

**Twenty-third Session  
Vienna, 28 March – 4 April 2006**

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**Item 6 of the Provisional Agenda:  
Reports of the Liaison Officers, Regional Meeting  
and International Organizations**

**Information of the Working Group on Geographical Names of the Interstate Council for  
Geodesy, Cartography, Cadastre and Remote Control of the Earth established by the  
CIS state-members**

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The Working Group on Geographical Names was established in 1996 by the resolution taken at the meeting of the Interstate Council for Geodesy, Cartography, Cadastre and Remote Control of the Earth of the CIS states-members. The Working Group is responsible for the following issues:

- preparation of suggestions and recommendations in the domain of geographical names for the Interstate Council;
- compilation and publication of information bulletins containing changes of geographical names in the CIS states.

The Interstate Council approved the Statute of the Working Group on Geographical Names. The Russian Federal Geodesy and Cartography Agency was appointed to coordinate the Working Group activity.

The Working Group held regular working meetings (Moscow, 1996, 1999; Minsk, 2001; Moscow, 2004; Kiev, 2005) to exchange information and experience in handling geographical names. The following issues were discussed – current status of legislative and normative base of the geographical names standardization, application of Romanization systems, compilation of gazetteers and dictionaries of geographical names, development of national databases of geographical names, etc.

Discussions at the meetings resulted in detailed recommendations, their implementations were discussed at subsequent meetings of the Working Group.

The principal task of the Working Group is to provide a regular exchange of information about changes in the geographical names in the states-members of the CIS. At the session of the Interstate Council, it was decided to regularly publish the Information Bulletin “Changes in the geographical names in the CIS countries”. The Cartography and Geodesy Service of the Russian Federation was entrusted with a supervision of the bulletin’s compilation, while the corresponding services of the CIS members were made responsible for submission of appropriate materials.

In compliance with the adopted resolution, the Bulletin (1998) and two supplements (№ 1, 1999. and № 2, 2003) were published. These publications were prepared with the assistance of cartography and geodesy services of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kirghizia, Moldavia, Russia, Tadjikistan, Turkmenia, Uzbekistan and Ukraine.

The Bulletin provides the following data:

- administrative reference of a geographical object (country, state, region, district);
- former name of a geographical object in Russian along with a generic term;
- new name of a geographical object in Russian along with a generic term;
- date of name change;
- standardized Russian spelling of a new name.

At present, the third supplement to the Bulletin is being compiled. The information to be included there is already provided by the cartography and geodesy services of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kirghizia, Russia, Tadjikistan, and Ukraine.

The Working Group on Geographical Names is working in close cooperation with the countries of the Division of the Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia of the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names. The experts from Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Estonia attend the Group’s meetings as observers. In 2006 the scheduled (6<sup>th</sup>) meeting of the Working Group will be held in Lvov (Ukraine).

By the Head of the Working Group on Geographical Names of the CIS Interstate Council for Geodesy, Cartography, Cadastre and Remote Control of the Earth, Boginsky V.M. (Russian Federation)