



## Economic and Social Council

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### **Tenth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names**

New York, 31 July – 9 August 2012

Item 5 of the provisional agenda\*

**Reports on the work of the United Nations Group of Experts  
on Geographical Names, its divisions, working groups and  
task teams since the Ninth Conference**

### **Report of Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia Division on its Activity between 2007 -2012**

Submitted by Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia Division \*\*

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\*\* Prepared by Chairman of the Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia Division of the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names V. M. Boginsky (Russian Federation)

ACTIVITY OF EASTERN EUROPE, NORTHERN AND  
CENTRAL ASIA DIVISION  
OF UNITED NATIONS GROUP OF EXPERTS ON  
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES BETWEEN 2007 -2012

**Resume**

In the period between 2007 and 2012, the Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia Division of the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names (hereinafter the Division) formed in pursuance of the resolution adopted at the Sixth UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names included experts from Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Bulgaria, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and the Ukraine. Experts from Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Estonia participated in the activities of the Division as observers. In 2011, Georgia announced its intention to join the Division.

The Report is dedicated to regional meetings of the Division held in Sofia and Belogradchik (both in Bulgaria) where an exchange of information on activities in the national and international standardization of geographical names, on development of national databases of geographical names, development and use of national Romanization systems took place. A substantial progress in the national standardization of geographical names achieved in the Division member-countries was stated.

The Report mentions a successful cooperation between the Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia Division and the Baltic Division of the UNGEGN and the Working Group on Geographical Names of the CIS Member-states Council on Geodesy, Cartography, Cadastre and Earth Remote Sensing.

A resolution to form the Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia Division of the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names was adopted at the Sixth UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names held on 25 August – 3 September 1992 in New York. Between 2007 and 2012, nine experts from Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Bulgaria, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and the Ukraine worked in the Division on permanent basis. At the 26<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names (Vienna, 2011), Georgia announced its solution to officially join the Division of the Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia as a permanent member. Experts from Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Estonia participated in the meetings of the Division as observers.

Between 2007 and 2012, experts of the Division held two regional meetings: in May, 2008 in Sofia (Bulgaria) and in May, 2010 in Belogradchik (Bulgaria). The meetings afforded the opportunity to discuss:

- current status of national and international standardization of geographical names in the member-countries.
- current status of legislative and normative base for geographical names;
- current status of compilation, development and maintenance of national geographical names databases and catalogues;
- development and use of national Romanization systems for geographical names;
- resolutions and results of the Ninth UN Conference of the Standardization of Geographical Names (2007), 24th (2007), 25th (2009) and 26th (2011) sessions of the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names attended by the experts from the Division member-countries.

At the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> meetings of the Division, a substantial progress in the standardization of geographical names achieved by many member-countries was mentioned, namely:

- national laws on naming of geographical objects were adopted or perfected;
- normative documents dedicated to standardization, usage, registration, and storage of geographical names were developed;
- some guidelines for map and other editors were finalized (Ukraine);
- state databases, catalogues and registers of geographical names are successfully developed in all the Division member-countries;
- new Romanization systems were developed (Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Ukraine), available Romanization systems were perfected (Bulgaria) or continually employed (Russia).

Exchange of information and experience at the Division meetings input the achieved results.

Nearest regular meeting of the Division is planned for the fourth quarter of 2012. It will be dedicated to the results of the 27<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names and the 10<sup>th</sup> UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, as well as to a discussion and adoption of further cooperation programme and election of the Division officers (Chairman and Vice-Chairman) for a new five-year period.

The Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia Division permanently communicated with the Baltic Division of the UNGEGN. Experts from the Baltic Division were invited to the Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia Division as observers. In their turn, some experts from the Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia Division participated in the meetings held by the Baltic Division.

Eight of the nine Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia Division member-countries took part in the activities carried by the Working Group on Geographical Names of the CIS Member-states Council on Geodesy, Cartography, Cadastre and Earth Remote Sensing. The task pursued by the Working Group is to provide a regular exchange of information on all changes in geographical names. Their cooperation resulted in the compilation of e-Bulletin 'Changes in geographical names in CIS Member-states'.

The 'Bulletin' includes information on changes in geographical names provided by 11 countries (Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and the Ukraine). Changes in geographical names are provided as lists of names in the alphabetical order of their former spelling. The lists comprise information on 3600 geographical objects: former name in Russian, new name in national language and in Russian, generic term, current administrative reference, date (ddmmyy) of change.

The e-Bulletin is available on the website **www.rosreestr.ru**. Further cooperation is aimed at updating the data in the Bulletin and complementing it with administrative maps of the member-countries.