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

**2025 session**

New York, 28 April – 2 May 2025

Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda \*

**Reports: Divisions of the Group of Experts**

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

Submitted by the Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia Division

**Summary\*\***

In 2023-2024, 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, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan.

The report covers activities carried out within the framework of the Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia Division of the Group of Experts.

The report also covers the cooperation between the Division and the Working Group on Geographical Names of the Interstate Council for Geodesy, Cartography, Cadastre and Earth Remote Sensing of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), including in the maintenance and annual updating of the electronic bulletin entitled “Changes in the geographical names of CIS member States” and the unified database of geographical names of CIS Member States.

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During the period 2023-2025, members of the Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names paid great attention to international cooperation in the field of geographical names.

The exchange of information and experience in the course of international cooperation has facilitated the countries' development in the field of national standardization of geographical names.

On 4 October 2023, meetings of 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 – the Working Group, the Interstate Council) and the Division of Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (hereinafter – the Division) were held in Vitebsk, Republic of Belarus.

The meetings were attended by experts from the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The meetings participants discussed national regulatory frameworks and mechanisms for the standardization of geographical names, as well as exchanged information on the current state, the most significant results and prospects of work in the field of geographical names in the Member States of the Division.

The participants of the meetings exchanged information on the use of names of geographical objects of the CIS member states when creating cartographic works in national languages.

The participants noted the importance of data exchange in the field of naming geographical objects and suggested popularizing the Division's activities in national mass media, including the Internet.

In order to commemorate historical memory and the 80th anniversary of Victory in the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945, a proposal was approved to preserve and popularize the names and exploits of the heroes of the Great Patriotic War.

In addition, the Working Group maintains the Electronic Bulletin "Changes in Geographical Names of the CIS Member States" (hereinafter – the Bulletin), which contains information on official changes in the names of geographical objects of the CIS Member States.

In the period from 8 to 11 October 2024, meetings of the Interstate Council and the Division were held in Almaty of the Republic of Kazakhstan and were attended by representatives of Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

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

The participants of the meetings discussed a joint project promoting national, cultural and historical components in the names of geographical objects. Several topics of the joint project were proposed for discussion by the participants.

Russia and Belarus presented their proposals on the topic "Geographical names – creativity of the people, witnesses of historical events and linguistic antiquity".

The meetings of the Interstate Council and the Division, held in the format of video conferencing in the period 2023-2024 were also actively attended.

The analysis of the work of the 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 the 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.
5. 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 is published on the official website of Rosreestr ([www.rosreestr.gov.ru](http://www.rosreestr.gov.ru)).

### **Points for discussion**

The Group of Experts is invited to:

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