

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

**29 July 2012**

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**Tenth United Nations Conference on the  
Standardization of Geographical Names**

New York, 31 July – 9 August 2012

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 Greece**

Submitted by Greece \*\*

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\* E/CONF.101/1.

\*\* Prepared by Alexandros Stavropoulos

**REPORT OF GREECE ON DEVELOPMENTS IN THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES (2007-2012) ON THE OCCASION OF THE 10TH UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES**

**A) NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES**

The most important development in the field of standardization of geographical names in Greece since the 9th Conference has been the reestablishment and restructuring of the National Committee on Geographical Names.

The National Committee had been originally established in 2007 by virtue of Law 3613/2007. However, at a later stage it was decided that its original composition would have to be amended, taking particularly into account the essentially expert nature of the Committee's work.

Consequently, the former law was recently amended by virtue of article 19 of Law 4071/2012. The new provision stipulates the (re)establishment of the National Committee on Geographical Names. Its members include representatives of the Ministry of National Defence (Hellenic Army Geographical Service and Hellenic Navy Hydrographic Service), the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Committee may also invite in its sessions any expert or other person that it deems necessary to its work. The main tasks of the Committee include the collection, elaboration, study and standardization of geographical names, in accordance with the relevant principles set by the resolutions of the United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names.

It is expected that the Committee will be fully operational in the second semester of 2012, so as to be able to commence its important work.

**B) WORK ON GEOGRAPHICAL GAZETTEER OF GREECE AS WELL AS ON NATIONAL LISTS ON EXONYMS AND ON COUNTRY NAMES**

During the period between the 9th and the 10th Conference, the competent Greek authorities (Hellenic Army Geographical Service and Hellenic Navy Hydrographic Service) have continued their work on the elaboration of a Geographical Gazetteer of Greece (scale 1/50.000) as well as National Lists on Exonyms and on Country Names. It is expected that these gazetteers/lists will be ready for submission and presentation to the 28th Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.

**C) PARTICIPATION OF GREEK EXPERTS IN EVENTS RELATED TO THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES**

Greek experts have actively participated in many events related to the standardization of geographical names, thus reflecting Greece's interest in this important matter.

Some examples include the participation of Greek experts in the 25th (Nairobi, 2009) as well as the 26th (Vienna, 2011) Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, the meeting of the Romanohellenic Division (Vienna, 2011), the meetings of the East Central and South East Europe Division (Zagreb, 2008 and 2011) as well as the meetings of many important Working Groups of the UN Group of Experts, such as the Working Group on Exonyms (Nairobi, 2009, Vienna, 2011, Gdansk, 2012), the Working Group on Country Names (Nairobi, 2009, Vienna, 2011) and the

Working Group on the Promotion of the Recording and Use of Indigenous, Minority and Regional Language Group Geographical Names.