

**Twenty-fifth session
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Item 6 of the provisional agenda

Reports of the liaison officers and international organizations

**Activities of Working Group on Geographical Names of CIS
Member-States Council on Geodesy, Cartography,
Cadastre and Earth Remote Sensing***

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The Working Group on Geographical Names (hereafter named the Working Group) was formed in pursuance of the decisions taken by the Commonwealth Independent States (CIS) Member-states Council on Geodesy, Cartography, Cadastre and Earth Remote Sensing in 1996.

The working Group held seven meetings (1996, 1999, 2001, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2008). At the meetings, the attendees communicated on diverse issues related to geographical names (status of legislative and normative basis, Romanization systems use, compilation of gazetteers and references, development of national geographical names databases etc.)

The Working Group focused on regular exchange of information on all changes in geographical names in the CIS member-states. Mutual efforts resulted in compilation and publication of the Bulletin “Changes in geographical names in CIS state-members” (1997) and three Supplements to it (issued in 1999, 2003, and 2006.) The work was supervised by the Russian Federation Agency of Geodesy and Cartography. The appropriate data on geographical names changes were provided by the geodetic services of the CIS state-members.

An issue of the Bulletin and its Supplements made available the data on names changes of more than 1700 geographical features in 12 countries, as seen in the following table:

№№	Country	Number of renamed geo features				
		In total:	including:			
			In Bulletin	In Supplements:		
				№ 1, 1999	№ 2, 2003	№ 3, 2006
1.	Armenia	57	18	37	2	-
2.	Azerbaijan	114	31	2	57	24
3.	Belarus	319	2	-	-	317
4.	Georgia	68	17	-	51	-
5.	Kazakhstan	279	202	63	13	1
6.	Kyrgyzstan	90	16	-	19	55
7.	Moldova	87	39	-	48	-
8.	Russia	266	110	56	34	66
9.	Tajikistan	15	10	-	2	3
10.	Turkmenistan	88	12	53	23	-
11.	Ukraine	154	119	3	12	20
12.	Uzbekistan	183	14	142	11	16
	IN TOTAL:	1720	590	356	272	502

In the Bulletin and its Supplements, the data are provided in tables, which include: location of a feature (country and state), former name and new name in Russian, generic term, and date of name change.

On the Sixth meeting of the Working Group in 2006, it was decided to prepare a summary electronic bulletin to reflect all changes in the geographical names in the CIS state-members and to provide for its update on a regular basis since this would allow starting an on-line toponymic data exchange.

On the Seventh meeting of the Working Group (Sofia 2008), the statements of work on the e-bulletin were discussed and adopted. It was suggested and then decided to include national forms of new geographical names in the bulletin.

The e-bulletin will comprise an “Introduction” file as well as the files containing geographical names changes per countries. The changed geographical names will be available in the alphabetical order of former names in Russian spelling. Each country will form a separate list (section).

Each list (see Appendix 1) will include the following data given as a table:

- former geographical name in Russian along with a generic term;
- new geographical name both in Russian and national language along with a generic term;
- location of a feature (current administrative unit, territory);
- date (day, month, year) when it was officially decided to rename a given feature.

The e-bulletin will as well include the updated information available in the already published paper version of the Bulletin and three Supplements.

On agreeing and editing, the e-bulletin files will be recorded on a CD in PDF format to be further read and printed with Acrobat Reader.

Currently, the appropriate data are being accumulated, processed and verified in each CIS country in accordance with the uniform principles and methods. Word Windows XP is used to compile lists of names in national languages. For the Byelorussian, Kazakh, Kirghiz, Russian, Tajik, Turkmen and Ukrainian languages the Times New Roman Cyrillic font is used. For names in the Moldavian, Uzbek and Azerbaijani language the Times New Roman font is used, while for the Armenian and Georgian languages the Sylfaen font is used.

The compiled files shall be forwarded to a supervisor of the development (Research Institute for Geodesy, Air Survey and Cartography, Russia) to be verified and incorporated in a single bulletin, converted into PDF and burnt as a CD.

The work shall be finalized by the end of 2009 and its results shall be discussed at a stated meeting of the Working Group on Geographical Names. Then the e-bulletin shall be submitted to the CIS Member-states Council on Geodesy, Cartography, Cadastre and Earth Remote Sensing so that the Council could decide on its spreading and updating procedure.

SECTION №..... «LIST OF RENAMED GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES»
(country)

Former name of feature in Russian		New name of feature					
		In national language		In Russian		Location	Date of change
name	generic term	name	generic term	name	generic term		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8