
**UNITED NATIONS GROUP OF EXPERTS
ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES**

Asia South-West Division (other than Arabic)

**9th Regional Meeting for the Standardization
of Geographical Names**

Tehran-Islamic Republic of Iran

28 February and 1 March 2011

Paper submitted by the Republic of Cyprus

United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

Ninth United Nations Regional Meeting on the Standardization of Geographical Names for Asia South-West Division (other than Arabic)

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1. Introduction:

The United Nations to facilitate all the users of geographical names, with the decision of the Economic and Social Council in April 1961, undertook international efforts for the standardization of geographical names. The Cyprus Republic complying to these efforts and to the relative resolutions, participates actively to all Conferences, Sessions and Divisions' meetings, to which Cyprus is a member, trying always to fulfill its obligations on the subject.

2. Administrative structure of the Cyprus Permanent Committee for the Standardization of Geographical Names (C.P.C.S.G.N.)

The C.P.C.S.G.N. was officially established by decision of the Council of Ministers and constitutes the only competent National Authority for the Standardization of Geographical Names. According to the law and the proceedings the Committee acts under the auspices of the Ministry of Education and Culture. The Minister appoints the members of the Committee every five years. In 2009 the most members of the Committee were reappointed and is consisted of ten members. Parallel to the C.P.C.S.G.N. an Advisory Committee exists which was reappointed and is consisted of five experts all academics.

3. National Standardization

The C.P.C.S.G.N. continues the task for the collection standardization and Romanization of the Greek alphabet according to ELOT 743, of the Cyprus geographical names. Almost all the toponyms were gathered on field by appropriate and authorized bodies during the mapping of Cyprus in 1878 and later periods. The methodology and the procedure of collecting and recording the toponyms and microtoponyms of Cyprus and the office treatment are described in detail and distributed to all the participants during the 8th Regional Meeting of this Division in 2008.

4. Activities of the C.P.C.S.G.N. since the last Regional Asia South-West Division Meeting in 2008

4.1 Publications:

A Booklet/Guide for the Standardization of Names has been compiled and published in December 2007. This Guide which includes a large number of items to cover all the sectors involved with naming and geographical names and is suitable specially for local use and needs, was distributed during the second six months of 2008, free of charge to

the Universities, Secondary Schools, Government and Semi-government Offices, Cultural Centres, individuals interested on the topic etc.

4.2 *UNGEEN Promotional Brochure*

The UNGEEN Promotional Brochure, translated in the Greek language and after some corrections it has been published as 2nd Edition in 2009. This was distributed also to all the above sectors.

4.3 *Toponymic Guidelines for Map and Other Editors*

The Toponymic guidelines presented in draft form during the 22nd UNGEEN Session have already been revised and amended accordingly. It is anticipated to be published within this year, 2011.

4.4 *Country Names and Capitals*

The list of country names and capitals although it was revised and updated long ago, unfortunately it has not been published. Now, after small corrections it will be published within the first six months of 2011.

4.5 *National Gazetteer.*

The existing national gazetteers prepared by the C.P.C.S.G.N. in 1982 and 1987 respectively are:

- (i) The “*Concise Gazetteer of Cyprus*” (about 2000 entries)
- (ii) The “*A Complete Gazetteer of Cyprus*” (about 67000 entries)

Both need to be updated in the very near future.

4.6 *Odonyms (street names)*

During the last two years more than 2000 odonyms have been treated, offering services to Government, Municipal and Communal Authorities for the standardization and transcription from the Greek Alphabet to the Roman script according to ELOT 743.

4.7 *Toponymic Education*

A small team of experts on the Standardization of Geographical Names, members of the C.P.C.S.G.N. has already been established and organizes on request courses and professional training seminars for personnel involved with the treatment of geographical names.

5. Implementation of Resolutions

For the successful aims and functions of the U.N. for the Standardization of Geographical names for the benefit of understanding and the unification of the geographical names, for all the people all over the world, we the countries members, through our National Committees is to comply and implement the U.N. and UNGEEN Conferences resolutions for the Standardization of Geographical Names.

6. Safeguarding of the geographical Names

Cyprus, gives not only a great meaning and importance on the implementation of the U.N. Conferences resolutions on the Standardization of Geographical names, but and as part of the cultural heritage. For this last issue please allow me to present to you a separate report.

7. Hosting Country

To the hosting country the Islamic Republic of Iran, the National Cartographic Center and to the Iranian National Committee on the Standardization of Geographical Names, we express out faithful thanks and to the organizing committee of this meeting our congratulations for the perfect organization.

Thank you