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National standardization:

Administrative structure of national names authorities

Structure of the Board of Experts for Geographical Names of Turkey (BEGeoN_T) (2002-2007)

Submitted by Turkey**

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** Prepared by the Board of Experts for Geographical Names of Turkey (BEGeoN_T), Turkey.

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Summary

"The Board of Experts for Geographical Names of Turkey (BEGeoN_T)" which is responsible for standardization of geographic names in Turkey, has been founded in July 2004 in accordance with the directive of Ministry of Interior prepared in cooperation with related national institutions. The directive states the terms of reference for the establishment of the Board, as well as its tasks and responsibilities. The Board is a joint inter-ministerial and academic body, responsible for coordinating and accelerating the efforts for the standardization of geographical names. It carries out its tasks in parallel with UNGEGN.

The officials on the Board represent a number of institutions, such as the General Directorate of Provincial Management of the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Society for Turkish Language, Turkish Standards Institute, Turkish Statistical Institute, Turkish Historical Society, Universities, General Directorate of Land Registry and Cadastre, General Command of Mapping, Department of Navigation, Hydrography and Oceanography of the Turkish Naval Forces.

1.1 Administrative Structure of the Board of Experts for Geographical Names of Turkey (BEGeoN-T)

"The Board of Experts for Geographical Names of Turkey (BEGeoN_T)" which is responsible for standardization of geographic names in Turkey, has been officially founded in July 2004 in accordance with the directive of Ministry of Interior prepared in cooperation with related national institutions. The directive states the terms of reference for the establishment of the Board, as well as its tasks and responsibilities.

The Board is a joint inter-ministerial and academic body, responsible for coordinating and accelerating the efforts for the standardization of geographical names, It carries out its tasks in parallel with UNGEGN.

The Board has been given legal competence to standardize all categories of geographical names in Turkey, including exonyms, maritime names and undersea features as well as proposals for the names of objects in space.

The Board may create working groups in order to achieve its responsibilities.

1.3 Working Groups of BEGeoN-T

The Board organizes two General Assembly (GA) meetings every year. Recent developments, activities of working groups, decisions about possible questions from various institutions are discussed during these meetings.

Five working groups have been established in the meeting which took place in October 2004, in line with the activities of UNGEGN and national needs.

Representatives on the Board and other experts proposed by participating institutions may take part in these working groups.

Activities and the outcome of the meetings of the working groups are reported during the general assemblies of the Board. They are evaluated by the representatives on the Board and by the experts of other institutions in the field.

Working Groups have been established in the following areas:

- Technical Infrastructure,
- Exonyms of Country Names and Capitals,
- Toponymy Guide,
- Glossary of Toponymic Terminology,
- Gazetteer and Geographical Names Database,
- Determining Deficiencies in the use of Geographical Names in Populated Places and their Standardization,
- Medium Scale Gazetteer,
- Concise World Gazetteer,
- Geographical Names in the Surroundings of Turkey,

2. Toponymic Guidelines

The first edition of Toponymic Guidelines of Turkey was presented at the fourth UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographic Names in Geneva in 1982 (E/CONF.74/L.7).

The updated version will be published as a second edition for the 23rd conference of UNGEGN. Experts from universities (cartography, geography and linguistics), Turkish Language, Turkish Historical Society, Ministry of Interior, General Directorate of Land Registry and Cadastre contribute to this study, which was initiated by the General Command of Mapping.

The "Multilingual Glossary of Geographical Features" prepared by the Romano-Hellenic Division was submitted to 21st meeting of UNGEGN. As a member of this Division, the General Command of Mapping prepared a list of translations of the names of geographical features to be added to the glossary in 2005. The "Multilingual Glossary of Geographical Features" is merged with the list of geographical features on the basis of topographic maps of Turkey.

After editing and revision by experts (cartographers, geographers and linguists), the extended list will contain features and their translation into Turkish and English. The final list of geographical features will be a part of the second edition of Toponymic Guidelines of Turkey.

A study is currently conducted by the Turkish Language Society on scripting rules of Turkish for geographical features. This study will be used for the new edition of Toponymic Guidelines of Turkey for map and other editors.