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Tenth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names

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Item 5 of the provisional agenda*

Reports on the work of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, its divisions, working groups and task teams since the Ninth Conference

Report of the Dutch- and German-speaking Division

Summary**

As a result of collaboration among experts from Austria, Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands, South Africa, Suriname and Switzerland, the report describes the achievements of the Dutch- and German-speaking Division since 2007.

Publication of material on geographical names

Switzerland published the “Directives relating to capture and spelling of names in land and cadastral surveying in the German-speaking part of Switzerland”. Updates of the toponymic guidelines have been published by Austria in 2012, by Germany in 2010 and by the Netherlands in 2011. The toponymic guidelines of Switzerland are scheduled for publication in 2012. The third edition of the *German Glossary of Toponymic Terminology* was published in 2010.

Standardization of geographical names

In Austria, 215 Croatian, Hungarian and Slovene settlement names have been made official together with the German names in 2011. Suriname lists 1,097 geographical names from all ethnic groups.

* E/CONF.101/1.

** The full report was prepared by Peter Jordan and Roman Stani-Fertl (Austria); Kathleen Van Doren (Belgium); Bernd Beinstein, and Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu, Chair, Dutch- and German-speaking Division (Germany); Ferjan Ormeling (Netherlands); Hein Raghoobar (Suriname); Jean-Christophe Guélat and Alfred Gut (Switzerland), and is available in the language of submission only from <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/ungegnConf.10.html>.



Provision and dissemination of data on geographical names

In Germany, a (gazetteer) web service was developed by the Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy and the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names. With the support of members of the Division, a web (gazetteer) service infrastructure, EuroGeoNames, has been implemented for providing official data on geographical names in Europe. Within the EuroGeoNames project, the Exonyms and Other Variant Names Database for European geographical names has been developed. Furthermore, members of the Division provided names data for the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names database.

Participation at meetings and further activities

Among other activities, joint meetings of linguistic/geographical division and/or working groups of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names and/or members of the EuroGeoNames project were held annually from 2008 to 2011.

Representatives of the Division took part as lecturers in several United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names courses on toponymy. The web toponymy course for the International Cartographic Association has been extended.
