23 June 2017

Original: English

11th United Nations Conference on the
Standardization of Geographical Names
New York, 8 -17 August 2017
Item 9 e) of the provisional agenda*
National standardization:
Toponymic guidelines for map and other editors

Toponymic guidelines for map and other editors, for international use – some general remarks by the Coordinator

Submitted by the Coordinator of Toponymic Guidelines for Map and Other Editors for International Use**

Background

In 1982, the Conference recommended that countries should be encouraged to publish and keep up-to-date Toponymic Guidelines for Map and Other Editors. The aim was to enable cartographers of other countries to correctly treat all problems of cartographic toponymy of the countries that produced such guidelines [4th UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, Resolution IV/4: https://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/ungegnConf4.html]. A sample prepared by former UNGEGN chair Josef Breu and submitted by Austria to the Eighth Session of UNGEGN in 1979 [W.P. 5: https://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/docs/8th-gegn-docs/8th_gegn_WP5.pdf] served as basis for the guidelines. This format has been updated and enriched over the years. TG include information about official, national and minority languages, names authorities, source material for toponyms, glossaries, abbreviations used on official maps and administrative division.

Updated and new Toponymic Guidelines

At the 10th United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (New York, 31 July – 9 August 2012) one country presented new Toponymic Guidelines (as a monograph):

Republic of Korea (National Geographic Information Institute (NGII) / Ministry of Land, Transportation and Maritime Affairs – Republic of Korea: Toponymic Guidelines for Map and Other Editors. For international use. Republic of Korea. First Edition. Suwon, NGII 2012; ISBN: 978-89-93841-11-4; languages: English and Korean; online: http://www.ngii.go.kr/en/contents/contentsView.do?rbsIdx=81)

The 1st edition of the Ukrainian Guidelines that has already been presented at the 26th UNGEGN Session in 2011 has been made accessible online: http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/docs/Toponymic%20guidelines%20PDF/Ukraine/Verstka.pdf

At the 28th Session on the Standardization of Geographical Names two countries presented updated versions of TG:

Norway (update of the edition [from 2007], March 2014; language: English; online: http://kartverket.no/globalassets/kart/stedsnavn/toponymic-guidelines-for-map-and-othereditors-norway.pdf)

Finland (update of the fourth revised edition [from 2004], version 4.7, April 2014; language: English; online: http://www.kotus.fi/files/2604/toponymic_guidelines.pdf)

At the same 28th Session on the Standardization of Geographical Names **Madagascar** submitted an update report on their advances in elaborating new TG [W.P.78/17: https://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/docs/28th-gegn-docs/WP/WP78_Agenda%20item%2017_E.pdf].

At the 29th Session on the Standardization of Geographical Names three countries presented updated versions of TG:

Finland (update of the fourth revised edition [from 2004], version 4.8, February 2016; language: English; online: https://www.kotus.fi/toponymicguidelines)

Republic of Korea (revised second Edition, 2015; languages: English, Korean; online: http://www.ngii.go.kr/en/contents/contentsView.do?rbsIdx=81)

South Africa (completely revised fourth edition, 2012; language: English, online: https://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/docs/29th-gegn-docs/WP/WP54_17_toponymic%20guidelines%20south%20african%20geographical%20names%202016.pdf

Availability and dissemination

The links to Toponymic Guidelines available online on the UNGEGN homepage have been monitored and updated.
In order to promote the dissemination of UNGEGN Toponymic Guidelines, Wikipedia entries have been created and linked to related topics. The Wikipedia entries also were monitored and updated. As of today English, French and German versions of the entry are available under:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UNGEGN_Toponymic_Guidelines,
https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Directives_toponymiques_du_GENUNG, and
http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/UNGEGN_Toponymic_Guidelines.
Further information is given at following links:

- Information on TG on UNGEGN-homepage:
  http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/wgGuidelines.html
- UNGEGN-ICA webcourse on Toponymy - Course module 14: Toponymical Guidelines:
  http://unstats.un.org/UNSD/geoinfo/UNGEGN/docs/_data_ICAcourses/2012_Home.html
- A template for TG was provided by the then Chair at the 26th UNGEGN Session, Vienna, 2–6 May 2011 [WP No. 86]:
  http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/ungegn/docs/26th-gegn-docs/WP/WP86_Toponymic%20Guidelines%20-%20Content%20Template.doc.pdf
- In the *Manual for the National Standardization of Geographical Names* one chapter is dedicated to TG. It is:
  KERFOOT, Helen/NÄRHI, Eeva Maria (2006): Part two, Chapter IX: Toponymic guidelines for map and other editors, for international use (from the 1970s to the present). In: UNGEGN: *Manual for the national standardization of geographical names*. New York: United Nations.
  The manual is freely available in the following languages:
  Arabic | Chinese | English | French | Russian | Spanish | Korean
- There is also a list of downloadable TGs as PDFs on the UNGEGN-homepage:
  http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/toponymic.html
- Entry for "Toponymic Guidelines" in Wikipedia:
  https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UNGEGN_Toponymic_Guidelines

Status and invitation

More than 40 countries have published Toponymic Guidelines and/or drafts or preliminary versions so far. Thus, the TG can be regarded a very successful initiative. Nevertheless, it was noted in former reports that a) more than half of the submitted TG are from European

countries and b) some of the TG are outdated and would require revision. To provide information and stimulate the elaboration of new TG a list of useful links on documents was provided with the last report for the 29th Session (Appendix I in W.P.13/17 https://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/docs/29th-gegn-docs/WP/WP13_17_Toponymic%20Guidelines.pdf). To give easier access to the documents this list of links will be made available online at the Toponymic Guidelines subsection of the UNGEGN homepage.

Countries not having published TG yet are invited and encouraged to do so. It has to be said at this point that drafts and preliminary works for TG are also very welcome. For any questions related to this topic please feel free to contact me with the mentioned email-address. (gerhard.rampl@uibk.ac.at).