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

National report — Cameroon

Summary**

The national report of Cameroon was prepared for presentation at the Eleventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, to be held in New York from 8 to 17 August 2017. It focuses on the situation in Cameroon in respect of geographical names and the main achievements that have been attained since the Tenth Conference.

Although Cameroon was among the first countries in Africa to create a national body on geographical names, the structure was never a functioning one. Such a situation has deeply affected the country's capacity to handle questions related to geographical names correctly and has resulted in difficulties in terms of settling on an in-depth process for the naming of places, given the multiplicity of actors operating in the field of geographical names without engaging in true cooperation, the diverse dimensions of the place-naming process and the absence of work, strictly speaking, on the standardization of geographical names.

Nevertheless, with the ongoing sensitization and initiatives emerging from diverse sources, Cameroon, similarly to Burkina Faso and Tunisia, will very soon be reviving its national commission on geographical names.

* E/CONF.105/1.

** The full report, which was prepared by Michel Simeu Kamdem (Cameroon), Chair, Africa Central Division, is available from <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEgn/ungegnConf11.html>, in the languages of submission only, as document E/CONF.105/9/CRP.9.

