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**United Nations Group of Experts On  
Geographical Names  
2019 session**

New York, 29 April – 3 May 2019

**Item 5 (a) of the provisional agenda \***

**Reports by Governments on the situation in their countries and on the progress made  
in the standardization of geographical names**

## **Report of Ukraine**

Submitted by Ukraine\*\*

Summary:

In accordance with the Law of Ukraine on Geographical Names and other normative and legal acts, the State Service of Ukraine for Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre (<http://land.gov.ua>) coordinates activities related to the establishment, standardization, recording, registration, use and preservation of geographical names in Ukraine.

The State Service created and maintains the State Register of Geographical Names as an electronic database of standardized geographical names. The database also provides information about the naming and renaming of geographical objects and changes, for example, to their status and type, and is constantly updated.

The creation of the electronic database was completed in 2017. It contains more than 100,000 geographical names in Ukraine (names of settlements and administrative and territorial units, physical-geographical and socioeconomic objects and objects under the nature reserve fund).

The data in the State Register of Geographical Names include the registration number, the standardized name of the geographical object in the Ukrainian and Latin alphabets, the type of geographical object, the administrative status (of settlements) and the geographical coordinates (latitude and longitude). The data are published on the website of the State Service of Ukraine for Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre.

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\*\*Prepared by the State Service of Ukraine for Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre

### **National bodies on standardization of geographical names**

State administration in the sphere related to geographical names is carried out by:

- central executive body which ensures the formation of state policy in the sphere of topographic, geodetic and cartographic activities – the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine (<http://minagro.gov.ua>);

- central executive body which implements the state policy in the sphere of topographic, geodetic and cartographic activities – the State Service of Ukraine for Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre (<http://land.gov.ua>).

The Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine:

- defines the state policy on naming geographical objects as well as on standardization, recording, registration, use and preservation of geographical names;

- develops and approves normative-legal and normative-technical regulations on the establishment, standardization, recording, registration, use and preservation of geographical names.

The State Service of Ukraine for Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre as a specially authorized executive body on geographical names:

- carries out coordination of activities related to establishment, standardization, recording, registration, use and preservation of geographical names;

- arranges the conduction of appropriate expertise of geographical names;

- ensures the creation and maintenance of the State Register of Geographical Names;

- controls the use and preservation of geographical names;

- carries out an international cooperation on the matter of establishment, standardization, preservation, recording, registration of geographical names.

### **Status of legal and regulatory base in the sphere of geographical names**

The Law of Ukraine "On Geographical Names" (2005) indicates legal background for regulation of relations and activities related to naming of the geographical objects as well as standardization, recording, registration, use and preservation of geographical names.

Provision on the State Register of Geographical Names approved by the resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine (Government) in 2006, defines the order of creation and maintenance of the State Register of Geographical Names, conduction of works on establishment, standardization, recording, registration and use of geographical names.

The Order for conducting the examination of proposals and decisions of state authorities on the naming and renaming of geographical objects issues that was adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine in 2009, establishes the procedure for carrying out an appropriate examination of proposals and decisions of state authorities on the naming and renaming of geographical objects of Ukraine, continental shelf, exclusive (marine) economic zone, geographic objects of Earth discovered by Ukrainian researchers and scientists.

There are established regulations for the transliteration of geographical names and terms of foreign countries to the Ukrainian language, which also include lists of major geographical terms and exonyms.

### **Main activities in the sphere of geographical names standardization in the inter-sessional period**

The State Service of Ukraine for Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre provided such activities in the sphere of standardization of geographical names in the inter-sessional period:

- improvement of the legislative and regulatory framework for activities related to geographical names;

- coordination of activities related to the provision of state and local government bodies, institutions, organizations and citizens with standardized geographical names;

- conducting examination of proposals and decisions of state authorities on naming and renaming of geographical objects issues;

- implementation and maintenance of the State Register of Geographical Names;

- use and preservation of geographic names;

- realization of international cooperation on geographical names.

The monitoring and actualization of information about renaming of settlements and administrative-territorial units in Ukraine took place in accordance with the Laws of Ukraine "On voluntary association of territorial communities" and "On the condemnation of communist and national-socialist (Nazi) totalitarian regimes in Ukraine and the prohibition of the promotion of their symbols", adopted in 2015.

The information on these changes was constantly submitted to the State Register of Geographical Names, displayed on the official websites of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine (<http://static.rada.gov.ua/zakon/new/NEWSAIT/ADM/zmist.html>) and the State Service of Ukraine for Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre.

By the Resolution of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine as of May 12, 2016, "Renaming of certain settlements and districts of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and Sevastopol City" 5 districts and around 70 settlements were renamed, so historical names related to the cultural heritage of the indigenous population and national minorities (Crimean Tatars, Greeks, Bulgarians) were returned. The act will come into force from the moment of restoration of the temporarily occupied territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and Sevastopol City under the general jurisdiction of Ukraine.

Information about official changes in the administrative-territorial structure because of the creation of new conglomerated territorial communities and the renaming of settlements and administrative territorial units is constantly published on the geoportal "Administrative-territorial system of Ukraine" (<http://atu.minregion.gov.ua>).

### **Toponymic Guidelines for Map and Other Editors**

The "Toponymic Guidelines for Map and Other Editors for International Use: Ukraine" was approved on the 10<sup>th</sup> United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographic Names (2012) ([http://unstats.un.org/unsd/UNGEGN\\_RCC/UNGEGN/docs/Toponymic\\_guidelines\\_PDF/Ukraine/Verstka.pdf](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/UNGEGN_RCC/UNGEGN/docs/Toponymic_guidelines_PDF/Ukraine/Verstka.pdf)).

"Regulations on writing Ukrainian geographical names within maps and other publications" (2014) that determines the basic principles and rules for standardization and writing Ukrainian geographical names in official documents, mass media, cartographic, reference, encyclopedic, educational and other publications and their transliteration to the Latin alphabet (<http://zakon0.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/z0957-14>) were adopted by the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine.

### **Status of activities on the implementation of the State Register of Geographical Names**

The State Register of Geographical Names is implemented and maintained by the State Service of Ukraine for Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre in the form of an electronic database of standardized geographical names with the use of an automated data retrieval system, that provides permanent information updating about naming and renaming of geographical objects, changing their status, type etc.

The State Register of Geographical Names consists of two parts:

information about the names of geographical objects located on the territory of Ukraine;

information about the names of geographical objects located in other countries and used in Ukraine.

The electronic database of the State Register of Geographical Names, was completed in 2017 and contains over 100 000 geographical names of Ukraine, including:

47 011 – names of settlements and the administrative-territorial units;

42 869 – names of physical and geographical objects;

4 469 – names of socio-economic objects;

5 651 – names of the nature reserve fund objects.

The filling of the Ukraine geographical objects names electronic database of the State Register of Geographical Names was carried out according to administrative-territorial units (the Autonomous Republic of the Crimea, regions, districts, cities, settlement and village councils) on the basis of the topographic map with the scale 1: 100 000.

Information about geographical names was submitted electronically to the registration forms of the State Register of Geographical Names, approved by the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine, according to 46 indicators.

The data of the State Register of Geographical Names includes the registration number, the standardized name of the geographical object in Ukrainian and Latin, the type of geographical object, the administrative status (for settlements), the geographical coordinates (latitude and longitude) and is made public on the official site of the State Service of Ukraine for Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre with the link <http://land.gov.ua/info/informatsiia-pro-derzhavnyi-reiestr-heohrafichnykh-nazv/>.

The database of the State Register of Geographical Names of Ukraine allows users to search and receive such information about geographical names by request:

standardized names of geographical objects of Ukraine by administrative units;

standardized names of geographical objects by types of geographical objects within Ukraine;

standardized names of geographical objects of Ukraine for nomenclature sheets of topographic map with the scale 1: 100 000;

standardized names of geographical objects of a certain type, located within a specific administrative unit of Ukraine;

standardized geographical names that have been renamed, on the territory of Ukraine or on the separate administrative units (regions, districts);

options names of geographical objects;

historical names of geographical objects and names in the languages of national minorities (if available).

It is planned in 2019 to create an electronic database of geographical names of foreign countries, which will contain 80 000 geographical names.

### **Country Names**

The dictionary of geographical names "Countries and Territories of the World" (SSPE "Kartographia") was published in 2017 and contains information about official names of states, dependent territories, capitals of states and centers of possessions in Ukrainian and in national writing, and also adjectives, the names of inhabitants, formed from the names of countries and capitals.

The materials and recommendations of the UN Expert Group on Geographical Names were used for preparation of the dictionary.

### **National system of Romanization of geographical names**

For the transliteration of Ukrainian proper names (surnames, names and geographical names) in letters of the Latin alphabet in official documents, during the issuance of cartographic works, on the plates and road signs, as well as in other areas, the officially established by the Government in 2010 "The Table of Transliteration of the Ukrainian Alphabet in Latin is used", which is recommended by resolution of the Tenth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names X/9 "Romanization of Ukrainian Geographical Names".

According to the Ukrainian system of romanization, the geographical names on the maps with romanized names were published by State Scientific Production Enterprise "Kartographia" in the inter-sessional period:

"Europe. Postal codes", 1:4 000 000, 2018;

administrative maps in various scales were produced for the OSCE on regions of Donetsk, Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhia, Kirovohrad, Kharkiv, Luhansk, Mykolaiv, Odesa, Kherson and Chernivtsi.

### **International cooperation in the field of geographical names**

Ukraine is a member and participates in two Divisions of the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names:

East Central and South-East Europe Division.

Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia Division;

Ukraine participates in the meetings of the Baltic Division of the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names.

Representatives of The State Service of Ukraine for Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre took part in:

the 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Baltic Division of the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Name, Vilnius, Lithuania, 21 – 24 May 2018;

the 8<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), New York, USA, 30 July – 03 August 2018;

the 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Working Group on Exonyms, Riga, Latvia, 24 – 26 September 2018;

the 22<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the East Central and South-East Europe Division of the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Name, Bratislava, Slovakia, 13 February 2019.