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Ninth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names

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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 Eighth Conference

Standardization of geographical names in the Russian Federation between 2003 and 2007

Submitted by the Russian Federation**

Summary***

In the period following the Eighth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, some changes occurred that have affected the work in the domain of geographical names. In 2004, the Federal Service of Geodesy and Cartography was abolished. The Ministry of Transportation and the Federal Agency of Geodesy and Cartography formed as a department therein were entrusted with the functions of determining State policy in respect of the standardization and legislative control of geographical names.

In 2004, the Interdepartment Commission on Geographical Names was abolished. In February 2005, the Ministry of Transportation formed the Commission on Geographical Names in view of the need to provide coordination of the work carried out by the State executive authorities in the naming of geographical objects.

The present report provides information on the current status of the draft law devoted to the changes to be made in the federal law on the names of geographical objects. The law under development is a result of a 10-year application of the law on the naming and renaming of geographical objects and their standardization, use, registration and storage.

Some practical results achieved in the national standardization of geographical names are listed (examination of proposals on naming and renaming of geographical

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objects, preparation of administrative division references, publication of the reference entitled “World States and territories”, responses given to the queries pertaining to geographical names issues, etc.).

Since 2002, the State Catalogue of Geographical Names has been developed. Currently, the database includes more than 180,000 geographical names of 66 subjects of the Russian Federation. By 2010, the database embracing all the geographical objects put on the map at a scale of 1:100,000 shall be completed. Work has started on providing the data stored in the Catalogue to users. The plan is to provide the user with the databases for required regions together with the software that will allow the user to search for required information and, later, to make the database accessible via the Internet.

The State Catalogue of Geographical Names is used to monitor official changes of the names of geographical objects on the territory of the Russian Federation. This information is available to a wide range of users as an electronic bulletin updated on a biannual basis.

Geographical names were rendered in Russian for the purposes of publishing new maps and atlases.
