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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 Ninth Conference (for distribution only)

The problem of toponyms in Senegal: plea for concerted action to standardize geographical names

Summary**

The spelling of geographical names poses a serious problem in Senegal due, primarily, to the fact that French is used for writing toponyms but also to multilinguistic and cultural aspects. Moreover, since 2000, there have been far-reaching changes in the country's administrative organization; this has led to the emergence of several places having the same name, some of which are not in the same geographical location while others are. This issue must be dealt with by drawing up an inventory of toponyms and by pointing out some of the regulatory measures that have been taken, though these remain somewhat sporadic.

Given that issues concerning toponyms pose a serious problem it is important, now, to propose some strategies, based on the recommendations and resolutions of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, which could constitute a road map for this process.

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