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National standardization: office treatment of names

Draft resolution on heritage criteria

Submitted by Canada**

Summary***

The document “Proposed criteria for establishing and evaluating the cultural heritage of place names” was submitted at the twenty-sixth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names. It states the importance of protecting names that are an integral part of intangible cultural heritage.

The document also presents a list of criteria that could be used to determine the heritage value of a place name. As previously discussed, Canada is currently proposing a draft resolution to that effect. The adoption of a resolution containing these criteria would prevent inappropriate changes to geographical names, while better equipping advocates of intangible cultural heritage.

The draft resolution focuses on the following characteristics which could be used as criteria for defining heritage toponyms: age, resilience, scarcity, testimoniality, attractiveness and imageability of place names.

* E/CONF.101/1.

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*** The full report is available in the languages of submission only from <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/ungegnConf10.html>.

