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National standardization: administrative structure of national names authorities, legislation, policies and procedures

Changes in the legislative acts of Latvia (regarding the standardization of geographical names)

Summary**

The following changes have been made in the legislation of Latvia regarding the standardization of geographical names since 2007:

(a) The Law on Administrative Territories and Populated Areas, prescribing the procedures and conditions for creation, modification and naming of administrative and territorial divisional units and populated places, including a list of the new administrative and territorial division of Latvia, was adopted in December 2008; the new administrative and territorial division was implemented in 2009; and new Regulations on the Address System pursuant to this Law were adopted in late 2009;

(b) The Geospatial Information Law, stating the conditions for the preparation, use, exchange and maintenance of geospatial information and determining the purpose and status of the Geographical Names Database, was adopted in late 2009;

(c) The Regulations on Geographical Names Information, pursuant to the Geospatial Information Law and the State Language Law, were adopted in 2012. The Regulations comprise almost all rules relating to the standardization of geographical names, which until now had been scattered among a wide range of laws and other regulations. For the first time in Latvia, the Regulations prescribe the principles and measures for the conservation and protection of culturally and historically valuable geographical names (including culturally and historically significant Latvian exonyms).

* E/CONF.101/1.

** The full report was prepared by Vita Strautniece (Latvian Geospatial Information Agency), and is available in the language of submission only from <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/ungegnConf.10.html>.

