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Tenth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names

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Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

Reports by Governments on the situation in their countries and on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names since the Ninth Conference (for distribution only)

Report of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Summary**

There is no national names authority in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, although both Scotland and Wales have place name authorities. The geographical names as portrayed on hard-copy and digital products of the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain are recognized as being the authoritative set of geographical names. Land and Property Services performs a similar function in Northern Ireland. The present paper outlines the function of the Ordnance Survey as the national mapping agency and its role with regard to toponymy, highlighting developments since the Ninth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names. It contains information on database management initiatives, geographical names products and research projects, including various methods of collecting vernacular names.

Geographical names for places and features outside of the United Kingdom are the responsibility of the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names, whose objectives are described in the report. The Committee gathers information on names standardized by national authorities to inform the Government of the United Kingdom of appropriate names to be used on its products.

* E/CONF.101/1.

** The full report was prepared by the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names and the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain and is available in the language of submission only from <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/ungegnConf10.html>.

