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

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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 the Russian Federation

Submitted by the Russian Federation **

Summary:

The report provides an overview of the main trends and developments in State policy relating to the naming of geographical objects, including the current status of the legislative, normative and methodological framework for identifying, standardizing, using, registering and recording geographical names as integral elements of the historical and cultural heritage of the peoples of the Russian Federation.

The report also addresses the development of the national database of geographical names – the State Catalogue of Geographical Names, the updating of the normative and legal basis connected with names of geographical objects, and the implementation of the concept of openness of the federal executive authorities of the Russian Federation regarding names of geographical objects.

The report includes information on the use in international projects of the State Standard 83 (GOST-83) Romanization system approved by the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names.

The report also covers events, including international events, relating to geographical names, in which experts from the Russian Federation, including representatives of the Federal Service for State Registration, Cadastre and Cartography, took part in the period 2021–2022.

* GEGN.2/2023/1

** The report was prepared by the Federal Service for State Registration, Cadastre and Cartography (Rosreestr).

Legislative framework for naming of geographical objects in the Russian Federation

The legislation of the Russian Federation for geographical names is based on the Constitution of the Russian Federation and includes the Federal Law of 18.12.1997 No. 152-FZ “On Names of Geographical Objects” as well as expounding them normative legal acts of the Russian Federation.

The scope of the Federal Law “On Names of Geographical Objects” extends to activities in the field of establishment, normalization, use, registration, accounting and preservation of names of geographical objects of the Russian Federation, geographical objects of the continental shelf and the exclusive economic zone of the Russian Federation, as well as geographical objects discovered or identified by Russian researchers within the open sea and Antarctica.

The following normative legal acts are in force in the Russian Federation:

1. Decree of the President of the Russian Federation of 28.11.2018 No. 681 “On the Assignment of the Names of Persons with Outstanding Merit to the Motherland to Certain Geographical Objects”.

2. Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation of 15.11.2012 No. 1167 “On the Procedure to Coordinate Proposals on Naming of Some Geographical Objects or on Renaming of Some Geographical Objects”.

3. Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation of 19.11.2014 No. 1221 “On Approval of the Rules for Assignment, Alteration and Cancellation of Addresses” which set that place names within the address structure must coincide with those registered in the State Catalogue of Geographical Names.

4. Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation of 22.05.2015 No. 492 “On the Scope of Addresses Information Included to the State Address Register, Procedure for Inter-departmental Information Cooperation to Maintain the State Address Register, on the Procedure for Alternation and Annulment of Some Acts of the Government of the Russian Federation” which approved the “Rules for Inter-departmental Information Cooperation to Maintain the State Address Register”, including providing information from the State Catalogue of Geographical Names.

5. Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation of 07.03.2019 No. 245 “On the Approval of Rules of Consideration of Proposals on Assignment to Some Geographical Objects of Names of the Persons Having Special Merit to the Motherland and Use of These Names”.

6. Order of Rosreestr of 03.12.2021 No. P/0570 “On Approval of the Procedure for the Examination of Proposals for Naming Geographical Objects and Renaming Geographical Objects, as well as the Issuance of Opinions on these Proposals”.

7. Order of Rosreestr of 22.06.2022 No. P/0241 “On Approval of the Procedure for Registration and Accounting of Names of Geographical Objects, the Publication of Dictionaries and Reference Books of Names of Geographical Objects, as well as Works on the Creation of the State Catalogue of Geographical Names and its Maintenance”.

8. Order of Rosreestr of 22.06.2022 No. P/0242 “On Approval of the Procedure for Identifying Existing Names of Geographical Objects”.

1. The Federal Service for State Registration, Cadastre and Cartography (Rosreestr) is an authorized federal executive body in the field of names of geographical objects in the Russian Federation.

In the field of names of geographical objects, Rosreestr performs following functions:

development of state policy and legal regulation in the field of names of geographical objects;

creation and maintenance of the State Catalogue of Geographical Names;

normalization of names of geographic objects in Russian language;

expert examination of proposals on assigning names to geographical objects and on renaming geographical objects, issuing expert opinions on such proposals;

approval of contents of dictionaries and reference books of names of geographical objects within its remit prior to publication, which are prepared and published by federal executive authorities and public authorities of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation.

As part of the expert examination, Rosreestr is working in coordination with the relevant interested federal executive bodies on proposals on the assignment of names to railway stations, seaports and river ports, airports, geographical objects of the territorial sea, continental shelf and exclusive economic zone of the Russian Federation, geographical objects, discovered or identified by Russian researchers within the high seas and Antarctica, or on the renaming of such geographic objects.

For the purpose of the maintenance of the State Catalogue of Geographical Names, work is being carried out to register and record the names of geographical objects of the Russian Federation, the continental shelf and the exclusive economic zone of the Russian Federation and geographical objects discovered or identified by Russian researchers within the high seas and Antarctica, as well as identifying existing names of geographical objects.

In 2021-2022, the Government of the Russian Federation adopted 24 regulations to assign 19 names to geographical objects and rename 23 geographical objects taking into account the expertise of Rosreestr.

These names of geographical objects immortalize the names of hydrographers, who made a significant contribution to the exploration and research of the Arctic, participants in the Great Patriotic War, researchers of the Arctic, Primorsky Territory and Lake Onega.

With due consideration of the interests of the citizens of the Russian Federation, the names were given to settlements in such constituent entities of the Russian Federation as Chechen Republic, Kaluga, Tver regions and many others.

2. National competition “Great Names of Russia”

The organizers of the competition were the Public Chamber of the Russian Federation, the Society of Russian Literature, the Russian Geographical Society, the Russian Historical Society, and the Russian Military Historical Society.

All interested citizens of the Russian Federation took part in the competition.

The idea of the competition is to determine the names of outstanding compatriots, which names will be given to country’s major airports.

The goal is to maintain the connection of times and to popularize the culture and history of Russia.

In order to perpetuate the memory of prominent state, military and public figures, representatives of science, art, culture, sports and other people, who have merit to the Motherland, the following regulatory documents have been adopted:

Decree of the President of the Russian Federation of 28.11.2018 No. 681 “On the Assignment of the Names of Persons with Outstanding Merit to the Motherland to Certain Geographical Objects”;

Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation of 07.03.2019 No. 245 “On the Approval of Rules of Consideration of Proposals on Assignment to Separate Geographical Objects of Names of the Persons Having Special Merit to the Motherland and Use of These Names”.

The names of persons who have rendered special services to the Motherland are assigned to airports, railway stations, sea and river ports by the President of the Russian Federation on the proposal of the Government of the Russian Federation and on the proposals of the Public Chamber of the Russian Federation.

The use of names of prominent figures for naming of geographical objects is carried out for educational, informational, tourist and other purposes, as well as in order to ensure the operation of transport infrastructure.

According to the results of the National competition “Great Names of Russia” with the participation of Rosreestr 9 decrees on assigning names of outstanding compatriots to airports of Russia were adopted.

3. Information support in the field of names of geographical objects

Maintenance of the State Catalogue of Geographical Names, registration and accounting of geographical objects of the continental shelf and the exclusive economic zone of the Russian Federation, geographical objects discovered or identified by Russian researchers within the high seas and Antarctica is carried out on a regular basis.

The State Catalogue of Geographical Names is based on an information search system that provides a database about objects and their names, its storage, processing and the issuance of information registered in it at the request of interested parties free of charge.

The State Catalogue of Geographical Names consists of two independent sections:

the first section – geographic objects of the land part of the Russian Federation;

the second section – geographic objects of the continental shelf of the Russian Federation, the exclusive economic zone of the Russian Federation, as well as geographic objects discovered or identified by Russian researchers in the high seas or Antarctica.

Currently, the State Catalogue of Geographical Names includes information on circa 800 thousand geographical objects, including information on names of geographical objects of the continental shelf and the exclusive economic zone of the Russian Federation, as well as the names of geographical objects discovered or identified by Russian researchers within the high seas and Antarctica.

Since 2022, the maintenance of the State Catalogue of Geographical Names is carried out by the public law company “Roskadastr” (formerly by the Federal state budgetary institution “Center of Geodesy, Cartography and SDI” subordinated to Rosreestr).

A set of open data “State Catalogue of Geographical Names” is published on the official website of Rosreestr pursuant to the Federal Law of the Russian Federation of 09.02.2009 No. 8-FZ “On Ensuring Access to Information on the Activities of State Bodies and Local Self-Government Bodies” as well as in order to implement the Concept of openness of the federal executive authorities.

4. National system of romanization of geographical objects names

The system of transliteration of the Cyrillic alphabet with Latin letters GOST-83, adopted at the Fifth UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (Montreal, 1987), is used in cartographic publications in national languages:

<https://rosreestr.gov.ru/site/activity/geodeziya-i-kartografiya/naimenovaniya-geograficheskikh-obektov/zakonodatelstvo-rf-o-naimenovaniyakh-geograficheskikh-obektov/>.

This system is also used in the second section of the State Catalogue of Geographical Names to register information about the names and types of geographical objects of the continental shelf and the exclusive economic zone of the Russian Federation, as well as geographical objects discovered or identified by Russian scientists within the high seas and Antarctica.

5. Participation in international forums and projects in the field of geographical objects names

During the reporting period, much attention was paid to international cooperation in the field of geographical names.

Rosreestr represents the interests of the Russian Federation on geographical names at various international platforms, representative of Rosreestr chairs the Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia Division as well as participated in the work of the Baltic Division of the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names.

Moreover, Rosreestr, within its powers, represents the Russian Federation at the Interstate Council for Geodesy, Cartography, Cadastre and Remote Sensing of the Earth of the CIS Member States.

On June 23-24, 2022, at the initiative of Rosreestr, meetings of the Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia Division of the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names and the Working Group on Geographical Names of the Interstate Council for Geodesy, Cartography, Cadastre and Remote Sensing of the Earth of the CIS Member States (hereinafter referred to as the Interstate Council) were held in Moscow. The meetings were attended by representatives of the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan.

As part of the activities of the Working Group on Geographical Names of the Interstate Council, a webinar on testing the system developed by the Russian Federation for maintaining the Unified database of geographical names of the CIS Member States was organized on July 20, 2022.

In addition, during the reporting period delegation of Rosreestr participated in the 21st meeting of the Baltic Division of the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names with the report "Names of Heroes on the Map of Russia", which took place on September 23-24, 2021 in online format.

6. Activities in the field of legislation on names of geographical objects

For the period 2021-2022, Rosreestr updated subordinate normative legal acts in the field of names of geographical objects, such as:

Order of Rosreestr of 03.12.2021 No. P/0570 "On Approval of the Procedure for the Examination of Proposals for Naming Geographical Objects and Renaming Geographical Objects, as well as the Issuance of Opinions on these Proposals".

Order of Rosreestr of 22.06.2022 No. P/0241 "On Approval of the Procedure for Registration and Accounting of Names of Geographical Objects, the Publication of Dictionaries and Reference Books of Names of Geographical Objects, as well as Works on the Creation of the State Catalogue of Geographical Names and its Maintenance".

Order of Rosreestr of 22.06.2022 No. P/0242 “On Approval of the Procedure for Identifying Existing Names of Geographical Objects“.

Points for discussion

The UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names is invited to:

- (a) Take note of the report and the progress made by the Russian Federation;
- (b) Express its views on the report of the Russian Federation and discuss the issues raised in the report.