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**Ninth United Nations Conference on the
Standardization of Geographical Names**

New York, 21-30 August 2007

Item 9 (c) of the provisional agenda*

National standardization: treatment of names in multilingual areas**Renaming of Johannesburg International Airport as
O. R. Tambo International Airport****Submitted by South Africa****

On 2 October 2003, the Executive Mayor of Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality, Councillor M. D. Nkosi, had presented to the Council a proposal to the national Government that Johannesburg International Airport be renamed O. R. Tambo International Airport. Thereafter, consultations were held with relevant ministries to inform them of the Council's proposal in this regard.

On 22 November 2005, the Department of Transport called for comments on the proposed name change in all major South African newspapers, with 9 December 2005 as the closing date. Comments were received from a broad range of sectors and the public, including from within the Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality.

The comments were forwarded to the Department of Arts and Culture for processing through the South African Geographical Names Council, a body established through the South African Geographical Names Council Act of 1998, with responsibility for advising the Minister of Arts and Culture on matters related to the standardization of geographical names in South Africa. The Council used its own criteria and took into account various submissions and proposals, and made recommendations to the Minister of Arts and Culture for his consideration.

On 30 June 2006, the Minister of Arts and Culture published the proposed name change in the Government Gazette for the purpose of eliciting comments and objections from the public. The closing date for comments and objections was 30 July 2006.

On 27 October 2006, an event was held at the Airport to mark the official unveiling of a new name.

* E/CONF.98/1.

** Prepared by South Africa.

