

4 February 2019

Original: English

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

Report of Cyprus

Summary**

The full report covers the activities of the Permanent Committee for the Standardization of Geographical Names of Cyprus for the period 2017–2018.

The first section of the report provides background information on the establishment and operation of the Permanent Committee, the legislative and structural framework within which it operates and the main principles to which the Committee adheres. The second section offers a brief description of its main duties. In the third section, the Committee's main achievements are briefly described and examined.

The Committee regularly maintains a website (www.geoportal.gov.cy) that provides all relevant information and editions of the gazetteer. It also contains a tool for the automatic transliteration of geographical names from the Greek to the Roman alphabet, based on ELOT (Hellenic Organization for Standardization) standard 743.

The Committee maintains a gazetteer for all geographical names in Cyprus. All the geographical names and toponyms that are included in the gazetteer are derived from the official large-scale cadastral maps and land registers held by the Department of Lands and Surveys. The gazetteer is available online.

A new edition of the gazetteer was recently prepared by the Committee, entitled “Gazetteer of sea geographical names of Cyprus”. The gazetteer was presented and submitted to the Eleventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, which was held in New York in August 2017. It is also available online.

* GEGN.2/2019/1.

** The full report was prepared by the President of the Permanent Committee for the Standardization of Geographical Names of Cyprus, Andreas Hadjirafitis. The report will be available at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/1st_session_UNGEGN.html, in the language of submission only, as document GEGN.2/2019/6/CRP.6.



Odonyms in Cyprus are provided and maintained by municipal and community councils. They are approved by district officers, who operate under the Ministry of the Interior. All official street names are communicated to the Committee for verification and correction in order to achieve uniformity throughout the island. A complete catalogue of odonyms is maintained by the Department of Postal Services and is available online.

All geographical names and toponyms are also included in the geoportal, which is available at www.geoportal.gov.cy. Geographical names and other geospatial data are accessible online for searching, viewing, amending, downloading and printing, as well as being directly accessible through a geographic information system.

The Committee continues to collect, standardize and romanize geographical names in Cyprus, according to ELOT standard 743. All geographical names are collected by authorized bodies on the basis of sound historical and official information.

The Committee recently prepared a poster regarding the standardization and transliteration of geographical names, which was distributed to all high schools. It also published a bookmark, which was distributed to all schools and government departments. The poster and bookmark contain basic information about the Committee and the rules used for transliteration. The poster is available online.

The Committee participates in conferences, sessions and working groups of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names. It has also submitted a series of technical papers which are included in the bulletins of the Group of Experts.

Geographical names are a vital feature of geospatial information and tangibly reflect human activity on Earth through meaning and memory. The Committee, within the framework of its duties, supports the principles of the United Nations and promotes, at the international level, official geographical names in Cyprus by all available means.
