

23 June 2017

Original: Russian

**Eleventh United Nations Conference on the
Standardization of Geographical Names**

New York, 8-17 August 2017

Item 5 of the provisional agenda*

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

**National standardization of place names in the Republic of
Kazakhstan**

Submitted by Kazakhstan**

* E/CONF.105/1

** Prepared by Evgeniya Gesko – a department head to thematic cartography and State catalogue of the place names

KAZAKHSTAN

National standardization of place names in the Republic of Kazakhstan

National standardization of place names, as well as their registration, is operated according to subparagraph 13 of paragraph 2 of Article 4 of the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On geodesy and cartography", adopted on July 3, 2002, and also in accordance with the state program requirements "On languages functioning and development" for the period of 2001-2010 and 2011-2020.

Currently, the Authorized body coordinating the standardization, registration and use of place names is the Committee of Land Resources Management of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan. According to Article 7 of the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On administrative-territorial system" the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan, created and operates the Republican onomastic commission. Also, within the local executive bodies of regions, cities and the capital, the onomastic commissions were created and they now operate with the purpose to form a unified approach to naming and renaming the geographical objects, to regulate the use and registration of toponymic names, to restore and keep the historical names as part of the historical and cultural heritage of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The problem of the creation of the State Catalog of Place Names of the Republic of Kazakhstan, which is the automated retrieval system and the electronic database, constantly staticized on the official sources basis of information of geographical objects names is successfully being solved. In general, PNSC (the State Catalog of Place Names) is the source of system information on Geographical (place) Names, led to the normalized writing, according to the rules of "Instructions for the Kazakh transfer of the Russian place names and the Russian transfer of the Kazakh place names of the Republic of Kazakhstan", approved by the State onomastic commission of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan May 6, 2002.

Each geographical object is registered in the database of the directory and contains the following information in Kazakh and Russian languages: own normalized object name; object kind (type); georeferencing; administrative binding (referencing); geographical coordinates; former names of the renamed objects; distorted name of the object (if there was); the range and the source publication year; the etymology of the name.

In 2010 operations on the creation of the e-State catalog of place names in the volume of the topographic map at the scale of 1:100 000 were completed, and also the gazetteer of geographical objects of the Republic of Kazakhstan of all 14 areas of Kazakhstan in 32 books separately in Kazakh and Russian languages was released. The total quantity of toponyms in the database of the directory (catalog) of topographic maps at the scale of 1:100 000 made about 120 000 names.

Since 2011 there are operations on updating and adding the information of the directory at the scale of 1:25 000, which will be completed in 2017. And by the end of 2017 the updated and completed gazetteers of 14 regions of Kazakhstan will be released. The total number of toponyms in the database directory on the topographic maps at 1:25 000 scale will make about 170 000 names.

From 2018 the database monitoring of the State Catalog of Place Names of the Republic of Kazakhstan in order to timely respond to the changes and to maintain the directory information in accordance with the present realities will be carried out. All information of place names of the Republic of Kazakhstan is available in the electronic form, with a sampling of the administrative and territorial affiliation, object sort, its attributes, etc.

Within the implementation of the regular exchange of information about place names changes, an annual update of the electronic newsletter "The CIS member states place names changes" is carried out. The electronic bulletin of place names changes is published in accordance with the decision of the IV session of the Interstate Council for Geodesy, Cartography, Cadastre and Earth Remote Sensing of the CIS member states since 1993.

In this regard, each year till September 1, changes of place names for their inclusion in the summary bulletin are sent to the head of the Working group of place names. The newsletter of the CIS member states place names changes is published annually by the Federal Service for Geodesy and Cartography of Russia and is brought to the attention of cartographic and geodetic services of the CIS countries.

The bulletin contains information about the official changes of the geographical objects names that have occurred in 11 countries since 1990. In the bulletin, along with the Russian forms of place names, their writing is given in the national language of the respective country. Unfortunately, the imperfection of the act in the field of place names doesn't allow to enter quickly the new information into the database. There is no Law "On place names", which would completely determine the tasks connected to the rating, account, registration, use and saving of place names as well as the regulation of relations on the use of geographical objects names in Kazakhstan which are on the territory of other states.

Information of the State catalog and electronic newsletter is available for review via the Internet on the website of the Committee on languages til.gov.kz. Operations on the database extension, for providing the interested consumers with information from the catalog are carried out. Also, there is Online Qualifier of countries in the Kazakh and Russian languages on stat.gov.kz. Attention is paid to the release of different dictionaries and reference manuals of place names. Published: Russian-Kazakh "Dictionary of Geographical Terms" and Kazakh-Russian explanatory "Dictionary of national geographical terms"

There are Maps of scale 1: 100,000, in which the changes, including in place names are regularly recorded. The standardized information of the database on geographical objects names is used when issuing cards and atlases, including topographic, general geographic, survey, reference, tourist and educational cards on the territory of the republic and its region, and also plans of the cities of Kazakhstan that are available in the Kazakh, Russian and English languages. Since 2011, there have been created and updated 11 educational names, 33 general geographic and reference names, 17 names of tourist and road maps in the state and Russian languages.

"The National Atlas of the Republic of Kazakhstan" in three volumes in the Kazakh, Russian and English languages, and "The Big Atlas of the history and culture of Kazakhstan" were also published. In the "Law on the languages in the Republic of Kazakhstan" the task "scientific providing of toponymics questions, the actual work implementation of historical names streamlining and restoration, and to bring the toponymic names of the country in compliance with the phonetic, lexical and geographical principles determined by the current legislation". In this regard, according to paragraph IV «Instructions for the Russian transfer of Kazakh place names and Kazakh transfer of Russian place names of the Republic of Kazakhstan", the exonyms, considered as endonyms (traditional name), are changed, and some historical names are returned. All this is reflected in the State Catalog of Place Names.

The President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev has charged to the government to begin the preparation for the transition of the Kazakh alphabet to Latin. Until the end of 2017, after the consultations with scientists and public representatives, the single standard of the new Kazakh alphabet and graphics in Latin has to be developed. The transition to the Latin alphabet is planned to be finished by 2025.

In 2017, the experts of the department from Kazakhstan participated in the Bangkok 29th session of the UN Group of Experts on Place Names. The Kazakh experts of the Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia Department, the UN Group of Experts on Place Names participated in all the meetings of the Working Group on Place Names of the Interstate Council for Geodesy, Cartography, Cadastre and Earth Remote Sensing of CIS member states. The task of the Working Group is to implement a regular exchange of information about place names changes. The practical result of cooperation was the joint preparation and annual updating of the electronic newsletter of "the CIS Member States Place Names Changes".