



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
2 July 2012

Original: English

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 Australia

Summary**

Australia has developed a robust and workable method of coordinating place naming activities across the nation.

The Committee for Geographical Names in Australasia is a body that comprises the state and territory naming authorities, the New Zealand Geographical Names Board and other agencies involved or interested in place names. Specific membership details can be located at www.icsm.gov.au/cgna.

The Committee operates on a consensus basis, with the naming jurisdictions agreeing on directions and initiatives. This paper outlines the activities of the Committee and the jurisdictions in Australia since the Ninth Conference. New Zealand will submit its own report.

Included in the report are:

- The current terms of reference
- The initiatives being undertaken at present
- The achievements since 2007
- The role of the Committee over the next five years.

A copy of the current naming guidelines of the Committee is also included in the report at appendix 1.

* E/CONF.101/1.

** The full report was prepared by Bill Watt, Chair of the Committee for Geographical Names of Australasia, and is available in the language of submission only from <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/ungegnConf10.html>.



The coordination role played by the Committee is very important, given the situation in Australia whereby there is no federal legislation. Rather, the legislation is based at state/territory level and is therefore specific to each naming jurisdiction.

The range of activities and projects undertaken by the Committee and the state/territory jurisdictions shows that there are a number of issues still to be resolved but the skills and enthusiasm exist to undertake the work required.
