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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)

National report of New Zealand

Summary**

The report is submitted pursuant to resolution V/7 of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names. Set out using standardized headings, it covers progress made since the Ninth Conference, in 2007.

Since November 2008, the national naming authority of New Zealand, the New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa, has undergone significant changes to manage its extended naming jurisdiction and increased functions, duties and processes acquired through the introduction of the New Zealand Geographic Board (Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa) Act 2008, which replaced the New Zealand Geographic Board Act 1946. The Board's two fundamental roles (location identification and preservation of heritage and culture) are reinforced by the new legislation and remain at the core of the Board's operational activities and of its robust and enduring decision-making.

The general work and history of the Board is provided in the report, as are statistics on processing. In addition, a recent name proposal by New Zealand that attracted significant public attention is included to explain the rationale for, and the community, cultural and political implications of, the decisions taken. Another area of significant interest is the process for restoring indigenous name proposals under the Treaty of Waitangi through settlements outside the New Zealand Geographic Board (Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa) Act. These settlements are implemented as a Government priority, with separate legislation, and bring about significant cultural benefit and acknowledgement. The report also provides information on an initiative

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** The full report was prepared by Wendy Shaw, Secretary of the New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa, and is available in the language of submission only from <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/ungegnConf10.html>.



to work towards making a national set of suburb and locality names (and their extents) official, in cooperation with territorial authorities, with a view to enabling integrated, standardized and consistent addressing that will provide cohesion and certainty and eliminate ambiguity for emergency services, postal services and Government administration.
