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Tenth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names

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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)

Report of Spain

Summary**

This document outlines the progress made by Spain since the Ninth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, which was held in New York in 2007.

As regards national mapping authorities, the most significant milestone has been the adoption of Royal Decree No. 1545/2007, of 23 November 2007, governing the national mapping system comprised of the Supreme Geographical Council, as the national mapping authority, and the Special Commission on Geographic Names, which is the body responsible for studying and making proposals with a view to drawing up Council decisions concerning geographical names. It also sets the responsibilities of the National Geographical Institute with regard to toponymy and gazetteers (National Geographical Gazetteer and the Basic Geographical Gazetteer of Spain).

Following is a summary of the national goals and programmes for the standardization of geographical names:

(a) Gazetteers: By transposing Directive 2007/2/EC (establishing an Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community (INSPIRE)) into Spanish legislation Act No. 14/2010, of 5 July 2010, on infrastructure and geographical information services in Spain has adopted the model gazetteer of specification D2.8.I.3 as the standard model for all gazetteers prepared by public administrations covered by that Act; the National Geographical Institute, in

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collaboration with various authorities on geographical names, has updated the Concise Geographical Gazetteer of Spain; the first phase of the project concerning a basic geographical gazetteer of Spain is being completed and work is proceeding on the second phase to harmonize the results obtained with the denominations coming from the competent bodies of the autonomous communities;

(b) Toponymic guides: In 2011, the National Geographical Institute published the toponymic guidelines for international use by map and other editors in digital format;

(c) Country names and cities of more than 100,000 inhabitants: A web page has been created which can be consulted for updated information on country names (endonyms and exonyms) and European cities of more than 100,000 inhabitants;

(d) Web pages: A series of web pages are listed which can be consulted for national and regional information on the standardization of geographical names.
