ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

30 July 2012

Tenth United Nations Conference on the
Standardization of Geographical Names
New York, 31 July – 9 August 2012
Item 8 (e) of the provisional agenda*
National standardization:
Toponymic guidelines for map editors and other editors

Toponymic Guidelines for map and other editors, for international use – some general remarks by the Coordinator

Submitted by the Coordinator of Toponymic Guidelines for Map and
Other Editors for International Use**

Background

The aim of UNGEGN Toponymic Guidelines is to gather and disseminate toponymic information on a specific country, especially from the perspective of standardization of geographical names. They include information about official, national and minority languages, names authorities, source material for toponyms, glossaries, abbreviations used on official maps and administrative division. For a full version of the current content template see Working Paper No. 86 of the Twenty-sixth UNGEGN Session, Vienna, 2–6 May 2011 (http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/ungegn/docs/26th-gegn-docs/WP/WP86_Toponymic%20Guidelines%20-%20Content%20Template.doc.pdf)

Status

For the time being over 40 countries have issued Toponymic Guidelines or at least drafts of such Guidelines, a number of countries having also developed several updates and editions. Guidelines that were published or updated in recent years are accessible via the UNGEGN website (http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/ungegn/toponymic.html). Some guidelines have an International Standard Book Number (ISBN). A recently created Wikipedia entry (currently in English and German) also informs about the guidelines (see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UNGEGN_Toponymic_Guidelines and http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/UNGEGN_Toponymic_Guidelines)

Invitation

Countries that have not published Toponymic Guidelines yet are invited and encouraged to do so. The elaboration of the whole set of contents as listed in the above mentioned content template may take a certain effort, as input from experts of several fields is required. This should not be an obstacle though for the publication of Toponymic Guidelines, as also draft versions are welcome. In this case the missing parts can be inserted later. For any questions related to this topic the Coordinator for Toponymic Guidelines and author of this paper can be contacted at any time (hubert.bergmann@oeaw.ac.at). Any suggestions concerning new ideas for the content or for the dissemination of Toponymic Guidelines are welcome.