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Reports by Governments on the situation in their countries and on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names since the Eighth Conference

Information concerning work in the field of standardization of geographical names in Belarus

Submitted by Belarus**

Summary***

Belarusian geographical names have been formed over centuries in close connection with the life and cultural activities of allied and unrelated tribes and the people who inhabited our land. Overall, they make up the national toponymy of Belarus.

Toponyms reflect the singular nature of a national language and the typical features of national culture, facts and events connected with the history of a country's people and are pertinent to historical and cultural memorials. For that reason, they deserve as much attention as other creations of the human spirit and body.

Being such an essential element of the contents of cartographic production and a vital part of national cultural heritage, toponymy must be constantly and reliably protected and controlled by State law, which must also take into account the opinion of scientific establishments competent in linguistic issues.

* E/CONF.98/1.

** Prepared by the State Committee of Property of the Republic of Belarus.

*** The full text of the report is being issued in English only as document E/CONF.98/119/Add.1.

