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**Tenth United Nations Conference on the
Standardization of Geographical Names**
New York, 31 July-9 August 2012
Item 11 (e) of the provisional agenda*
**Toponymic data files and gazetteers: data services, applications
and products (for example, gazetteers and web services)**

Report on a new gazetteer database system for New Zealand

Summary**

The report outlines a new gazetteer database system for New Zealand that is set for launch later in 2012 as a web application and as raw data layers via the Land Information New Zealand data service (http://data.linz.govt.nz/).

To provide a process framework for altering, assigning, adopting, approving, validating and discontinuing geographic names, the national naming authority of New Zealand, the New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa, ensures that information about names is authoritative, standardized, accurate, consistent, accessible and comprehensive.

To more effectively and efficiently carry out these functions and to comply with the legislative requirements of the New Zealand Geographic Board (Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa) Act 2008, the Board is currently developing a modern, standards-based gazetteer database system that allows effective management of, and access to, official and unofficial geographic names, and that also gives recognition to those names as a fundamental data set of geospatial information in any spatial data infrastructure.

The new system (which will replace a number of spreadsheet-based gazetteers) will provide for the increased use of official names by organizations that are directly interested in official names and by others who can add value to the information and disperse it as a core and authoritative part of other data sets, thereby adding value to the Government and economy of New Zealand and helping to accurately determine location and extent and to preserve heritage and culture.