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**Ninth United Nations Conference on the  
Standardization of Geographical Names**

New York, 21-30 August 2007

Item 6 (c) of the provisional agenda\*

**Meetings and conferences: national names meetings,  
conferences and symposiums****Conferences in Brazil and Portugal agree on the need to  
create the Portuguese language division in the United  
Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names****Submitted by Brazil\*\*****Summary\*\*\***

The Fourth National Conference of Geography and Cartography (IV CONFEGE) was held by the Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística in August 2006 in Rio de Janeiro and brought together thousands of people interested in the debate on the future of the statistical and geoscientific research in Brazil for the next 10 years. A round table on the recently created Brazil Geographical Names Database (Banco de Nomes Geográficos do Brasil (BNGB)) attracted an audience of more than 60 people who participated in the proposed debate on geocartographical and language aspects involved in the national standardization of geographical names. The speakers included the expert Luís Abrahamo, a leadership in the Africa South Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, who declared that his Government was ready to approve the proposal to create a Portuguese language division in the Group of Experts as a means of strengthening national and international standardization of geographical names in Portuguese-speaking countries. Among other advantages, the division will stimulate the publishing of translations of United Nations materials currently available only in English, such as the *Technical Reference Manual for the Standardization*

\* E/CONF.98/1.

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\*\*\* The full text of the paper is being issued in English only as document E/CONF.98/99/Add.1.



*Geographical Names*,<sup>1</sup> or in the six languages used by the United Nations, as is the case for the *Glossary of Terms for the Standardization of Geographical Names*.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations publication, Sales No. E.07.XVII.5.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations publication, Sales No. M.01.XVII.7.