



Economic and Social Council

Distr .  
LIMITED

E/CONF.91/CRP.44  
20 January 1998

ENGLISH ONLY

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SEVENTH UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE  
ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF  
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES  
New York, 13-22 January 1998  
Item 4 of the agenda\*

REPORTS BY DIVISIONS AND GOVERNMENTS ON THE SITUATION IN THEIR  
REGIONS AND COUNTRIES AND ON THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE  
STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES SINCE THE  
SIXTH CONFERENCE

Present Status of Standardization of  
Geographical Names in Romania

Paper submitted by Romania \*\*

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\* E/CONF.91/1

\*\* Prepared by the Drafting Board on the Standardization of  
Geographical Names, Bucharest

## PRESENT STATUS ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES IN ROMANIA

Romania, an independent and sovereign state, a constant participant at United Nations Conferences on the standardization of geographical names, assuring the direct assumption and promotion of the conferences resolutions and recommendations, expresses his respect and attachment for the manner in which the United Nations Organization is approaching the toponymic present problems.

During the period from the last Conference, the Military Topographic Department continued the toponymic field activity collection for 1:25000 scale base maps up-grading in standardized form.

In 1996, it was printed the Historical Geographical Atlas of Romania, published under the Romanian Academy aegis, which is the result of a productive inter-disciplinary co-operation. This volume, which is considered by the specialty critique as a reference one, devotes strictly the principles and norms of standardization promoted by the United Nations Conferences.

Under the Romanian Academy co-ordination, the Geographic Institute of Romania is working to the Gazetteer of Geographical Names of Romania, which will contain about 40 000 geographical entries in standardized form, from 1:100 000 scale base map.

In 1996 and 1997 were published the first two volumes of Geographical Encyclopedia of Romania. This work contains the basic orographic, hydrographic and Localities names in standardized form from Romania.

In the same time, linguistic institutions under the co-ordination of Romanian Academy continued to evolve and print during 1996-1997, 10 linguistics atlases divided on great historical provinces: Maramures, Crisana, Transilvania, Banat, Muntenia, and Dobrogea, which ends this national opera.

In the same linguistic view, the printing of toponymic dictionary of Banat province is continuing by the University of Timisoara and it was ended the toponymic dictionary printing of Oltenia province, by the University of Craiova, books which devoted the standardized form of these names.

At the 100th anniversary of the Great Geographical Dictionary of Romania publishing - a five volumes monumental opera, made by the Geographical Society of Romania, is launching again the evolving and printing action of geographical dictionaries for administrative counties - the last published (1997) is Ialomita Judet, from south-est of the country.

It is in preparation stage the Romanian version of the last better form adopted at UNGEGN Geneva meeting in 1996, of the glossary terms used in standardization of geographical names.

During the period from the last conference, in Romania were organized symposiums, seminars and other scientific meetings about problems connected with standardization of geographical names and other same topics as etymology, and the expanse of some toponyms.

in graduated education - geodesy, geography and linguistics - have been organized toponymic courses in order to assure the appropriation and the thorough education of the typical denominations and the principles and standardization norms of geographical names, underlining thus the interest for correct writing of geographical names.

Our constant preoccupation it was, it is, and it will be to reduce the number of the exonyms. The Romanian specialists think that the great important progress can be obtained through a consistent insertion of geographical names only in standardized form in school atlases and school books as well as national and international tourist maps, which constituted ways with great audience, to public user. It will be however necessary in the next years to draw up a new list of exonyms and in the same time it should continued the efforts concerning reducing of these.

A very well important event was the establishment, at the end of 1996, of the National Office for Cadastre, Geodesy and Cartography, the public institution, subordinated to the Government of Romania, a national co-ordination agency. The year 1997, was for this National Office, the year of institutional strengthening, under his co-ordination establishing 42 Districtual Offices for Cadastre, Geodesy and Cartography and Institute of Geodesy, Photogrammetry, Cartography and Cadastre.

Despite the fact that in Romania, a responsible institution for standardization of the geographical names, designated by the Government of Romania, it is out of order, yet, as institutional form, the assumption, promotion and application of the recommendations and resolutions of the United Nations Organization, has been achieved and concerned brought, the scientific groups and the public opinion in complex field sometimes alive to the use of normally names on national and international area. It is possible that the National Office for Cadastre, Geodesy and Cartography will undertake the responsibilities for national toponymic authority.

## **PRESENT STATUS ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES IN ROMANIA**

(Abstract)

Since the last conference, between the major activities concerning the standardization of geographical names in Romania could be mentioned the followings: it continued the toponymic field activity collection for 1:25 000 scale base maps up-grading in standardized form; it was printed the Historical Geographical Atlas of Romania (1996); were published the first two volumes of the Geographical Encyclopedia of Romania (1996-1997); were printed 10 linguistic atlases for great historical provinces (1996-1997); it was finished the printing of toponymic dictionary of Oltenia province (1996); after 100 years from publishing The Great Geographical Dictionary of Romania, the Geographical Society of Romania is preparing a new edition at county and national level ( a first volume appeared in 1997); a comparison of these standardized geographical names is a topic of scientific debate; the Geographic Institute of Romania is preparing the Gazetteer of Romania's geographical names. All these works are approaching the standardized forms of these names; in a preparation stage is also the Romanian version of the glossary of terms employed in the standardization of geographical names following the adopted form at UNGEGN meeting, Geneva 1996; in graduated education - geodesy, geography and linguistics - have been organized toponymic courses underlining the progress done in the field of standardization; the National Office for Cadastre, Geodesy and Cartography, established in 1996, will probably undertake the responsibilities for a national toponymic authority.