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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).**

Report of Brazil

Submitted by Brazil **

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This report aims at presenting the actions taken in Brazil as part of the continued efforts towards the standardization of its set of geographic names, since the 9th UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographic Names.

Creation of the Reference Center on Geographic Names

In 2007, the Coordination of Cartography of the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics – IBGE created the Reference Center on Geographic Names (CRNG), which aims at standardizing the geographic names in the cartographic products derived from the official mapping of the country carried out by this institution, as well as providing the Brazilian society with the Geographic Names Database of Brazil (BNGB), which makes possible the retrieval of the geocartographic information on these names and the restoration of their historical and socio-cultural value. The CRNG reinforces the participation of Brazil in the UNGEGN.

The Concise Portuguese version of the Glossary of Terminology for the Standardization of Geographic Names

The Concise Portuguese version of the Glossary of Terminology for the Standardization of Geographic Names, by Dr. Ana Maria Goulart Bustamante from the IBGE, under supervision of Prof. Dr. Maria Vicentina de Paula do Amaral Dick from the University of São Paulo was launched in Brazil in 2009. The Glossary is available at the website Geographic Names of Brazil, under “*Leitura Complementar*”.

Websites of the Portuguese Speaking Division (DPLP) and Geographic Names of Brazil

The websites of the Portuguese Speaking Division and Geographic Names of Brazil were both created in 2008. The first aims at publicizing the work of the DPLP, and the latter, besides publicizing the work of the Reference Center on Geographic Names (CRNG), has an informational role. It aims at reaching the society as a whole, with texts which explain the concept of geographic names and their importance for the society as well as the advantages which come from their standardization, and thus helping raise the awareness of the Brazilian population on the theme.

The websites are available, respectively at

www.dplpng.ibge.gov.br and www.ngb.ibge.gov.br

Contribution to the UNGEGN World Geographical Names Database

In 2009 Brazil sent the UNGEGN a list of its major cities – with over 100,000 inhabitants, as well as a sound file with the pronunciation of their names. In 2011, after the 2010 Census, a new updated list was sent, together with its corresponding sound files.

Glossary of Generic Terminology and Gazetteer of Geographic Names of 1:1.000.000 Scale

The Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) launched the **Glossary of the generic terminology used in the Brazilian official mapping system in the 1:1,000,000 scale**, whose digital version is available at:

<http://www.ibge.gov.br/home/geociencias/cartografia/BCIM.shtm>

The 140 entries in the glossary correspond to the generic terms used in the CIM Chart and are presented in alphabetical order. The Glossary contributes to the conceptualization of the generic terminology used in the official mapping of Brazil drawing from studies carried out by the IBGE researchers in the field of Geoscience. Regional variations of terminology for the same elements are dealt with, especially concerning watercourses, which receive different denominations according to the Brazilian region where they are located.

The Glossary was organized by Dr. Cláudio João Barreto dos Santos from the Reference Center on Geographic Names of the Coordination of Cartography of IBGE.

Dr. Cláudio João is currently preparing the Glossary of the generic terminology used in the Brazilian official mapping system in the 1:250,000

The Gazetteer of geographical names of the CIM Chart also was launched in January 2012 and is available at

ftp://geoftp.ibge.gov.br/documentos/cartografia/indice_nomes_geograficos.pdf

The Geographic Names Database of Brazil (BNGB)

The first version of The **Geographic Names Database of Brazil (BNGB)** has been available since September 23, 2011 at www.bngb.ibge.gov.br.

The BNGB is a product of the Reference Center on Geographic Names of the Coordination of Cartography of the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE), and was developed by a multidisciplinary team of professionals from the Coordination of Cartography (CCAR) and the Directorate of Informatics of this institute.

The 55,000 names in the database were drawn from the *Malha Municipal 2005* (Municipal Boundaries Dataset), from the *Base Cartográfica Contínua do Brasil, ao Milionésimo* (BCIM) – version 2.1 (Continuous Cartographic Base of Brazil, millionth), and from the *Palmeira* sheet of chart (MI 2844). The first two being products by the IBGE, and the latter developed in a covenant of this institute with the government of the State of Paraná.

The database was developed with free and open source software (FOSS), according to the Brazilian policies of encouragement regarding the use of these tools, and it presents both geocartographic and historic-geocartographic aspects of the names contained in it. The geocartographic aspect deals with the following information about the geographic name: code, official and variant geographic names, classification of the cartographic element it names according to its category of information, its geographic coordinates, the scale in which it is represented in the national mapping system, and the cartographic products by IBGE in which the particular name appears.

It is possible to search for a name within a specific area by entering the coordinates of its maximum and minimum points. It is also possible to search for all the names within a given category of information, which are:

- General Economic Activities: geographic names of geographic features in which activities of public service, economic, cultural or commercial nature are practiced, such as dams, farms, plants, among others.
- Hydrography: geographic names of running or still water, as well as natural or man-made features contained in this environment, on or under its surface, such as rivers, waterfalls, islands, archipelagos, sandbanks, and others.
- Hypsography: geographic names of land and underwater surfaces regarding elevations, such as mountains, beaches, peaks, etc.
- Boundaries: names of imaginary or real lines, set by legal acts, which establish territorial borders and areas of special interest, such as parks, reservations, forests, and others. At the moment, the BNGB solely contains the names of areas of special interest.
- Localities: names of geographic areas including cities, towns, villages, etc. The classification of the localities follow the criteria established by the IBGE. The generic term of the geographic names of most elements in this category is implicit. Ex. City of Rio de Janeiro > Rio de Janeiro.
- Transportation System: names of features destined to the transport and traffic of cargo and passengers, such as airports, railway stations, roads, among others.

The historic-geocartographic aspect deals with historical data on the geographic names, which may contribute with relevant information to economic and academic research, and to provide the Committee on Geographic Names (CNGEO) with useful information for the standardization of geographic names.

This aspect of the BNGB will enable the user to retrieve the history of the geographic names and of their historical variants, as well as a history of the administrative units of the national territory they have belonged to.

At the moment, the history of the geographic names of the municipalities in the States of Rio de Janeiro e Paraná is available and the history of the geographic names of the municipalities of the other Brazilian States in under construction.

The launch of the BNGB, which took place in Rio de Janeiro, received broad press coverage.

Training courses

Since 2007, Brazil has taken part in two international courses on standardization of geographic names: Introduction to the Standardization of Geographic Names, given by the IBGE, the University of São Paulo, The Brazilian Agency for Cooperation and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), in 2008., and, in 2009, the AAG Geographic Names Course, produced by Roger Payne, and designed for member States of the Pan American Institute of Geography & History.

During this period, the Reference Center of Geographic Names has implemented eleven courses and seminars on the standardization of geographic names, in four States of Brazil. A total of about 150 civil servants from the IBGE and other governmental institutions have been trained.

The Reference Center of Geographic Names is currently working on the e-learning version of their course “Introduction to the Standardization of Geographic Names”, in order to accomplish its mission

of disseminating the theme, training personnel and constituting a National Network on Geographic Names in Brazil, in the present context of budget restrictions.

Project Geographic Names of the State of Paraná (PNGPR)

The Project Geographic Names of the State of Paraná (PNGPR) is developed in a covenant, established in 2010 between the IBGE and the government of the State of Paraná, represented by its Secretary of Planning and General Coordination (SEPLA) and its surveys Institute of Land, Cartography and Geosciences (ITCG). It aims at confirming and updating the geographic names present in the mapping of that State in the 1:50,000 scale.

The participants of the covenant have developed a methodology of work for this activity, which was named “certification”, described in the Manual for the Certification of Geographic Names.

Also, 8 technicians from the Instituto de Terras e Cartografia (ITCG) of the State of Paraná and 5 from the IBGE were trained by the Reference Center on Geographic Names (CRNG) - IBGE to take part in the of geographic names in the State of Paraná.

The training sessions took place in the ITCG headquarters, located in Curitiba, capital of the State of Paraná, from September 28th to 30th, 2011.

In an effort towards the standardization of the set of Brazilian geographic names, it is expected that other States in Brazil will develop similar projects.

Creation and activities of the Committee on Geographic Names of CONCAR (CNGEO)

The Committee is currently discussing how to deal with different aspects of the use of geographic names, such as legal use and official use. In many cases, there are inconsistencies - mostly in spelling - concerning the names of the geographic features in the Laws, in official publications and in local/regional use in Brazil.

The responsibility for the naming of features has also been discussed, as well as the determination of official names.

Participation in National and International Conferences and Congresses

Since August 2007, the Reference Center on Geographic Names (CRNG) has taken part in five National and International Conferences and Congresses:

In October 2007, the XXIII Brazilian Cartographic Conference; in 2008, the 25th Session of the UNGEGN; in May 2010, the XXIV Brazilian Cartographic Conference; in 2011, the International Cartographic Conference, in Paris presenting three papers on the standardization of geographic names in Brazil. In the same year, one paper was presented in the I Latin American Geospatial Forum, in Rio de Janeiro.