



## Economic and Social Council

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### **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).**

National Report of Italy

Submitted by Italy\*\*

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## NATIONAL REPORT OF ITALY

### 1. Summary.

This paper summarizes the main Italian activities developed by the Republic of Italy for the standardization of geographical names. Such activities are carried out by the *Istituto Geografico Militare* (Italian Military Geographic Institute - IGMI), as the body in charge of compiling, updating and publishing the official national cartography, in cooperation with other national public institutions and academic organizations.

### 2. Progress made in the standardization of geographical names since the Ninth Conference.

Within the framework of the national Program of Work (see the report presented at the previous Conference), the IGMI led a campaign in the field to increase and update the current *Toponymic data base 25K* (TopoDB25), in order to produce, by derivation, also the national *Toponymic data base 50K* (TopoDB50).

In practice, while the TopoDB25K (dated 1996 and consisting of about 750000 geographical names extracted from topographic maps of Italy at scale 1:25000) was realized through cartographic activities and direct reconnaissance, with an updating process based on the comparison between the Italian topographic map sheets at 1:25000 and 1:50000 scales, the TopoDB50K is the result of an interactive process of derivation from the TopoDB25K. It consists of all existing toponyms of topographic maps of Italy at 1:50000 scale. Actually, it is nearly completion and the goal is to finish the work by the end of 2012.

### 3. National programs – Problems and achievements

Concerning the legislative aspects, it is worth recording that, on June 2008, the Italian Parliament has decreed the suppression of the “Permanent Committee charged of direction of toponymic revision of Map of Italy” (created by the law n. 605/1949).

In consequence of such political decision and in order to maintain the permanent toponymic functions within the competences of IGMI, as National Mapping Agency, it was decided (in March 2012) to establish the “Commission for the Italian Official Toponymy”.

Furthermore IGMI has started the procedures of authorization for the adhesion of Italy to the EUROGEONAMES, setting up a specific working group to organise all available toponymic data for the loading in the EuroGeoNames data base.

Beside these initiatives, other activities have been conducted as follows:

- Signing of special agreements of cooperation between IGMI and the Italian Regions/ Autonomous Provinces in the fields of geographical information;
- Cooperation with schools and academic organizations for didactic activities in the field of geographical names;

- Publication of the book entitled “La toponomastica in Istria, Fiume e Dalmazia”, in two volumes, the first one edited by Giuseppe De Vergottini and Valeria Piergigli and the second edited by Luciano Lago *et alii* (printed by IGMI, 2009);
- Reprint of the book “The whys and the names of Geography” (original title of the book: I perché e i nomi della Geografia) by Sandro Toniolo, started in 2005 as supplement of magazine “L’Universo” (ISSN: 0042-0409).