

23 June 2017

Original: English

**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 Report of Turkey

Submitted by Turkey**

* E/CONF.105/1

** Prepared by the Board of Experts for Geographical Names of Turkey

NATIONAL REPORT OF TURKEY

(2014-2017)

Prepared by the Board of Experts for Geographical Names of Turkey

1. Summary

The committee that is responsible for the standardization of geographical names in Turkey is "the Board of Experts for Geographical Names of Turkey (BEGeoN_T)". BEGeoN_T is affiliated, hosted and chaired by Ministry of Interior and carries out its activities in cooperation with the representatives of related national institutions. This report highlights activities of BEGeoN_T since the 28th Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names. The main activities carried out during this period could be summarized as follows:

- BEGeoN_T had regular meetings and represented 28th Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names which took place in New York.
- The working group on Turkish Exonyms of Country Names and Capitals published first version of the list of country names and capitals in 2012. This version includes the countries that are recognized by Turkey officially.
- The working group on Toponymy Guide has continued to work.
- Gazetteer for Turkey and its neighbouring areas is continued to work

2. Activities carried out in the period of 2014-2017

- BEGeoN_T had meetings and represented represented 29th Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names which took place in Bangkok.
- The following working groups are currently functioning:
 - a.1. WG on Turkish Exonyms of Country Names and Capitals
 - a.2. WG on Glossary of Toponymic Terminology
 - a.3. WG on Gazetteer and Geographical Names Database of Turkey
 - a.4. WG on Toponymy Guide
 - a.5. WG on Gazetteer for outside Turkey
- a. Turkish Exonyms of Country Names and Capitals: The first version of the list of country names and capitals was published. This version includes the countries that are recognized by Turkey officially. This list will also be included in Toponymy Guide that will be published in the next period.
- b. Gazetteer and Geographical Names Database of Turkey: A gazetteer that includes Turkey and its neighborhood was prepared based on 1:250 000 scale maps. This gazetteer is available for free to users from the website of General Command of Mapping. New version of this gazetteer in accordance with map revisions is planned to be released soon.
- c. Toponymy Guide: In this reporting period, WG primarily worked towards preparation of documents that are going to be included in the guide. These documents are as follows:

- c.1. Glossary of Geographic Features
 - c.2. Names of provinces (first level administration units) and their coordinates.
 - c.3. Adjectives that consist of names of first and second level administrative units (provinces and district/county)
 - c.4. Abbreviations used in the topographic maps published by General Command of Mapping in Turkey
 - c.5. Abbreviations and Feature Type Codes of Gazetteer of Turkey and Surroundings
- d. Gazetteer for outside Turkey: A work has been started to prepare a gazetteer of the world. This gazetteer is currently under examination by the Faculty of Literature, History and Geography of Ankara University.

3. Targets and national programmes

The future plans of BEGeoN_T is stated below:

- a. Turkish Exonyms of Country Names and Capitals: The work carried out in the current period will be extended in accordance with new recognized countries on behalf of Turkish Government in the next period.
- b. Glossary of Toponymic Terminology: This work is based on documents published by UNGEGN. The preparation of the glossary is coming to an end and will be published soon.
- c. Gazetteer and Geographical Names Database of Turkey: Updating of already published gazetteer will be carried out and made available for the users. Database for geographical names will continually be revised. In the next period, the structure of the database will be changed and geographic details covering extended areas will be located. This database will allow us to update standard gazetteers independent of map updating.
- d. Toponymy Guide: We plan to complete and publish additional documents that are going to be included into the guide and the main body of the guide. This guide expected to be useful reference for geographers and map producers.
- e. Gazetteer for outside Turkey: The work on preparing a gazetteer of the world is already under way. This work will be continued.
- f. **The Project on Standardization of Geographical Names:** BEGeoN_T has started to work on the project about Standardization of Geographical Names in 2016. The Project will include standardization of all the geographical names in Turkey after completing the pilot project on a district.