of Turkey: A gazetteer that includes Turkey and its neighborhood was prepared based on 1:250 000 scale maps between 2007 and 2009. This gazetteer is available for free to users from the website of General Command of Mapping. New version of this gazetteer in accordance with map revisions is planned to be released in 2013.

c. Toponymy Guide: In this reporting period, WG primarily worked towards preparation of documents that are going to be included in the guide. These documents are as follows:

- c.1. Glossary of Geographic Features
- c.2. Names of provinces (first level administration units) and their coordinates.
- c.3. Adjectives that consist of names of first and second level administrative units (provinces and district/county)
- c.4. Abbreviations used in the topographic maps published by General Command of Mapping in Turkey
- c.5. Abbreviations and Feature Type Codes of Gazetteer of Turkey and Surroundings

d. Gazetteer for outside Turkey: A work has been started to prepare a gazetteer of the world. This gazetteer is currently under examination by the Faculty of Literature, History and Geography of Ankara University.

3. Targets and national programmes

The future plans of BEGeoN_T is stated below:

- a. Turkish Exonyms of Country Names and Capitals: The work carried out in the current period will be extended in accordance with new recognized countries on behalf of Turkish Government in the next period.
- b. Glossary of Toponymic Terminology: This work is based on documents published by UNGEGN. The preparation of the glossary is coming to an end and will be published in the next reporting period.
- c. Gazetteer and Geographical Names Database of Turkey: Updating of already published gazetteer will be carried out and made available for the users. Database for geographical names will continually be revised. In the next period, the structure of the database will be changed and geographic details covering extended areas will be located. This database will allow us to update standard gazetteers independent of map updating.
- d. Toponymy Guide: We plan to complete and publish additional documents that are going to be included into the guide and the main body of the guide. This guide expected to be useful reference for geographers and map producers.
- e. Gazetteer for outside Turkey: The work on preparing a gazetteer of the world is already under way. This work will be continued.