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English

**United Nations Group of Experts on
Geographical Names
2025 session**

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Item 4 (b) 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 Russian Federation

Submitted by the Russian Federation**

Summary:

The report covers the main directions of national standardization of geographical names, including the status of the normative and methodological framework for identifying, standardizing, using, registering and recording geographical names as an integral elements of the historical and cultural heritage of the peoples of the Russian Federation.

The report also covers the populating of the national database of geographical names – the State Catalogue of Geographical Names.

In addition, the report contains a list of international events relating to geographical names in which experts from the Russian Federation participated in the period 2023-2025.

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Legal regulation for naming of geographical objects of the Russian Federation

The legislation of the Russian Federation for naming of geographical objects is based on the Constitution of the Russian Federation and consists of the Federal Law of 18.12.1997 No. 152-FZ

"On Names of Geographical Objects", as well as federal laws and regulatory legal acts of the Russian Federation adopted in accordance with it.

The scope of the Federal Law of 18.12.1997 No. 152-FZ "On Names of Geographical Objects" extends to activities in the field of establishment, normalization, use, registration, accounting and preservation of names of geographical objects of the Russian Federation, geographical objects of the continental shelf and the exclusive economic zone of the Russian Federation, as well as geographical objects discovered or identified by Russian researchers within the open sea and Antarctica.

The Federal Law of 18.12.1997 No. 152-FZ "On Names of Geographical Objects" establishes the legal basis for activities in the field of naming geographical objects and renaming geographical objects, as well as normalization, use, registration, accounting and preservation of names of geographical objects as an integral part of the historical and cultural heritage of the peoples of the Russian Federation.

In accordance with the Federal Law of 18.12.1997 No. 152-FZ "On Names of Geographical Objects" a number of regulatory legal acts have been adopted in the Russian Federation, of which the following can be highlighted:

1. Decree of the President of the Russian Federation of 28.11.2018 No. 681 "On the Assignment of the Names of Persons with Outstanding Merit to the Motherland to Certain Geographical Objects".

2. Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation of 15.11.2012 No. 1167 "On the Procedure to Coordinate Proposals on Naming of Some Geographical Objects or on Renaming of Some Geographical Objects".

3. Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation of 19.11.2014 No. 1221 "On Approval of the Rules for Assignment, Alteration and Cancellation of Addresses".

4. Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation of 22.05.2015 No. 492 "On the Scope of Addresses Information Included to the State Address Register, Procedure for Inter-departmental Information Cooperation to Maintain the State Address Register, on the Procedure for Alternation and Annulment of Some Acts of the Government of the Russian Federation".

5. Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation of 07.03.2019 No. 245 "On the Approval of Rules of Consideration of Proposals on Assignment to Some Geographical Objects of Names of the Persons Having Special Merit to the Motherland and Use of These Names".

6. Order of Rosreestr of 03.12.2021 No. P/0570 "On Approval of the Procedure for the Examination of Proposals for Naming Geographical Objects and Renaming Geographical Objects, as well as the Issuance of Opinions on these Proposals".

7. Order of Rosreestr of 22.06.2022 No. P/0241 "On Approval of the Procedure for Registration and Accounting of Names of Geographical Objects, the Publication of Dictionaries and Reference Books of Names of Geographical Objects, as well as Works on the Creation of the State Catalogue of Geographical Names and its Maintenance".

8. Order of Rosreestr of 22.06.2022 No. P/0242 "On Approval of the Procedure for Identifying Existing Names of Geographical Objects".

Authorized federal executive body in the field of names of geographical objects

The Federal Service for State Registration, Cadastre and Cartography (Rosreestr) is an authorized federal executive body in the field of names of geographical objects in the Russian Federation.

In the field of names of geographical objects, Rosreestr performs following functions:

development of state policy and legal regulation in the field of names of geographical objects;

creation and maintenance of the State Catalogue of Geographical Names;

normalization of names of geographic objects in Russian language;

expert examination of proposals on assigning names to geographical objects and on renaming geographical objects, issuing expert opinions on such proposals;

approval of contents of dictionaries and reference books of names of geographical objects within its remit prior to publication, which are prepared and published by federal executive authorities and public authorities of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation.

As part of the expert examination, Rosreestr is working in coordination with the relevant interested federal executive bodies on proposals on the assignment of names to railway stations, seaports and river ports, airports, geographical objects of the territorial sea, continental shelf and exclusive economic zone of the Russian Federation, geographical objects, discovered or identified by Russian researchers within the high seas and Antarctica, or on the renaming of such geographic objects.

When creating and maintaining the State Catalogue of Geographical Names, work is being carried out to register and record the names of geographical objects of the Russian Federation, the continental shelf and the exclusive economic zone of the Russian Federation and geographical objects discovered or identified by Russian researchers within the high seas and Antarctica, as well as identifying existing names of geographical objects.

In 2023-2024, the Government of the Russian Federation adopted 49 regulations to assign 50 names to geographical objects and rename 35 geographical objects on the basis of the expertise of Rosreestr.

The names of heroes – participants of the Great Patriotic War (Alexei Botyan Mountain, Marshal Vasilevsky Island, Vilkov and Ilyichev bays, Beloborodov and Shkadov banks), honored figures of science and culture (academicians Vladimir Fortov and Anatoly Kalyaev, poets Alim Keshokov, Kaisyn Kuliev and Mustafa Karimov) with services to the state, including names of persons who made a significant contribution to the study and research of geographical objects (Arsenyev Cape) are immortalized in the names of geographical objects.

With due consideration of the interests of the citizens of the Russian Federation, the names were given to settlements in the following constituent entities of the Russian Federation - the Republic of Tyva, the Chechen Republic, the Perm Territory, the Arkhangelsk, Vologda, Lipetsk, Tver, Novgorod regions and many others.

Events dedicated to the 80th anniversary of Victory in the Great Patriotic War

By Decree of the President of the Russian Federation of 16.12.2025 No. 28 "On Holding the Year of Defender of the Fatherland in the Russian Federation", in order to preserve historical memory, commemorate the 80th anniversary of Victory in the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945, in gratitude to veterans and recognizing the feat of participants in a special military operation, 2025 was declared the Year of Defender of the Fatherland.

Rosreestr is organizing the publication of the booklet "Names of Heroes on the Map of Russia" for the 80th anniversary of Victory in the Great Patriotic War.

The booklet contains information about geographical objects that have been named after the heroes of the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945 by the Government of the Russian Federation over the past five years, as well as heroes of modern realities. The booklet describes the military exploits of the heroes who were awarded the highest state awards.

This edition is a continuation of the previously published booklet dedicated to the 75th anniversary of Victory in the Great Patriotic War.

The publication of the booklet is not only a link between times and a tribute to the valor and courage of the Soviet people, but also a reminder to future generations of the heroic pages of our country's history.

With the participation of Rosreestr, over the period 2020-2025, more than 30 resolutions of the Government of the Russian Federation were adopted to assign the names of heroes to unnamed geographical objects located on the territory of Russia.

One of the most striking examples of service for the benefit of the Fatherland is the perpetuation of the memory of the participants of the Great Patriotic War:

Soviet intelligence officer Alexei Botyan, Hero of the Russian Federation, General of the Army

Josef Gusakovskiy, General of the Army Afanasy Beloborodov, General of the Army Ivan Shkadov, participant in the heroic defense of Leningrad, Academician of the Russian Academy of Sciences Anatoly Kalyaev, Major General of aviation, participant in the rescue of the crew of the steamer "Chelyuskin" Mikhail Vodopyanov, outstanding commander, Marshal of the Soviet Union Alexander Vasilevsky, who made a significant contribution to the organization of the defense of Moscow, Odessa, Donbass, and Crimea from the fascist invaders.

Information support in the field of names of geographical objects

Creation and maintenance of the State Catalogue of Geographical Names, registration and accounting of geographical objects of the continental shelf and the exclusive economic zone of the Russian Federation, geographical objects discovered or identified by Russian researchers within the high seas and Antarctica are carried out in the Russian Federation on a regular basis.

The State Catalogue of Geographical Names is based on an information search system that provides a database about objects and their names, its storage, processing and the issuance of information registered in it at the request of interested parties free of charge.

Currently, the State Catalogue of Geographical Names includes information on more than 800 thousand geographical objects, including information on names of geographical objects of the continental shelf and the exclusive economic zone of the Russian Federation, as well as the names of geographical objects discovered or identified by Russian researchers within the high seas and Antarctica.

Since 2022, the maintenance of the State Catalogue of Geographical Names is carried out by the Public Law Company "Roskadastr".

A set of open data "State Catalogue of Geographical Names" is published on the official website of Rosreestr pursuant to the Federal Law of the Russian Federation of 09.02.2009 No. 8-FZ "On Ensuring Access to Information on the Activities of State Bodies and Local Self-Government Bodies" and the Concept of openness of the federal executive authorities.

National system of romanization of geographical objects names

The system of transliteration of the Cyrillic alphabet with Latin letters GOST-83, adopted at the Fifth UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (Montreal, 1987), is used in cartographic publications in national languages:

<https://rosreestr.gov.ru/site/activity/geodeziya-i-kartografiya/naimenovaniya-geograficheskikh-obektov/zakonodatelstvo-rf-o-naimenovaniyakh-geograficheskikh-obektov/>.

This system is also used in the second section of the State Catalogue of Geographical Names to register information about the names and types of geographical objects of the continental shelf and the exclusive economic zone of the Russian Federation, as well as geographical objects discovered or identified by Russian scientists within the high seas and Antarctica.

Participation of the Russian Federation in international events in the field of geographical objects names

Rosreestr represents the interests of the Russian Federation on geographical names at various international platforms.

Representative of Rosreestr chairs the Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia Division (hereinafter – the Division).

Moreover, Rosreestr, within its powers, represents the Russian Federation at the Interstate Council for Geodesy, Cartography, Cadastre and Remote Sensing of the Earth of the CIS Member States (hereinafter – the Interstate Council), in which it also heads the Working Group on Geographical Names (hereinafter – the Working Group).

In order to optimize the interaction between the members of the Division and the Working Group, their meetings are traditionally organized simultaneously.

During the period 2023-2025, 2 joint meetings of the Division and the Working Group were held:

on October 4, 2023 in Vitebsk, Republic of Belarus;

on October 8-11, 2024 in Almaty, Republic of Kazakhstan.

The participants of the meetings exchanged information on the state of the regulatory, methodological and organizational framework for the national standardization of geographical names in their countries.

The members of the Division supported the initiative of the Russian Federation to organize events in 2025 dedicated to popularizing the names of geographical objects named in honour of the heroes of the Great Patriotic War.

The Working Group maintains the Electronic Bulletin "Changes in Geographical Names of the CIS Member States" which contains information on official changes in the names of geographical objects of the CIS Member States since 1991.

In order to study the issue of creating and maintaining a Unified database of geographical names of the CIS Member States, the members of the Working Group and the Division formed a list of objects for the database of names of geographical objects of these states.

Points for discussion

The Group of Experts is invited to:

- (1) Take note of the report and the progress made by the Russian Federation;
- (2) Express its views on the report of the Russian Federation and discuss the issues raised in the report.