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**11<sup>th</sup> United Nations Conference on the  
Standardization of Geographical Names**

New York, 8 -17 August 2017

Item 5 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 10<sup>th</sup> Conference (for distribution only).**

**Report of Ukraine**

Submitted by Ukraine\*\*

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\* E/CONF.105/1

\*\* Prepared by the State Service of Ukraine for Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre

# **Standardization of the geographical names in Ukraine from 2012 till 2017**

## **National Bodies on Standardization of Geographical Names**

The state management in the matter of standardization of geographical names is implemented by:

Central executive authority that is responsible for formulation of the state policy in the matter of topography, geodesy and cartography – the Ministry of agrarian policy and food of Ukraine (<http://minagro.gov.ua>);

Central executive authority that implements the state policy in the matter of topography, geodesy and cartography – the State Service of Ukraine for Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre (<http://land.gov.ua>).

The Interdepartmental scientific and methodological board on geographical names was eliminated according to the resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine.

## **Status of Legislative and Regulatory Base in the Sphere of Geographical Names**

The Law of Ukraine “On Geographical Names” (2005) defines the legal framework for the regulation of activities related to the naming and the renaming of geographical objects, as well as the normalization, use, recording, registration and preservation of geographical names.

The Law of Ukraine “On Topographic, Geodetic, and Cartographic Activities” (1998) regulates the normative provision of the determination and collection of geographical names in the production of topographic, geodetic, and cartographic works.

The Law of Ukraine “On the condemnation of the communist and national-socialist (nazi) totalitarian regimes and the prohibition of their symbols” (2015) condemned the communist and national-socialist (nazi) totalitarian regimes in Ukraine, defined the legal basis for the prohibition of their propaganda and established the procedure for the elimination of symbols of communist totalitarian regime. In accordance with this law, administrative territorial units, settlements, streets, boulevards, avenues, squares, quays, bridges, other toponymic objects of settlements, as well as other geographical objects whose names contain the symbols of the communist totalitarian regime are subject to renaming”.

This law also amended the Law of Ukraine "On Geographical Names" on:

prohibition of giving the geographical object the names, that are related to the names or pseudonyms of persons, that occupied senior positions at communist party, highest state authorities and management of USSR, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, other union's or soviet republics, worked at soviet security bodies, as well as names USSR, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic (Ukrainian Socialist Soviet Republic), other allied or autonomous soviet republics and their derivatives, names connected with activities of communist party (incl. party conventions), anniversaries of October Revolution of 25<sup>th</sup> of October (7<sup>th</sup> of November) 1917, establishment of Soviet power on the territory of Ukraine, prosecution of participants of struggle for independence of Ukraine in XX century;

necessity of bringing names of geographical objects into compliance with the requirements of the Law.

In accordance with this Law in Ukraine, more than 900 settlements and administrative-territorial units (including the regional centers of Dnipropetrovsk and Kirovograd), about 50,000 streets, squares and other toponymic objects in cities, towns and villages have been renamed. As a result of the renaming of settlements, more than 300 historical names have been restored, of which about 70 belong to the cultural heritage of the indigenous population and national minorities of Ukraine - Crimean Tatars, Bulgarians, Greeks, Jews, etc.

Resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine in the sphere of geographical names:

The Resolution on the State Registry of Geographical Names (2006) defines the procedure for its creation and maintenance, works on the establishment, normalization, recording and registration of geographical names.

The Procedure for the Examination of Proposals and Decisions of Public Authorities on the Naming and Renaming of Geographical Objects (2009) determines the procedure for examining proposals for the naming and the renaming of geographical objects of the territory of Ukraine, the continental shelf, the exclusive (marine) economic zone, geographical objects of the Earth, discovered by Ukrainian researchers and scientists.

In 2013-2014 years the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine had approved the rules for the transfer to the Ukrainian language of geographical names and terms of foreign countries of Albania, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Greece, the Netherlands, the Republic of Macedonia, Slovenia and Estonia. The rules also contain lists of basic geographical terms, lists of exonyms.

### **Main Activities in the Field of Standardization of Geographical Names in 2012 -2017.**

The State Service of Ukraine for Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre had conducted works in following areas:

- improvement of normative base that regulates activities related to geographical names;
- coordination of activities related to the determination, standardization, recording, registration, use, and preservation of geographical names;
- organization of works on the development of the State Register of Geographical Names;
- international cooperation on standardization of geographical names issues.

The State Service of Ukraine for Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre carried out examinations of proposals and decisions of public authorities on the naming and renaming of geographical objects of Ukraine, issued information on the requests of organizations, enterprises and citizens related to the use and spelling of geographical names of the objects of Ukraine and foreign countries.

The Geoportal "Administrative and Territorial Structure of Ukraine" (<http://atu.minregion.gov.ua>) works since 2015. It ensures the creation, content filling and support of an up-to-date database and metadata of territorial units, topography, settlements, highways and railways. Official data on the changes of administrative and territorial structure, on the united territorial communities in Ukrainian and English is posted on the Geoportal. The geographical names have been rendered in accordance with the Ukrainian Romanization Scheme.

### **Toponymical Manual for Map Editors and Other Editors**

The "Toponymical Guidelines for Map Editors and Other Editors for International Use. Ukraine" was adopted on the 10<sup>th</sup> UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (2012) ([http://unstats.un.org/unsd/UNGEGN\\_RCC/UNGEGN/docs/Toponymic\\_guidelines\\_a\\_PDF/Ukraine/Verstka.pdf](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/UNGEGN_RCC/UNGEGN/docs/Toponymic_guidelines_a_PDF/Ukraine/Verstka.pdf)).

In 2014 Toponymical Guidelines had been revised and the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine approved the "Rules for Spelling Ukrainian Geographical Names on Maps and Other Publications", that establishes the basic principles and rules of standardization and spelling Ukrainian geographical names in official documents, printed medias, cartographic, reference, encyclopedic, educational and other publications and their rendering with the Roman characters. Titles of administrative and territorial units and their centers, as well as the examples of geographical terms and other words used on the maps, are presented in Ukrainian and Romanized (<http://zakon0.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/z0957-14>).

Due to the fact that in the process of the de-communization in 2016 a significant number of administrative and territorial units of Ukraine and their centers were renamed, related changes should be included to the Rules.

### **State of Play on the Creation of National Geographical Names Databases (Registers)**

State Register of Geographical Names - automated information retrieval system of recording and registration of standardized names of geographical objects of Ukraine and geographical objects on the territory of other countries that are used in Ukraine.

Determination and collection of geographical names for the formation of the State Register of Geographical Names is carried out on the bases of the topographic map of the scale 1: 100000, and according to the official sources.

As of January 2017 there were about 60 000 of geographical names of the administrative and territorial units, social and economic facilities, hydrographic objects, landscape objects and objects of Nature-Reserve Fund of Ukraine included to the State Register of Geographical Names. Works on the creation of a database of geographical names of the State Register of Geographical Names are scheduled to be completed during this year. About 40 000 of standardized names of geographical objects of Ukraine will be included into the database.

### **The Publication of Dictionaries and Handbooks of Geographical Names**

In 2017 a dictionary of geographical names "Countries and territories of the world" (published by SRPE "Cartographiia") was published. It contains information about the official names of countries, dependent territories, territories with special status, national capitals and centers of holdings in Ukrainian and national spelling, as well as adjectives, names of citizens, derived from the names of countries and capitals. The materials and Recommendations of UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names were used during the preparation of a dictionary.

### **The National Scheme of Geographical Names Romanization**

For rendering of Ukrainian names (surnames, first names and geographical names) with the Roman characters in official documents, in publications of cartographic products, on the tablets and road signs, as well as in other spheres, applies the Table Ukrainian Romanization approved by the resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of 27.01.2010 № 55 "On Regulation of Ukrainian Romanization" and the "Romanization of Ukrainian Names" (E/CONF.101/84) recommended by the Resolution X/9 of 10<sup>th</sup> UN Conference on Standardization of Geographical Names as the international system of Romanization of Ukrainian geographical names.

In accordance with the Ukrainian Romanization System, the geographical names are rendered on the geographical map of Ukraine (Ukraine, General Geographical Map) of 1:1500000 scale, tourist map of Ukraine (Ukraine, Tourist Map) of 1: 12500000 scale, tourist maps and atlases, plans of the cities, published by SRPE "Cartographiia" for the last few years.

### **International Cooperation in the Sphere of Geographical Names**

Ukraine is a part of and takes part in the work of two UNGEGN divisions:

Division of Eastern Europe, North and Central Asia;

Division of Eastern, Central and South-Eastern Europe.

Participates in the meetings of the Baltic Division.

