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**Reports by Governments on the situation in their countries
and on the progress made in the standardization of geographical
names since the 10th Conference (for distribution only).**

Report of the Russian Federation

Submitted by the Russian Federation **

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** Prepared by the Federal Service for State Registration, Cadastre and Cartography

Report of the Russian Federation

Legislative framework for standardization of geographical names

The current legislation for geographical names is based on the Constitution of the Russian Federation and includes the Federal Law “On names of geographical objects” passed on December 18, 1997 together with some amendments as well as some federal decrees and other normative and legal regulations for names of geographical objects.

The Federal Law “On names of geographical objects“ is applied to standardization, usage, registration, and storage of names of geographical objects in the Russian Federation, on continental shelf and in the exclusive economic zone of the Russian Federation as well as of features discovered or specified by the Russian explorers in the World Ocean and Antarctica.

The laws in the field of geographical names are constantly replenished by legal acts passed to provide operation of specific provisions of the law.

Between 2012 and 2017, the following normative-legal acts were adopted:

1. Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation of 15.11.2012 № 1167 “On the procedure to coordinate proposals on naming of some geographical objects or on renaming of some geographical objects”.

2. Decree of the Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation of 27.03.2014 № 171 “On approval of the procedure for examination of proposals on naming and renaming of geographical objects and conclusion issuing”.

3. Decree of the Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation of 27.03.2014 № 172 “On approval of the procedure for registration of geographical names, releasing of gazetteers and dictionaries of geographical names as well as development and maintenance of the State Catalogue of Geographical Names”.

4. Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation of 19.11.2014 № 1221 “On approval of the Rules for assignment, alteration and cancellation of addresses” which set that place names within the address structure must coincide with those registered in the State Catalogue of Geographical Names.

5. Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation of 22.05.2015 № 492 “On the addresses input to the State Address Register, procedure for inter-departmental information cooperation to maintain the State Address Register, on the procedure for alternation and annulment of some acts of the Government of the Russian Federation which approved the Rules for inter-departmental information cooperation to maintain the State Address Register, including providing information from the State Catalogue of Geographical Names”.

6. Decree of the Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation of 29.05.2015 № 322 “On approval of the procedure for identification of the available names of geographical objects in the Russian Federation, on its continental shelf and in the exclusive economic zone of the Russian Federation as well as of features discovered or specified by the Russian explorers in the World Ocean and Antarctica”.

The enlisted normative-legal documents relating to names of geographical objects are accessible on the official site of the Federal Service for State Registration, Cadastre and Cartography (Rosreestr): <https://rosreestr.ru/site/activity/geodeziya-i-kartografiya/naimenovaniya-geograficheskikh-obektov/zakon-odatelstvo-rf-o-naimenovaniyakh-geograficheskikh-obektov/>

National authorities for standardization of geographical names

The Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation and the Federal Service for State Registration, Cadastre and Cartography (Rosreestr) are authorized executive federal bodies in the field of geographical names.

The Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation develops public policies and carries out normative-legal regulation in the area of names of geographical objects.

Rosreestr is responsible for the following activities:

- develop and maintain the State Catalogue of Geographical Names;
- standardize geographical names in the Russian language;
- prepare expert opinions on proposals on naming and renaming of geographical objects and conclusion issuing;
- coordinate proposals on naming and renaming of geographical objects with relevant concerned federal executive authorities;
- coordinate within its competence the content of dictionaries and references of geographical names published by federal executive bodies and public authorities in the subjects of the Russian Federation;
- coordinate with the concerned federal executive bodies proposals on naming of railway stations, seaports and river ports, airports, geographical objects of territorial sea, continental shelf and exclusive economic zone of the Russian Federation as well as features discovered or specified by the Russian explorers in the World Ocean and Antarctica or renaming of these objects;
- register and maintain geographical objects' names of the Russian Federation, continental shelf and exclusive economic zone of the Russian Federation as well as features discovered or specified by the Russian explorers in the World Ocean and Antarctica;
- detect available names of geographical objects.

Rosreestr carries out its activities in the field of geographical names in cooperation with other federal executive bodies within their competence.

In some subjects of the Russian Federation, Toponymic Commissions were organized under the executive public bodies. Their purpose is to regulate usage of urban names, register and preserve them as a part of historical and cultural heritage.

Under the Russian Geographic Society, the Toponymic Commission is working, the purpose of which is to study folk toponymic nomenclature, introduce toponymy into curriculum of higher educational institutions. In 2017, the 52th National Student Conference on Toponymy was held.

With the availability of positive expert opinions given by Rosreestr in 2012 – 2017, the Government of the Russian Federation adopted more than 120 normative acts on assigning names to 280 geographical objects and renaming of 107 objects.

Development of national database of geographical names

In the period of 2012 – 2017, development and maintenance of the State Catalogue of Geographical Names of the Russian Federation, its continental shelf and the exclusive economic zone of the Russian Federation as well as of features discovered or specified by the Russian explorers in the World Ocean and Antarctica continued.

Generally, development and maintenance of the State Catalogue of Geographical Names are specified by the Decree of the Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation of 27.03.2014 № 172. Development and maintenance of the State Catalogue of Geographical Names are executed by the

Federal Service for State Registration, Cadastre and Cartography (Rosreestr) and its subordinate federal state budget institution “Center of Geodesy, Cartography and Spatial Data Infrastructure”.

The State Catalogue of Geographical Names is based on the information retrieval system that provides creation of database containing objects and their names, their storage, processing and output per typical user requests.

In 2016, the developed information retrieval system was registered by the Russian Federal Service for Intellectual Property in the Unified Register of Russian Computer Programs and Databases. The Russian Federation is a copyright holder of the system, with Rosreestr acting on behalf of it.

The State Catalogue of Geographical Names is a federal information resource that contains information on geographical names and geographical objects in the Russian Federation, on its continental shelf and in the exclusive economic zone of the Russian Federation as well as on objects discovered or specified by the Russian explorers in the World Ocean and Antarctica.

The State Catalogue of Geographical Names is developed as a permanently maintained, updated and enhanced computer database that includes information on geographical names assigned or changed in accordance with the laws of the Russian Federation in the area of geographical names as well as the information on geographical objects to which names are related.

In the course of maintenance of the State Catalogue, the following data is input:

- newly named geographical objects;
- renamed geographical objects;
- changed generic terms;
- objects excluded from registration as not existing any longer;
- changes in administrative affiliation of objects.

New data input into the State Catalogue as a part of its maintenance is accompanied with its sources and date of its input.

The State Catalogue consists of two standalone sections:

- Geographical objects located on the land part of the Russian Federation
- Geographical objects located on the continental shelf and in the exclusive economic zone of the Russian Federation as well as objects discovered or specified by the Russian explorers in the World Ocean and Antarctica.

In the database of the State Catalogue, each geographical object is specified by parameters most of which are mandatory for its registration and unique identification (name, generic term, administrative status of a populated place, administrative affiliation, geo coordinates, sheet nomenclature of 1:100,000 scale topographic map where an object is shown, location of an object relative to other large objects). The other portion of parameters covers additional information on a name and object (versions of a name, versions of a generic term, name origin, etymology, etc.).

When the abovementioned parameters are input into the database of the State Catalogue, an automated registration is performed that is accompanied by assignment of individual registration numbers to geographical names and by recording dates of their registration in the database.

Information submitted for inputting into the database of the State Catalogue should be confirmed by reliable sources. Among these sources the following could be mentioned: normative-legal acts of the Russian Federation and its subjects, reference-books of administrative division of the subjects of the Russian Federation, the census, dictionaries of geographical names and gazetteers which were agreed with the state bodies authorized in the area of geographical names, cartographic and other documents.

The database of the State Catalogue is already populated with the information on names of 786,000 geographical objects identified by normative-legal acts, maps at scale 1:100,000, dictionaries, gazetteers, references and other data sources. This data includes 1,200 names of geographical objects located on the

continental shelf and in the exclusive economic zone of the Russian Federation as well as objects discovered or specified by the Russian explorers in the World Ocean and Antarctica.

So that to make information on geographical names reliable and actual, the names of geographical objects registered in the State Catalogue are verified together with the public authorities of the corresponding subjects of the Russian Federation.

With a view to promptly provide concerned users with information, registers of geographical names for each of 85 subjects of the Russian Federation were compiled on the base of the State Catalogue and posted on the official web-site of Rosreestr at the address: <https://rosreestr.ru/site/activity/geodeziya-i-kartografiya/naimenovaniya-geograficheskikh-obektov/gosudarstvennyy-katalog-geograficheskikh-nazvaniy/>.

In response to requests of individuals and legal entities, public authorities, local governments, the information registered in the State Catalogue is provided free of charge both in hard copy and electronic format as:

- lists of names of geographical objects located on a territory of a specific subject of the Russian Federation;
- alphabetic lists of geographical names compiled per administrative regions of the subjects of the Russian Federation, per generic terms, per sheets of 1:100,000 map, as well per the combination of these parameters;
- alphabetic lists of names of earlier existing objects for the total territory of the Russian Federation or for some of its subjects;
- lists of geographical objects with the name homonymous to a specified one;
- data for a specified geographical name (i.a. name fragment);
- lists of names changed within a specified time period (in an alphabetic order of their new or former names);
- registration form containing full information on a specified name of a geographical object registered in the State Catalogue.

The State Catalogue of Geographical Names is routinely used to maintain the e-Bulletin of legal changes of geographical names made in the Russian Federation since 1997.

The e-Bulletin is accessible on the official site of Rosreestr: https://rosreestr.ru/wps/portal/p/cc_ib_other_lines_activity/cc_ib_cartographical_activity/cc_ib_names_geographical_objects/cc_ib_works_names_geographical_objects.

Dictionaries and references of geographical names

In accordance with the Federal Law “On names of geographical objects” Rosreestr is tasked with agreeing on the content of dictionaries and references of geographical names prior to their publication. Drafts of administrative division references of such subjects of the Russian Federation as the Republic of Mari El, Republic of Bashkortostan, Republic of Karelia and many others were reviewed.

Cartographic publications

The most significant publication is still the National Atlas of Russia which is an encyclopedic scientific and reference source that contains information on the state structure, nature, resources, population, economics, environment status, history and culture of Russia. The Atlas (in 4 volumes) is issued in both hard copy and electronic form.

On the Rosreestr web-site: <https://rosreestr.ru/site>, an open access to the National Atlas of Russia and Public Cadastral Map is provided.

The National Atlas of Arctic is being actively developed. The basic destination of the Atlas is to become an official reference publication of scientific and applied nature that includes both the body of maps and synthesis of scientific data on natural and resource potential of the Arctic zone of the Russian Federation.

National Romanization system for geographical names

For cartographic products issued in national languages, the Romanization system for the Cyrillic characters GOST-83 approved by the Fifth UN Conference of the standardization of geographical names (Montreal, 1983) continues to be used. GOST-83 is available at the site of Rosreestr: <https://rosreestr.ru/site/activity/geodeziya-i-kartografiya/naimenovaniya-geograficheskikh-obektov/zakonodatelstvo-rf-o-naimenovaniyakh-geograficheskikh-obektov/>.

This system is used in the second section of the State Catalogue of Geographical Names for names and generic terms denoting objects located on the continental shelf and in the exclusive economic zone of the Russian Federation as well as objects discovered or specified by the Russian explorers in the World Ocean and Antarctica.

Update of guidelines for Russian rendering of geographical names

Between 2012 and 2017, the guidelines for Russian rendering of geographical names for the following subjects of the Russian Federation were updated: Republic of Bashkortostan, Republic of Buryatia, Republic of Tatarstan, Altai Republic, Tuva Republic, Republic of Mordovia, Republic of North Osetia – Alania, Republic of Kalmykia, Komi Republic, Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Okrug, as well as guidelines for Mansi and Nogai languages. The guidelines for Russian rendering of geographical names from some other languages of the peoples in the Russian Federation are under development.

Participation in international events on the standardization of geographical names

In the reporting period, much attention was paid to international cooperation in the area of geographical names.

Experts from Russia took part in the 10th UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, 27th, 28th and 29th Sessions of the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names.

Russian experts are permanent members of the Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia Division and the Baltic Division of the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names.

Together with cooperation with the member countries of the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names, collaboration within the Working Group on Geographical Names of the Council on Geodesy, Cartography, Cadastre and Earth Remote Sensing of CIS countries was successfully developed.

The main result of the collaboration was the e-Bulletin of changes in geographical names in CIS state-members. The Bulletin is annually updated and published on the official site of Rosreestr in Russian and national languages of its member-states.

The expert of the Geological Institute of the Russian Academy of Science, as a permanent member of the Subcommittee on Names of Undersea Features of the joint Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and International Hydrographic Organization attended annual working meetings of the Subcommittee and made suggestions concerning names of undersea features on behalf of the Russian Federation.