

29 August 2002

Original: English

Eighth United Nations Conference on the
Standardization of Geographical Names
Berlin, 27 August-5 September 2002
Item 4 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 SEVENTH CONFERENCE

Information about progress made in the sphere of standardization of geographical
names in Ukraine

(Submitted by Ukraine)**

*E/CONF.94/1

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NATIONAL STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

Since the Seventh United Nations Conference on the standardization of geographical names some organizational changes took place in the structure of agencies engaged in national standardization of geographical names of Ukraine. In 2000, in particular, on the decision of the President of Ukraine Main Administration of geodesy, cartography and cadastre of Ukraine (Ukrgeodescartographia) was subordinated to the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine as Department of geodesy, cartography and cadastre.

From 2000 coordination of activities, connected with establishment, standardization, listing, registration, usage and protection of geographical names in Ukraine both on the national level as well as on the international one, has been performed by Department of geodesy, cartography and cadastre of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine and by the National Council on geographical names. The National Council is comprised of leading experts - cartographers, geographers, linguists of the country, representatives of military and topographic administration of General Headquarters of Military Forces of Ukraine and appropriate institutes of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine.

State Service of geodesy, cartography and cadastre was established on resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine in December 2001 as a juridical entity in the structure of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine. According to existing legislation the State Service of geodesy, cartography and cadastre is responsible for coordination of activities in the sphere of standardization of geographical names of Ukraine.

Standardization of geographical names has been developed for last 5 years in following directions:

- Creation of legislative, normative and legal base regulating activity in the sphere of naming of geographical places;
- Ensuring of functioning of the National Council on geographical names, coordination of received by the Council propositions regarding naming and renaming of geographical places;
- Maintenance of international partnership in standardization of geographical names;
- Supply of cartographical products published by Ukrgeodescartographia with standardized geographical names.

LEGISLATIVE AND NORMATIVE BASE OF STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

In December 1998 the Law of Ukraine on “Topographic and geodesic and cartographic activity” was approved. For execution of this law a series of provisional normative and legal documents, regulating the procedures of establishment and normalization of geographical names during production of topographic and geodesic works as well as cartographic ones to ensure a uniform use of geographical names, were worked out.

In 2000 by the Law of Ukraine on “Protection of rights of goods origin indication” State Service of geodesy, cartography and cadastre of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural resources was appointed to be a specially authorized body in connection with representation of expert conclusions on defining of borders of geographical places with which peculiar properties, certain qualities and other characteristics of goods are connected.

Furthermore on August 1 of 2001 the President of Ukraine signed a decree on compilation and publication of National Atlas of Ukraine in 2004. Till the end of this year ratification of the State program for publication of National Atlas of Ukraine is expected.

In 2002 the draft law of Ukraine on “Geographical names” is under consideration of Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. The draft law of Ukraine on “Geographical names” was worked out in 1997-1998 on the initiative of Ukrgeodescartographia and National Council on geographical names with participation of scientists and experts of appropriate ministers, organizations and institutions.

This draft law establishes legal bases for regulation of relationships and activity connected with conferring of names, renaming of geographical objects as well as with normalization, usage, registration and preservation of geographical names.

By the given law State Service of geodesy, cartography and cadastre is appointed to be a specially authorized body of executive power in the sphere on standardization of geographical names.

After bringing into force of the Law of Ukraine on “Geographical names” and amendments made to legislation of Ukraine, elaboration of normative and legal acts aimed for realization of the law is envisaged. To make amendments and supplements to the Regulations of work of National Council on geographical names will be also necessary.

FIELD COLLECTION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

Basic form of collection and processing of names of geographical objects of Ukraine consists of discovery, approval and standardization in the course of survey works and of updating of topographic maps and plans.

Procedure of collection, approval and processing of geographical names is determined by “Provisional rules of collection and approval of geographical names on topographic maps and plans”.

“Conventional signs for topographic plans at 1:5000 – 1:500 scales” and “Conventional signs for topographic map at the scale of 1:10000” are brought into force for production of topographic maps and plans in State language in 2002. Introduction of “Conventional signs for topographic maps at the scale of 1:25 000 – 1:100 000” as well as of other normative and technical documents is planned in 2002.

ROMANIZATION SYSTEMS

For conveyance of proper names and geographical names by means of Latin letters “Rules of spelling of Ukrainian proper names in English’ and “Normative table of spelling of Ukrainian proper names by means of Latin letters” approved on the decision of Ukrainian Commission on legal terminology on 19 April 1996 are applied in Ukraine.

These norms will be in force till introduction of State standard of romanization system.

TOPONIMIC DATA BASES AND DICTIONARIES

Program and methodical complex of foundation and conduct of database of geographical names was worked out in Ukraine. On passing the Law of Ukraine on “Geographical names” State register of geographical names of Ukraine will be set up.

The main objective of these works is establishment, collection and processing of information about geographical names of Ukraine as well as provision of various consumers with standardized geographical names.

Elaboration of program and methodical complex on foundation and conduct of data bank of geographical names of foreign territories was started in 1999. At the same time preparatory work for establishment of gazetteers of geographical names on paper bearers are conducted.

Dictionaries of geographic names of White Russia (Byelorussia), Poland, Slovalua, Romania and Moldavia as well as reference books of geographical names of continents “Africa”, “Australia and Oceania”, “Orographic features of Ukraine” reference book were published.

NAMES OF STATES AND TERRITORIES OF THE WORLD

Names of states are used in accordance with “Names of states and territories of the world’ reference book where they are given in Ukrainian and national spelling. The last editing of the reference book was done in 2001 with

taking into account resolutions on names of states of the world, made on the 7-th United Nations Conference on the standardization of geographical names.

In 1999 Department of geodesy, cartography and cadastre of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources and National Council on geographical names participated in establishing of State ISO 3166 standard “Codes of names of countries of the world” based on the international ISO standard.

For creation of cartographic works (maps) of foreign territories 16 instructions on transmission of names of geographical objects of foreign states by means of Ukrainian language are brought into force in 2002.

EXONYMS

A uniform register of exonyms is not yet compiled in Ukraine. The most frequently used groups of exonyms are given in above-mentioned instructions on transmission of names of foreign states by means of Ukrainian language, in “Names of states and territories of the world” reference book, atlas of the world as well as in the series of dictionaries of continent names. Information about these works was represented in report of Ukraine on the 14-th session of the Department “East part of the Central, South-Eastern Europe” of the United Nations Group of experts on geographical names.

INTRODUCTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTIONS AS WELL AS UNGEGN FUNCTIONS AND OBJECTIVES

State Service of geodesy, cartography and cadastre and National Council on geographical names follow resolutions and recommendations of the United Nations Group of experts on geographical names and, when it is possible, inform about content of these resolutions and recommendations other interested institutions and organizations.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE SPHERE OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

International cooperation in the sphere of conducting of geographical names standardization is performed in two basic directions: participation in events conducted within the framework of functioning of the United Nations Group of experts on geographical names and exchange of information with member states of CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States).

Ukraine forms part of the Department “Eastern Europe, Northern and Middle Asia” and of the Department “Eastern part of Central, South-Eastern Europe” of the United Nations Group of experts on geographical names.

To regulate exchange of information about naming and renaming of geographical objects in member states of CIS Ukraine participate in work of the

Working Group on geographical names of Inter-State Council of member states of CIS on geodesy, cartography and cadastre and remote Earth sensing.

NATIONAL REPORT OF UKRAINE
ON WORK PERFORMED IN THE SPHERE OF STANDARDIZATION
OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES IN UKRAINE

SUMMARY

National report of Ukraine on standardization of geographical names highlights organizational changes that took place in the structure of bodies engaged in standardization of geographical names in Ukraine.

Basic stages of development and establishment of legislative and normative base of standardization of geographical names for the period after the 7-th United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names are considered.

Normative and technical documents used for production of cartographic works and for transmission of geographical names by means of Latin alphabet are given.

Dictionaries and reference books on geographical names of foreign countries used in cartographic products are listed.

Problems of setting up of bank of geographical names both of Ukraine and foreign countries are highlighted.

Questions related to exonym use in Ukraine are raised.

Participation of Ukraine in international cooperation and interaction with foreign organizations in the sphere of standardization of geographical names is reviewed.