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Eighth United Nations Conference on the
Standardization of Geographical Names
Berlin, 27 August-5 September 2002
Item 6 (b) of the provisional agenda*

MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES: DIVISIONAL AND INTERDIVISIONAL
MEETINGS AND PROGRAMMES

East Central and Southeast Europe Division of the United Nations

Group of Experts on Geographical Names

(Submitted by Slovenia)**

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**East Central and Southeast Europe Division of the
United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names**
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15th Session of the East Central and Southeast Europe Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names was in April 1999 in Slovenia and it was already reported about this meeting during New York meeting in January 2000 (Working paper No. 11).

The next 16th Session of the East Central and Southeast Europe Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names was held in Ljubljana (Slovenia) on 20 April 2001, in the Surveying and Mapping Authority of the Republic of Slovenia. It was organized as a *Joint International Meeting on Geographical Names*, because it was at the same period in Ljubljana also a meeting of the Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers. The two events took place in Ljubljana on 19th–20 April 2001. The most important benefit of the this joint meeting was that participants of both events come in contact with much with more complex view on the problems of geographical names standardization. It was also found out that this is could be a fruitful practice for future organization of the working meetings on different aspects of UNGEGEN topics.

BoĹ'ena Lipej, Ph. D., State Adviser, on behalf of the Surveying and Mapping Authority, Ministry of the Environment and Physical Planning of the Republic of Slovenia opened the meeting. Ms. Lipej was elected to chair the meeting. In opening speech she underlined the importance of work on geographical names and cooperation among countries. **A** warm welcome was given to all participating countries: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia.

The delegates adopted the proposed (standardized) agenda with no content change. Information was given on each agenda point by the countries represented at the session.

Milán Orošlen Adamiš presented activities in short report of the United Nations Conference of the Group of Experts on Geographical Names (Twentieth Session, New York, 17–28 January 2000).

The implementation of resolutions of the United Nations in the field of standardization of geographical names in each participating country was explained and discussed from various aspects. Special attention was given to the organization of national bodies for standardizing of geographical names, state-of-the-art toponymic guidelines, data files, and gazetteers. The use of UN recommendations in Romanization systems was elaborated. Reports on country names and various kinds of publicity activities were also given.

On the Joint International Meeting on 19 April representatives from Division presented national databases on geographical names:

Marjana DUHOVNIK, Jurij MLINAR (SI): *The Slovene Topographical Database with Geographical Names*

Béla POKOLY (HU): *Hungarian Database Gazetteer*

Pavel BOHÁČ (CZ): *Database Geonames*

Mária KOVÁČOVÁ (SK): *Database of Geographical Names from the Territory of the Slovak Republic*

Ewa WOLNICZAK-PAWŁOWSKA (PL): *Register of Geographical Names in Poland*

Special attention was devoted to the Internet. All the documents from the session are available on the division homepage <http://www.gov.si/kszi/division/>

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It is proposed that during the next 4-year period Czech Republic chair the Division. It was decided to talk about this during Berlin UNGEGN meeting. Next short sessions should take place in Berlin 2002 and in the first half of 2003 in Prague.

Prepared by Milan Orošlen Adamiš