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**United Nations Group of Experts on
Geographical Names**
2023 session

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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 Cyprus****Summary****

The report refers to the activities of the Permanent Committee for the Standardization of Geographical Names of the Republic of Cyprus for the period 2021–2022.

The first section of the report includes a brief summary. The second section contains background information on strategic goals and the work of the subcommittees, as well as details regarding the establishment of the Committee, the legislative and structural framework within which it operates and the main principles followed. The third and fourth sections include brief descriptions, respectively, of its main duties, and of its actions and main achievements. Conclusions and recommendations are set out in the fifth section.

The Committee regularly maintains a website (www.geoportal.gov.cy) that provides relevant content, such as on the historical background of the Committee, legislation, reports, maps and developments, as well as several editions of the gazetteer and online tools.

The Committee also regularly maintains a complete gazetteer for all geographical names in Cyprus. All geographical names and toponyms therein are gathered by authorized bodies and are 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 carry out tasks related to the collection, standardization and romanization of the geographical names in Cyprus, according to United Nations specifications and transliteration standard 743

* [GEGN.2/2023/1](#).

** 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.2/2023/5/CRP.5, in the language of submission only, at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/3rd_session_2023/.



of the Hellenic Standardization Organization (ELOT 743), and to promote public awareness.

An edition of the gazetteer, entitled “Gazetteer of sea geographical names of Cyprus” was prepared by the Committee. The gazetteer is available online and is based on a national hydrographical database that is regularly updated. The Permanent Committee also 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 new toponyms and updates thereto 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 is available online.

All geographical names and toponyms are also included in the geoportal (www.geoportal.gov.cy), INSPIRE Geoportal and the national open data portal. Geographical names and other geospatial information are accessible online for searching, viewing, downloading, printing, as well as being directly accessible through a geographic information system. The Committee continues to help citizens gain access to and use this information.

The Committee participates actively in conferences, sessions, working groups of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names. In addition, the Committee has submitted a series of 14 technical papers that are included in bulletins of the Group of Experts. The Committee has also helped to design the cover page of the previous 10 editions of the bulletin.

Cyprus uses a fully functioning and globally aligned structure and policy framework, based on common principles for the national standardization of authorized geographical names, to identify locations, taking into account issues associated with culture and heritage. It is essential to ensure consistency and accuracy in referring to places in the community, and the geographical names are therefore made easily accessible for national and international use, thereby fostering communication and cooperation. The Committee recognizes the great importance of geographical names, which are an indispensable part of cultural heritage and play a significant role in the sustainable development of the country.
