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National standardization: Administrative structure of national names authorities

Preliminary compilation of current legal provisions for the assignment and use of geographical names in Chile

Submitted by Chile**

Summary***

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile, through the National State Borders and Boundaries Department (DIFROL), submits the paper entitled "Preliminary compilation of current legal provisions for the assignment and use of geographical names in Chile" to the Ninth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names.

The paper refers to current legal provisions for the assignment of geographical names in the national territory. The methodology consisted in identifying the State agencies which generate territorial information at the national, regional and local levels and which produce maps for official purposes, and in analysing the regulations and procedures used for the identification of geographical names. It also lists other State agencies which do not produce official maps but have the authority to assign toponyms.

The paper contains brief references to other State agencies which deal with territorial issues but do not have the authority to assign place names. These agencies use the geographical nomenclature provided by official cartographic agencies, such as the Military Geographical Institute, the Chilean Naval Oceanographic and Hydrographic Service, the Aerial Photogrammetric Service of the Chilean Air Force

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*** The full text of the paper is being issued in English only as document E/CONF.98/59/Add.1



and the Chilean Boundary Commission, which is part of the National State Borders and Boundaries Department.

The above information shows that Chile has a body of legislation on toponymic issues, and that this foundation could be strengthened by supplementary provisions and coordination procedures. What is important is that this legislation permits timely responses to be provided to requests from within and outside of Chile concerning national maritime, aerial, land, boundary, political, administrative, sectoral or geographical place names.
