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**United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names**

**2019 Session**

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**Agenda 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 Romania**

Submitted by Romania\*\*

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\*\* Prepared by Dan Pomirleanu of the Defence Geospatial Information Agency and it has been approved by the Technical Commission on Geographical Names in Romania.

The constant presence of Romania at the United Nations Conferences on the standardization of geographical names confirms the will of our country to implement the resolutions adopted by the previous conferences and to contribute to a better international cooperation.

Romania supports the principle promoted since the first United Nations Conference held in Geneva in 1967, stating that a standardization at the international level can only be successful if based on each country's efforts to solve its internal problems concerning the geographical names in accordance with the United Nations recommendations and on encouraging common approaches by exchange of experiences.

In 2015, the Technical Commission on Geographical Names in Romania (TCGNR) was established. This consists of representatives of ten public authorities and its aim is to promote laws and regulations at national level in the field of geographical names, to coordinate activities related to the geographical names at national level, to analyze proposals regarding acceptances and changes of the geographical names as well as to represent Romania at conferences and working groups in the field of geographical names.

Since the last Conference in 2017, National Agency for Cadastre and Land Registration and Defence Geospatial Information Agency continued the efforts to realize and to update geospatial databases. In order to populate the attributes related to geographical names, cross references with reference geographical names database according to INSPIRE standards have been used.

Regarding the publication of the geographical names datasets, Ministry of National Defense implemented visualization and download services on its own geoportal which is the MoD component of the Romanian National INSPIRE Geoportal. Also, the National Agency for Cadastre and Land Registration has maintained visualization services for its own geographical names dataset on the Romanian national INSPIRE geoportal.

Following the publication of Romanian Geographic Dictionary (vol. I and II) at the Romanian Academy Publishing in 2008 and 2009, according to the UNGEGN resolutions and recommendations, the Institute of Geography of Romanian Academy has initiated together with Defence Geospatial Information Agency a new updated edition in a format compatible with GIS applications.

In conclusion, we appreciate that since the last Conference progresses have been realized by maintenance of the web services based on datasets produced by the main mapmaker organizations. Also, another progress is the reference of the geographical names databases in geospatial databases. Future effort is going to be concentrated on production of exonyms database as well as the database with geographical names which are part of the Romanian cultural patrimony. In addition, some legal initiatives that would implement UN recommendations are taken into account to be promoted in the following years.