Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
29 June 2007
English
Original: Spanish

**Ninth United Nations Conference on the
Standardization of Geographical Names**
New York, 21-30 August 2007
Item 12 of the provisional agenda*
Toponymic data files

Database of Geographical Names of Brazil: proposed model for Latin America

Submitted by Brazil**

Summary***

Geographical names and spatial localization are fundamental requirements for the quality of a country's reference cartography and geospatial bases. Cartography in Brazil is currently being updated, with a view to creating a spatial data infrastructure for the country to facilitate projects in various areas. To that end, with regard to the structure of cartographic information, efforts are under way to organize geographical metadata with a view to standardizing geographical names. This standardization will apply from the time of collection of geographical names to the time of dissemination to the public, in both specific and general terms. For this reason, the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) included the issue of geographical names among its projects for 2005. The objectives of the project in question include the creation of a network of institutions that use and produce this type of information and the establishment of the Database of Geographical Names of Brazil (BNGB), with a view to it being used as a model for a Latin American database.

The logical and physical specifications of the alphanumeric component were drawn up in mid-2005, using the Oracle environment as a basis. The logical and physical modelling of the BNGB database was built using Oracle 9i Designer. Next, the entity-relationship diagram (ERD) (image 1) was created with the respective data dictionary and the logical and physical specifications of the BNGB database. In

---

parallel, in late 2006, tests with the PostgreSQL/PostGIS open environment began, using data in alphanumeric and vectorial format so as to meet the requirement for interoperability among the various systems that will form part of and use the BNGB database both now and at such time as it may be extended to the rest of Latin America.

———————