



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
21 May 2012
English
Original: Russian and English

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).

Standardization of Geographical Names in Ukraine for the period of 2007– 2012

Submitted by Ukraine **

* E/CONF.101/1.

** Prepared by the State Service of Geodesy, Cartography and Cadaster

Standardization of Geographical Names in Ukraine for the period of 2007– 2012

RESUME

A series of changes took place in the system of state governing bodies of Ukraine in the issues of geographical names standardization. In accordance with the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No 200 of 22.02.2012 the State Service of Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre is being dissolved. The Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine is charged with the function of carrying out of the state policy in the sphere of geographical names standardization. The State Agency of Land Resources of Ukraine will be responsible for the coordination of the activity in regard to determination, normalization, account, registering, use and preservation of geographical names. The Interdepartmental Scientific and Methodological Council in the Issues of Geographical Names keeps on functioning.

The “Table of transliteration of Ukrainian alphabet by means of Latin alphabet” was approved by the Resolution No 55 of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of January 27, 2010. As a result of the Resolution’s adoption Ukrainian proper names (geographical names, personal names and surnames) are rendered by the letters of Latin alphabet according to the unified rules of transliteration in official documents, cartographic publications on boards and nameplates with names of streets, settlements, transport stops, metro stations, etc. Ukraine is presenting the “Table of transliteration of Ukrainian alphabet by means of Latin alphabet”, officially approved and widely used on the national level, for international approval.

"Toponymic guidelines for map editors and other editors. Ukraine (for international use)", published in 2011, is aimed at the users outside of Ukraine and serves to assist with the usage of Ukrainian maps and other sources of information about Ukrainian geographical names.

Preparatory works on creation of an automated system of accounting of standardized names of Ukrainian geographical objects – the State Register of Geographical Names – had been completed in 2011.

Standardization of Geographical Names in Ukraine for the period of 2007– 2012

National Bodies of Geographical Names Standardization

A series of changes took place in the system of state governing bodies of Ukraine in the issues of geographical names standardization over the period since the Ninth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names was held.

In accordance with the Resolution No 200 of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of 22.02.2012 the State Service of Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre (*Ukrgeodescartographia*), the state body in composition of the Ministry of Protection of the Natural Environment of Ukraine, is being dissolved. The Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine is charged with the function of carrying out the state policy in the sphere of geographical names standardization. The State Agency of Land Resources of Ukraine will be responsible for the coordination of the activity in regard to determination, normalization, account, registering, use and preservation of geographical names.

The Interdepartmental Scientific and Methodological Council in the Issues of Geographical Names keeps on functioning along the following guidelines: working out and formation of the main principles of the national geographical names standardization, considering the drafts of normative legal and methodological documents in regard to geographical names, provision of recommendations concerning naming and renaming of geographical objects.

The State of Legal and Normative Basis in the Sphere of Geographical Names

The Law of Ukraine on Geographical Names (2005) determines the legal foundations regulating the activity with respect to naming and renaming of geographical objects, and also normalization, use, registration and preservation of geographical names.

The Law of Ukraine on Topographic, Geodetic and Cartographic Activity (1998) regulates normative provision for the establishment, collection and preservation of geographical names while conducting topographic, geodetic and cartographic works. Some amendments and supplements had been made to the Law in 2010, implying the improvement of the system of state administration in this sphere, formation of the national cartographic and geodetic funds and facilitating the access of users to them, the development of state geodetic networks, the implementation of the present-day methods and the newest technologies into output of geodetic and cartographic products.

The Provision on the Interdepartmental Scientific and Methodological Council in the Issues of Geographical Names, approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine (2006), regulates the issues of interdepartmental activity on geographical names.

The Provision on the State Register of Geographical Names, approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine (2006), defines the order of its formation and management, provides for the determination, accounting and registration of the names of geographical objects.

The Order of carrying out of the expertise of suggestions and decisions of the state bodies in regard to naming and renaming of geographical objects, approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine (2009), determines the procedure of the expertise of suggestions in regard to naming and renaming of geographical objects on the territory of Ukraine, its continental shelf, exclusive (marine)

economic zone, and geographical objects of the Earth, discovered by Ukrainian researchers and scientists.

The Instructions on rendering of foreign geographical names into Ukrainian are being used in the process of edition of cartographic products. The Instructions include rules of rendering of place names into Ukrainian, lists of the main geographical terms in Ukrainian and lists of exonyms. Altogether 28 Instructions had been approved.

Principal Activities in the Sphere of Geographical Names Standardization in 2007-2012

Ukrgeodescartographia carried out the following activities:

- the improvement of normative and methodological basis for the regulation of the activity in the sphere of geographical names;
- management of activity aimed at compilation of the State Register of Geographical Names;
- coordination of activity aimed at provision by standardized geographical names of state governmental bodies, local authorities, establishments, organizations and cartographic publishing houses;
- regulation of the issue of Ukrainian Romanization System use;
- management of activity of the Interdepartmental Scientific and Methodological Council in the Issues of Geographical Names;
- international cooperation in the sphere of geographical names.

In 2008 the National Atlas of Ukraine was published, on the maps of which normalized Ukrainian place names had been presented, and the names of the adjacent territories had been presented in accordance with the recommendations of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names and the approved Instructions on rendering of foreign geographical names and terms into Ukrainian.

Ukrgeodescartographia carried out expertise of suggestions and decisions of the state bodies in regard to naming and renaming of geographical objects of Ukraine, presented information on inquiries of organizations, establishments and enterprises in regard to use and spelling of the names of geographical objects of Ukraine and the world.

Toponymic Guidelines for Map Editors and Other Editors

"Toponymic guidelines for map editors and other editors", which had been worked out and approved by *Ukrgeodescartographia* in 2010, determine the main principles and rules of standardization and spelling of Ukrainian place names on maps, in gazetteers, dictionaries, reference books and other sources of information in accordance with the norms and rules of Ukrainian spelling. The Guidelines had been worked out in two languages: Ukrainian and English.

"Toponymic guidelines for map editors and other editors. Ukraine (for international use)" were published in 2011 and meant for the users outside of Ukraine. They serve to assist with the usage of Ukrainian maps and other sources of information about Ukrainian geographical names. Toponymic guidelines generalize and elaborate on the rules of spelling of Ukrainian geographical names and terms as well as their rendering by means of Ukrainian Romanization System.

Toponymic guidelines consist of seven chapters and two Addenda and contain general information about the Ukrainian language, Ukrainian alphabet and Ukrainian Romanization System, sound composition, principles of pronunciation and use of stress. The rules and examples of compound

geographical names and terms spelling and their Romanization are presented. The Guidelines include concise information about the languages and alphabets of those ethnic minorities (Russian, Crimean-Tatar, Hungarian and Romanian), which are compactly settled on the territory of Ukraine. The information about the legal basis of the activity in the sphere of geographical names and the state bodies of Ukraine, which coordinate the activity in this sphere, is presented. The sources of standardized geographical names are pointed out. The data on the administrative and territorial division of Ukraine and the names of administrative units are presented. In the addenda the abbreviations and the shortened forms of geographical terms and other words, used on maps (with English translations), as well as the Glossary of geographical terms, adjectives and other words, used on Ukrainian-language maps (Romanized and with English translations). The Guidelines are supplied with the Administrative Map of Ukraine in romanized Ukrainian with the scale of 1:2 500 000.

The State of Activities Aimed at Compilation of National Databases (registers) of Geographical Names

In 2011 the preparatory works aimed at development of an automated system of accounting of the standardized names of Ukrainian geographical objects – the State Register of Geographical Names – had been completed.

In the period of 2009-2010 the structure and contents of the State Register of Geographical Names, the main principles of the database formation and management, determination, normalization, accounting and state registering of geographical names had been worked out.

The necessary equipment and software for the automated information and search system for accounting and registering of standardized geographical names had been acquired.

At present the data meant for entering the database is being processed and the account cards are being filled out.

The edition of dictionaries and reference books of geographical names

In 2010 such reference books were published:

"European countries. Names of administrative units and their centers";

"Names of countries and territories of the world" (re-edition), containing the information about the official names of states, dependent territories, the territories with a special status, capitals of states, and the centers of possessions in Ukrainian and the original language, as well as the adjectives, names of citizens derived from the names of states and capitals. In the process of the reference book's follow-up revision the materials of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names had been used.

National Romanization System for Geographical Names

Rendering of Ukrainian proper names (names, surnames and geographical names) by letters of Latin alphabet in official documents, in the process of cartographic products edition, on boards and nameplates with the names of streets settlements, etc., is done in accordance with the unified rules of transliteration according to the "Table of transliteration of Ukrainian alphabet by means of Latin alphabet", approved by Resolution No 55 of 27.01.2010 of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine "On regulation of transliteration of Ukrainian alphabet by means of Latin alphabet".

"The normative table of rendering of Ukrainian proper names by means of the English language", approved by the Ukrainian Commission in the Issues of Legal Terminology in 1996, was used as the basis of the "Table of transliteration of Ukrainian alphabet by means of Latin alphabet".

Some changes had been done to the "Table of transliteration of Ukrainian alphabet by means of Latin alphabet" concerning the transliteration of certain letters. The changes refer to the transliteration of the letter "ш", which before was rendered by means of three letters "sch", and according to the new rules is rendered as "shch". The soft sign and apostrophe have no equivalent in transliteration any longer.

The adoption of the Resolution allowed carrying out the rendering of Ukrainian proper names (names, surnames, geographical names) by letters of Latin alphabet according to the unified rules of transliteration in official documents, cartographic, referential, encyclopaedic, educational and other editions, mass media, on boards and nameplates with the names of settlements, streets, squares, transport stops, metro stations, etc.

"Table of transliteration of Ukrainian alphabet by means of Latin alphabet" is included to "Toponymic guidelines for map editors and other editors

At present Ukrainian Romanization System is widely used in this country for transliteration of Ukrainian geographical names.

Within the framework of getting ready for holding of the finals of European football Championship of 2012 in Ukraine in the cities of Kyiv, Lviv, Kharkiv and Donetsk the names of settlements, streets, squares, tourist objects, transport stops, metro stations are represented on boards as nameplates in romanized form.

In accordance with the "Table of transliteration of Ukrainian alphabet by means of Latin alphabet" geographical names are presented on city plans of Lviv, Odesa, Sevastopol, Kyiv, Kharkiv, Donetsk, and on such maps as "Tourist map of Ukraine", "Road map of Ukraine", "Tourist map of the Carpatians", "Uzhhorodskyi raion" et al., published by the SSPE "Kartographia" in 2010-2011.

International Cooperation in the Sphere of Geographical Names

International cooperation in the sphere of geographical names is carried out along two main branches: participation in the events held within the framework of activity of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, and data exchange in regard to changes in place names with cartographic and geodetic bodies of the countries – members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

Ukraine takes part in the activities of two divisions of United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names:

Eastern Europe, North and Central Asia Division;

East Central and South-East Europe Division.

It also takes part in the meetings of Baltic Division.

Within the framework of activity of the Working Group on Geographical Names of the Intergovernmental Council in Geodesy, Cartography, Cadastre and Distance Probing of the Earth of CIS member states Ukraine took part in development of digital Bulletin of Changes in Geographical Names in CIS Member States.

In 2008 – 2012 Ukrainian delegations participated:
in the 8th session of Eastern Europe, North and Central Asia Division (Bulgaria, Sofia, 2008);
in the 12th session of Baltic Division (Russia, Kaliningrad, 2008);
in GeoNames08 Symposium (Austria, Vienna, 2008);
in the 19th session of East Central and South-East Europe Division (Croatia, Zagreb, 2008);
in toponymic courses held by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (Romania, Timișoara, 2008);
in the 13th session of Baltic Division (Lithuania, 2009);
in the 24th International Cartographic Conference (Chile, Santiago de Chile, 2009);
in the 10th Session of Working group on exonyms of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (Austria, Teinach, 2010);
in the 9th Session of Eastern Europe, North and Central Asia Division (Bulgaria, Belogradchik, 2010);
in the 20th Session of East Central and South-East Europe Division (Croatia, Zagreb, 2011);
in EuroGeographics seminar in the issues of EuroGeoNames project (Croatia, Zagreb, 2011);
in the 26th Session of United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (Austria, Vienna, 2011);
in the meeting of the Working Group on Romanization Systems of United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (Austria, Vienna, 2011);
in the 25th International Cartographic Conference (France, Paris, 2011);
in the 14th session of Baltic Division (Latvia, Riga, 2012).