

4 February 2019

Original: English

**United Nations Group of Experts
on Geographical Names
2019 session**

New York, 29 April–3 May 2019

Item 5 (a) of the provisional agenda*

**Reports: Governments on the situation in their
countries and on the progress made in the
standardization of geographical names****Report of Poland****Summary****

The full report provides information on the progress made by Poland on geographical names issues made since the Eleventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, held from 8 to 17 August 2017.

National names authorities. There are two commissions engaged in the standardization of geographical names in Poland: the Commission on Names of Localities and Physiographic Objects, which is affiliated to the Ministry of the Interior and Administration and establishes names used within the country's boundaries, and the Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland, which is affiliated to the Surveyor General of Poland and is responsible for standardizing geographical names of the world in Polish, establishing the principles of romanization from languages that use non-Roman writing systems, representing Poland in the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical names and participating in international conferences and meetings on geographical names.

National gazetteer. The new edition of the Polish national gazetteer, which contains 103,086 official names of localities and their parts, was published in October 2015. Changes to the names listed are published each year in the Journal of Laws of the Republic of Poland, and enter into force on 1 January.

Multilingual areas. According to the Act of 6 January 2005 on national and ethnic minorities and regional languages, traditional names in a minority language may be used as "additional names". Since 2005, minority names have been introduced for 1,246 localities, disaggregated as follows: 359 German names, 821 Kashubian names, 30 Lithuanian names, 27 Belarusian names and 9 Lemko names.

* [GEGN.2/2019/1](#).

** The full report was prepared by Maciej Zych, Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland. The report will be available at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEKN/1st_session_UNGEKN.html, in the language of submission only, as document [GEGN.2/2019/8/CRP.8](#).



Exonyms. The list of Polish exonyms was published at the end of 2013. It gives Polish names for 13,358 geographical objects outside the boundaries of Poland. A second edition of the list is scheduled to be published at the end of 2019.

Toponymic data files. The National Register of Geographical Names is maintained by the Head Office of Geodesy and Cartography, responsibility for which is vested in the Surveyor General of Poland. Currently, it holds approximately 252,000 names.

Country names. The fourth edition of the official list of names of countries and non-self-governing territories was published at the end of 2017. The names of the countries and territories and their capitals included in the list have been approved by the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. A fifth edition of the list is scheduled to be published in the second half of 2019.
