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English

**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 the Republic of Armenia

Summary **

On November 23, 1999, the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia adopted the Law “On Geographical Names”, which establishes the legal basis for renaming, recording, preserving and using geographical names as the most important component of the historical and cultural heritage of the Armenian people.

In pursuance of the aforementioned Law, a specialized Department on Geographical Names has been established within the Cadastre Committee of the Republic of Armenia.

The Government of Armenia is responsible for approving the names of geographical objects in the territory of the Republic of Armenia. There are also advisory bodies that develop proposals for the standardization of geographical names.

In 2000, the Government of the Republic of Armenia established the “Special Commission on Geographical Names”, which operates under the Committee of Cadastre and evaluates proposals regarding the establishment, change and spelling of the names of geographical objects.

Lists of established geographical names are published in the official Government Newsletter (Gazetteers).

As of now, the Department has collected and compiled over 42,000 names of geographical objects on the basis of field and cameral research.

In order to automate the accounting and registration of geographical names, the ArmGeoNames system software was created, with the main task of prompting issuance of information on accounting and registration, the creation and maintenance of a state catalogue, the

* GEGN.2/2023/1

** The full report was prepared by the Republic of Armenia. The report will be available under document symbol GEGN.2/2023/97/CRP.97, in the language of submission only, at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/unegcn/sessions/3rd_session_2023/.

publication of newspapers, general and thematic dictionaries, reference books, as well as providing information to legal entities and individuals.

Using the above-mentioned resource, the Cadastre Committee prepared and published about 30 dictionaries and reference books, which are in high demand. Given the great interest towards these publications, the Committee intends to continue works in this direction, using the most modern digital technologies.

Currently, the specialists in geographic names are involved in the activities of standardizing address components and correcting existing inaccuracies in the relevant databases throughout the territory of the Republic of Armenia.

Special normative rules were adopted for the translation of geographical names of the Republic of Armenia into foreign languages.

§ I. When translating the geographical names of the Republic of Armenia into foreign languages, it is necessary to be guided by the following provisions:

1. Names of settlements and administrative units established by the government bodies of the Republic of Armenia are included in official Government Newsletter (Gazetteers) and reference books.
2. All other geographical names of the Republic of Armenia are translated into foreign languages with their correct Armenian form, as certified by official sources.
3. In the absence of official materials in Armenian, the form adopted by the most authoritative cartographic and literary sources is provided. At the same time, mandatory corrections are requested in accordance with the list of terms and dictionaries of the Armenian language.
4. Foreign geographical names are translated from Armenian writing and pronunciation, but in some parts of Armenia with a predominant non-Armenian population (Russians, Yezidis, Assyrians, etc.), it is allowed to translate the names of geographical objects from the languages of these nationalities, if such translation is confirmed in cartographic and other publications.
5. As an exception from the accepted rules, it is allowed to translate the names of a number of physical and geographical objects in accordance with the accepted traditional spelling, reflected in cartography and literature.

§ II. Various cartographic and literary sources are used to establish the exact spelling of Armenian geographical names.

§ III. The main cartographic sources are large-scale maps of various years of publication.

§ IV. Newspapers, various reference books, dictionaries, medieval manuscripts, can be used as literary sources.

§ V. Armenian geographical names are transferred/transmitted into the literary form of the language when it is written in the modern script of the Armenian language. With a slight deviation, dialect differences in the territory of the Republic of Armenia, as a rule, are not reflected in transcription

ISO 9985:1996 (E) is used in the process of standardization of names of geographical objects in the territory of the Republic of Armenia.