

5 February 2021

Original: English

---

**United Nations Group of Experts on  
Geographical Names****2021 session**

Virtual, 3–7 May 2021

Item 4 (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 report refers to the activities of the Permanent Committee for the Standardization of Geographical Names of Cyprus for the period 2019–2020.

The first section of the report includes 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 explained.

The Committee regularly maintains a website ([www.geoportal.gov.cy](http://www.geoportal.gov.cy)) that provides all relevant information, several editions of the gazetteer and online tools.

The Committee regularly maintains a complete gazetteer for all geographical names in Cyprus. All the geographical names and toponyms therein are gathered by authorized bodies and derived from authoritative information, official large-scale cadastral maps and the land registers of the Department of Lands and Surveys. The gazetteer is available online. The Committee continues to collect, standardize and romanize geographical names in Cyprus, according to standard 743 of the Hellenic Standardization Organization, which is based on standard 843 of the International Standardization Organization.

---

\* [GEGN.2/2021/1](#).

\*\* The full report was prepared by the President of the Permanent Committee for the Standardization of Geographical Names of Cyprus, Andreas Hadjiraftis. It will be available under document symbol GEGN.2/2021/9/CRP.9, in the language of submission only, at [https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/2nd\\_session\\_2021/](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/2nd_session_2021/).



An edition of the gazetteer was 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. The gazetteer is based on a national hydrographical database that is updated regularly. The Committee distributes the gazetteer to all interested persons and organizations.

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

All geographical names and toponyms are also included in the geoportal, which is available at [www.geoportal.gov.cy](http://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 help citizens gain access to and use that information.

The Committee participates in the sessions and committees of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names. It has also submitted a series of 10 technical papers that are included in the bulletins of the Group of Experts, which can be found at [www.geonoma.gov.cy/index.php/enimerosi](http://www.geonoma.gov.cy/index.php/enimerosi) and at <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/pubs/>. The Committee has also helped to design the cover pages of the previous six editions of the bulletin.

Geographical names in Cyprus are not just words on maps and signs but vital communication tools that reflect patterns of settlement, exploration, migration and the country’s heritage. Consistency and accuracy are essential in referring to places in the community to prevent confusion. The Committee recognizes the great importance of geographical names, which are an inseparable part of cultural heritage and play a significant role in the sustainable development of the country.

---