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

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Reports: Divisions of the Group of Experts

**Report of the Eastern Europe, Northern and Central
Asia Division**

Submitted by Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia Division**

Summary:

In 2021–2022, experts from the following countries participated in the work of the Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

The report covers the activities carried out within the framework of the Division, including its meeting in Moscow on 23 June 2022, at which elections were held for the States participating in the work of the Division, resulting in the appointment of the representative of the Russian Federation as Chair of the Division, and of the representative of Belarus as Vice-Chair of the Division.

The report notes the substantial progress in the national standardization of geographical names achieved by the States participating in the work of the Division as members.

The report also describes the successful cooperation between the Division and the Working Group on Geographic Names of the Interstate Council on Geodesy, Cartography, Cadastre and Earth Remote Sensing of the member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

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** Prepared by the Federal Service for State Registration, Cadastre and Cartography (Rosreestr).

The exchange of information and experience in the course of international cooperation has contributed to the progress of countries in the field of national standardization of geographical names.

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.

The meeting participants took note of the information provided by the representative of the Russian Federation on the last session of the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names (hereinafter referred to as the UN Group of Experts), held via videoconference on May 3-7, 2021.

The participants of the meeting exchanged experience in the field of names of geographical objects, including issues of legal regulation, etc.

Based on proposals of the meeting participants, it was decided to assign the representative of the Russian Federation the functions of the Divisional Chair (Diana Ismailova), the representative of the Republic of Belarus the functions of the Divisional Vice-Chair (Irina Borodich), as well as to send relevant contact information of the divisional representatives to the Secretariat of the UN Group of Experts.

The analysis of the work of Division allowed us to draw the following conclusions:

1. In all member countries of the Division, state regulatory legal acts have been adopted that consolidate the legal basis for activities in the field of establishing, normalizing, using and preserving national geographical names.
2. Official national bodies authorized in the field of decision-making on geographical names have been appointed in the member countries of the Division. There are toponymic commissions on geographical names that coordinate the efforts of specialists, interested organizations and authorities in this area.
3. The work on the creation and maintenance of national electronic catalogues, registers and databases on geographical names is progressing significantly. Many of them already meet the needs of government agencies, organizations, companies and citizens for official information about geographical names. The volume and content of such information services are increasing every year.
4. The experience of the Russian Federation in the application of national system of transliteration of the Cyrillic alphabet with Latin letters is applied by the member countries of the Division (Belarus, Kazakhstan).

Additionally, work to compile and publish lists of exonyms is underway in the Russian Federation.

Representatives of member countries of the Division (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan) have been actively cooperating with the Working Group on Geographical Names of the Interstate Council of the CIS Member States for 20 years. The task of the Working Group is to carry out regular exchange of information on official changes in geographical names. The practical result of this cooperation is joint preparation and the annual update of the Electronic Bulletin "Changes in Geographical Names of the CIS Member States". The bulletin contains information about the official changes in the names of geographical objects that took place in

the CIS Member States after 1990. The Bulletin, along with the Russian forms of geographical names, contains their spelling in the national language of the respective country. The Bulletin is available on the official website of Rosreestr (www.rosreestr.gov.ru).

Points for discussion

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

Comment and provide input on similar work being carried out in other divisions.