

Statement by the Republic of Türkiye

3rd Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) Agenda Item 4a

(1 May 2023)

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to express my sincere pleasure on behalf of my delegation to represent Türkiye at the 3rd meeting of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names. I congratulate you for organizing successfully this event two years after we met online due to COVID restrictions. In that sense, we also welcome the theme of the meeting giving emphasis to the importance of geographical name standardization for sustainable development and pandemic recovery. I would like to mention in this context also the significance of geographical names for disaster management as well as search and rescue efforts as we have recently experienced during the time of devastating earthquakes in Türkiye. Here I would like to once again convey our sincere gratitude to all countries for the unprecedented campaign in helping Türkiye.

An important development with regard to country names concerns the name of my country. My country has officially registered its country name at the United Nations as “Türkiye” and the “Republic of Türkiye” as full name. I would like to note that the name Türkiye has been widely accepted by the international community and found widespread usage.

Türkiye has worked steadily since the late 1930s to standardize geographical names. The latest administrative arrangements to organize these works have encompassed a wide range of government authorities as well as academia. Country names, their capitals, exonyms and endonyms as well as toponymic information about Türkiye’s geographical features have been recently digitalized and regularly updated.

Today, the standardization of geographic names is still under the responsibility of the Ministry of Interior in order to unify the activities carried out by different national institutions.

Standardized geographic names are publicized when they appear in the publications of the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the use of country names and capitals, on official topographic maps produced by the Directorate General of Mapping, and on nautical charts produced by the Department of Navigation, Hydrography and Oceanography.

In the framework of these efforts, I am pleased to inform that the glossary of terms for the standardization of geographical names have been submitted to the UNGEGN Secretariat and duly published.

Recently we have decided by a Presidential Decree to name certain submarine formations in the surrounding seas which are still unnamed and discussed by the Board of Experts on Geographical Names. This issue will be taken up in the related sessions of the meeting.

In addition, I would like to bring to your kind attention that the country name used for the Island of Cyprus in the documents pertaining to this Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, specifically in the document GEGN.2/2023/5/CRP.5, and the references made in the said document to the territory of the Turkish Republic of Northern

Cyprus, where the Greek Cypriot administration has no authority, jurisdiction or sovereignty, should in no way be construed as implying that a single authority is representing the Island as a whole.

On that account, Türkiye declares that the approval of this and other documents in the meeting neither constitutes recognition of the Greek Cypriot administration nor prejudices Türkiye's rights or obligations emanating from the Treaty of Guarantee, the Treaty of Alliance and the Treaty of Establishment of 1960.

There are two distinct peoples, democracies and states on the Island of Cyprus. The Turkish Cypriot authorities carry out work in the field of standardization of geographical names in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and should be entitled to present their reports in this field with a view to contributing to the work of the UN. It is regrettable that the Turkish Cypriot authorities are not represented in this meeting.