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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 Greece

Submitted by Greece **

Summary

During the intersessional period of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, from 2021 to 2023, the competent Greek authorities continued and finalized their work on compiling the national gazetteer of geographical names of Greece.

The gazetteer constitutes a list of the geographical names (primary names) of Greece (approximately 90,000 entries), in Greek and Latin script, together with other information about each entry, including:

- (a) Code ID (category);
- (b) Secondary name (if any);
- (c) Historical name (if available);
- (d) Geographical location of entries with geographical coordinates.

The national gazetteer will be submitted and presented at 2023 session of the Group of Experts.

In Greece, the names of geographical features are collected and registered by the two national cartographic agencies, namely the Hellenic Military Geographic Service and the Hellenic Navy Hydrographic Service. The two agencies coordinate their work on the proper depiction of the features and their names on maps and charts, on the development of toponymic data files and on the publication of relevant gazetteers.

**GEGN.2/2023/1

** Prepared by Alexandros Stavropoulos

The task to collect, standardize and romanize geographical names in Greek is done according to standard 743 of the Hellenic Standardization Organization (ELOT 743), which is based on standard 843 of the International Standardization Organization (ISO 843).

Report of Greece

During the period between the last session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) and the upcoming one, the competent Greek authorities have continued and finalized their work on compiling the “National Gazetteer of Geographical Names of Greece”. It constitutes a list containing the geographical names (primary names) of Greece (over 90,000 entries), in Greek and Latin script, together with other information about each entry.

The National Gazetteer will be submitted and presented at the third session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN).

It is noted that in Greece the names of geographical features are compiled and registered by the two National cartographic agencies, namely the Hellenic Military Geographical Service (HMGS) and the Hellenic Navy Hydrographic Service (HNHS). The two agencies coordinate their work for the proper depiction of these features and their names on maps and charts, the development of toponymic data files and the publication of relevant gazetteers.

The task to collect, standardize and romanize geographical names in Greek, is done according to the national Standard 743 of the Hellenic Standardization Organization (ELOT), which is based on the International Standard 843 of the International Organization for Standardization.

During the reporting period, the following activities took place:

- 1. Gazetteers and toponymic data files**
- 2. Standardized terms and abbreviations**
- 3. Undersea features**
- 4. National Gazetteer of Geographical Names of Greece**
- 5. Participation in the 24th Meeting of the UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms**

1. Gazetteers and toponymic data files

1.1 HMGS Gazetteer of Greece

The HMGS Geographical Dictionary of Toponyms (Gazetteer) was compiled and published in 1983, having as its main source of information the 1:50,000 scale topographic maps of the HMGS. These maps have a significant density of nomenclature and great reliability because they came from records in the context of long-term work by specialized topographic crews of the HMGS throughout the Greek territory, after and through collaboration with local authorities and population (Presidents of Communities, teachers, archaeologists, rangers, foresters and ordinary citizens). In this regard, all Geographical names (about 88,000 entries) have been incorporated in the Dictionary as preserved by the inhabitants, Greek History and Tradition. As an additional source, the official bulletins of the Statistical Service (Municipalities, Communities, and Settlements) were used.

In the framework of processing, preparation and correction of the existing Geographical Dictionary of Toponyms for the creation of the National Gazetteer of Geographical Names, the HMGS made the following changes - improvements:

a) Digitization of all records and correction of names according to the current series of 1:50,000 scale maps and incorporation of the changes made by the local government, in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior.

b) Updating of the Administrative Divisions and Municipalities of Greece, according to Law No. 3852/2010 (“Kallikrates’ Law).

c) Checking and correction of the nomenclature of Settlements, according to the 2011 census.

d) Transition of the Bounding Box of each entity, to a point, to extract the approximate latitude and longitude of the toponym from Greenwich.

e) Selection of the geographical designation category (toponym type).

1.2 HNHS Gazetteer of maritime geographical names

The Hellenic Navy Hydrographic Service (HNHS) has issued and maintains the gazetteer of maritime geographical names of Greece. It consists of approximately 10,000 entries (such as bays, gulfs, islands, etc), shown on nautical charts, nautical and other publications (sailing directions etc.).

1.3 Elaboration of the National Gazetteer of Geographical Names of Greece

The HMGS and the HNHS Gazetteers were reviewed and combined into a single dataset for the compilation of the National Gazetteer of Geographical Names of Greece. For the process of consolidating the two gazetteers into a unified Gazetteer, the following methodology was followed:

a) Names of features included in the list of names of HMGS and not included in that of HNHS, names of features included in the list of names of HNHS and not included in that of HMGS, as well as names where there is an agreement between the two Geographical Dictionaries were incorporated into the unified National Gazetteer.

b) In cases where a difference in accentuation or spelling was detected, a check was made and the correct name was adopted.

c) In cases where HMGS and HNHS had assigned different names for a feature, then land features were primarily named *as per* the HMGS gazetteer and secondarily named *as per* the HNHS gazetteer. Maritime features were primary named *as per* the HNHS gazetteer and secondarily named *as per* the HMGS gazetteer.

2. Standardized Terms and Abbreviations

Standardized terms and abbreviations are used to depict in detail a large number of geographical features such as topographical features of the land area, natural and technical features of the coasts, port facilities, etc.

Abbreviation	Decoding	Romanized	English
Αβ	Αβαθή	Avathi	Shoal
Αγκάλη	Αγκάλη	Agkali	Bay
Αγκ.	Αγκυροβόλιο	Agkyrovolio	Anchorage
Α.	Άκρα	Akra	Point
Αερδ.	Αεροδρόμιο	Aerodromio	Airfield
Ακτή	Ακτή	Akti	Coast
Αλκ	Αλυκή	Alyki	Salt Pan
Αντρ.	Αντέρεισμα	Antereisma	Buttress
Αντλ.	Αντλιοστάσιο	Antliostasio	Pumping Station
Αποκ. Δκση	Αποκεντρωμένη Διοίκηση	Apokentromeni Dioikisi	Decentralized Administration
Βροι.	Βράχοι	Vrachoi	Rocks
Βρες.	Βραχονησίδες	Vrachonisides	Islets
Βρσις.	Βραχονησίδες	Vrachonisis	Rocky Islet
Βρ.	Βράχος	Vrachos	Rock
Βρυσ.	Βρύση	Vrysi	Fountain
Γεφρ.	Γέφυρα	Gefyra	Bridge
Γεγρ. Διαμ.	Γεωγραφικό διαμέρισμα	Geografiko Diamerisma	Geographical District
Δεξ.	Δεξαμενή	Dexameni	Tank
Δημ.	Δήμος	Dimos	Municipality
Διάυλος	Διάυλος	Diavlos	Channel
Διοικ. Πρωτ.	Διοικητική Πρωτεύουσα	Dioikitiki Protevousa	Administrative Capital
Διώρυγα	Διώρυγα	Dioryga	Channel
Εικν.	Εικονοστάσιο	Eikonostasio	Iconostasis
Εκβλ.	Εκβολαί	Ekvolai	Estuary
Εκκλ.	Εκκλησία	Ekklesia	Church
Έλος	Έλος-Τέλμα	Elos-Telma	Marsh
Επκρτ.	Επικράτεια	Epikrateia	Territory
Εργ.	Εργοστάσιο	Ergostasio	Factory
Ερπ.	Ερείπια	Ereipia	Ruins
Ερμκ.	Ερημοκκλήσιο	Erimokklisio	Chapel
Θάλασσα	Θάλασσα	Thalassa	Sea
Θέση	Θέση	Thesi	Position
Ιχθυοτροφείο	Ιχθυοτροφείο	Ichthyotrofeio	Fish farm
Ισθμός	Ισθμός	Isthmos	Isthmus
Κάβος	Κάβος	Kavos	Cape
Κανλ.	Κανάλι-Τάφρος	Kanali- Tafros	Canal-Ditch
Κ.	Κόλπος	Kolpos	Gulf
Κόλπωση	Κόλπωση	Kolposi	Cove
Κορφ.	Κορυφή	Koryfi	Peak
Κρηπίδωμα	Κρηπίδωμα	Kripídoma	Breakwater
Κτημ.	Κτήμα	Ktima	Estate

Λτμ.	Λατομείο	Latomeio	Quarry
Λ.	Λιμένας	Limenas	Port
Λιμενίσκος	Λιμενίσκος	Limeniskos	Port
Λιμενοβραχίονας	Λιμενοβραχίονας	Limenovrachionas	Breakwater
Λμ	Λίμνη	Limni	Lake
Λμθ	Λιμνοθάλασσα	Limnothalassa	Lagoon
Λ.Κα.Το.	Λοιποί Κατοικημένοι Τόποι	Loipoi Katoikimenoι Topoi	Other Built Up places
Λτρ.	Λουτρά	Loutra	Baths
Λοφς	Λόφος	Lofos	Hill
Λιμ	Υδατοστάσιο- Λιμνάριο	Ydatostasio - Limnario	Tank
Μτλ	Μεταλλείο	Metalleio	Mine
Μνημ.	Μνημείο	Mnimeio	Monument
Μονή	Μονή	Moni	Monastery
Μυλ.	Μύλος	Mylos	Mill
Νεκρτφ	Νεκροταφείο	Nekrotafeio	Cemetery
Νηοδόχη	Νηοδόχη	Niodochi	Basin
Νες.	Νησίδες	Nisides	Islets
Νσις.	Νησίδες	Nisis	Islet
Νοι.	Νήσοι	Nisoi	Islands
Ν.	Νήσος	Nisos	Island
Νομ.	Νομός	Nomos	Prefecture
Νοσκ	Νοσοκομείο	Nosokomeio	Hospital
Ορ.	Ορμίσκος	Ormiskos	Cove
Ο.	Όρμος	Ormos	Bay
Ορπ	Οροπέδιο	Oropedio	Plateau
Όρος	Όρος	Oros	Mountain
Παραλία	Παραλία	Paralia	Beach
Πέλαγος	Πέλαγος	Pelagos	Sea
Πέρασμα	Πέρασμα	Perasma	Passage
Περχ	Περιοχή	Periochi	Area
Περ	Περιφέρεια	Perifereia	Region
Πρθ.	Πορθμός	Porthmos	Strait
Πορ	Πόρος	Poros	Passage
Προβλήτας	Προβλήτας	Provlitas	Pier
Προεξοχή	Προεξοχή	Proexochi	Cape
Π.Ε.	Περιφερειακή Ενότητα	Perifereiaki Enotita	Regional Unit
Πηγδ	Πηγάδι	Pigadi	Well
Πηγή	Πηγή	Pigi	Spring
Πλαγ	Πλαγιά	Plagia	Hillside
Ποτμ	Ποταμός	Potamos	River
Ραχ	Ράχη	Rachi	Ridge

Ρέμα	Ρέμα	Rema	Steam
Σηρ	Σήραγγα	Siranga	Tunnel
Σαντ	Σανατόριο	Sanatorio	Sanatorium
Σιστ	Σιδηροδρομική Στάση-Σταθμός	Sidirodromiki Stasi - Stathmos	Railway Station
Σκάλα	Σκάλα	Skala	Port
Σκόπελοι	Σκόπελοι	Skopeloi	Reefs
Σκόπελος	Σκόπελος	Skopelos	Reef
Στν.	Στενό	Steno	Strait
Τοπν	Τοπωνύμια	Toponymia	Toponyms
Ύφαλοι	Ύφαλοι	Yfaloi	Reefs
Υφ	Ύφαλος	Yfalos	Reef
Φάρς	Φάρος	Faros	Lighthouse
Φρ	Φρούριο	Fourio	Fortress
Φυλκ	Φυλάκιο	Fylakio	Outpost
Φυσ.κ' Πολ. Κλ.	Τοποθεσίες φυσικής ή πολιτιστικής κληρονομιάς	Topothesies fysikis i politistikis klironomias	Places of Natural or Cultural Heritage
Χερσ.	Χερσόνησος	Chersonisos	Peninsula

3. Undersea features

Entries relating to undersea features within areas of Greek national jurisdiction were compiled by HNHS data holdings and data contributions from the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR) and the Hellenic Geological & Mining Research Authority. All presented undersea features names are well documented through marine surveys, the available literature and/or archival data (e.g. charts).

Standardized terms and abbreviations are used to depict in detail the undersea features.

Feature	Romanized	English
Υποθαλάσσια Αβυσσική Πεδιάδα	Ypothalassia Avyssiki Pediada	Undersea Abyssal Plain
Υποθαλάσσια Καλδέρα	Ypothalassia Kaldera	Undersea Caldera
Υποθαλάσσια Κοιλάδα	Ypothalassia Koilada	Undersea Valley
Υποθαλάσσια Λεκάνη	Ypothalassia Lekani	Undersea Basin
Υποθαλάσσια Όρη	Ypothalassia Ori	Undersea Seamounts
Υποθαλάσσιο Όρος	Ypothalassio Oros	Undersea Seamount
Υποθαλάσσια Ράχη	Ypothalassia Rachi	Undersea Ridge
Υποθαλάσσια Τάφρος	Ypothalassia Tafros	Undersea Trough
Υποθαλάσσια Υψώματα	Ypothalassia Ypsomata	Undersea Mounds

Υποθαλάσσιο Ύψωμα	Υpothalassio Ypsoma	Undersea Mound
Υποθαλάσσιο Ύψωμα	Υpothalassio Ypsoma	Undersea Rise
Υποθαλάσσιο Δέλτα	Υpothalassio Delta	Undersea Fan
Υποθαλάσσιο Ηφαίστειο Λάσπης	Υpothalassio Ifaisteio Laspis	Undersea Mud Volcano
Υποθαλάσσιο Πλατώ	Υpothalassio Plato	Undersea Plateau
Υποθαλάσσιο Φαράγγι	Υpothalassio Farangi	Undersea Sea Chanel
Υποθαλάσσιο Φρέαρ	Υpothalassio Frear	Undersea Deep
Υποθαλάσσιοι Ηφαιστειακοί Δόμοι	Υpothalassioi Ifaisteiakoi Domi	Undersea Volcanic Chain
Υποθαλάσσιοι Πάγκοι	Υpothalassioi Pagkoi	Undersea Banks
Υποθαλάσσιος Πάγκος	Υpothalassios Pagkos	Undersea Bank

4. National Gazetteer of Geographical Names of Greece

The resulting National Gazetteer of Geographical Names of Greece is a list containing the geographical names within areas of Greek national jurisdiction (about 90,700 entries - land and undersea features), in Greek and Latin script, together with other information about each name, specifically:

- a) Abbreviation of Category of geographical name in Greek.
- b) Name of geographical name in Greek.
- c) Romanized geographical name.
- d) Name of geographical name in Latin script.
- e) Secondary name (if any, in Greek and Latin script).
- f) Historical name (if available, in Greek and Latin script).
- g) Geographic location of entry in geographic coordinates (the approximate Geographical Longitude and Geographical Latitude).

The Gazetteer will be updated regularly.

5. Participation in the 24th Meeting of the UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms

A Greek expert participated in the 24th Meeting of the UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms (Ljubljana, 31 August-3 September 2022) and actively took part in the consultations concerning the draft decision presented by the Working Group.