



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)

Status of the standardization of geographical names in Kenya

Summary**

The Standing Committee on Geographical Names in Kenya was established by the Survey Act, chapter 299, articles 34 and 35, of the laws of Kenya. It is operationalized in the Survey Manual, which is the official document on the practice of surveying and mapping in Kenya.

The law requires that all geographical names published in all official maps in Kenya be approved by the Committee, whose Chair is the Director of Surveys. Data collection and collation of geographical names is carried out alongside feature verification for map production.

Some 38,000 names have been standardized and published in Kenya in the second edition of the official standard names gazetteer, published in 1978. Standardization is based on the Swahili language for the roughly 42 dialects in Kenya.

Because of an increase in population and the creation of more and smaller administrative units, it has become necessary to prepare a third edition of the official standard names gazetteer. It will be prepared in digital format and cover a larger scope by including all geographical names at the scale of 1:2,500, rather than the scale of 1:50,000 used in the previous edition. The first phase of converting the existing analog database is nearing completion.

* E/CONF.101/1.

** The full report was prepared by Ephantus Murage Mundia, Director of Surveys and Chair of the National Standing Committee on Geographical Names in Kenya and is available in the language of submission only from <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/ungegnConf10.html>.



The department is strategizing on how best to handle the imminent challenges and problems of the task. It is recommended that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names hold an all-inclusive discussion to evaluate and propose solutions.
