REFERENCE: UNCSGN/DPAB (11)

The Secretary-General of the United Nations presents his compliments to the Permanent Representatives of Member States and to the Permanent Observers of Non-Member States to the United Nations and has the honour to inform them that the Eleventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names will be held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 8 to 17 August 2017, in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2016/259 of 27 July 2016. The thirtieth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names will also be held at Headquarters on 7 and 18 August 2017 in New York, one day prior and one day after the Eleventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names.

The primary objective of the Conference is to provide a forum to encourage national and international geographical names standardization; to promote the international dissemination of nationally standardized geographical names information; and to adopt single romanization systems for the conversion of each non-Roman writing system to the Roman alphabet.

The provisional agenda for the Conference is contained in document E/CONF.105/1, and a note on documentation for the Conference is contained in document E/CONF.105/INF/1.

In order to assist the Secretariat with its preparation for the Conference, the Secretary-General would be grateful to receive as soon as possible details concerning the names of the delegates designated by the Governments of the Permanent Representatives to attend the Conference. The Secretary-General avails himself of this opportunity to request those Governments which may wish to submit technical papers in support of items of the provisional agenda, to do so no later than 29 May 2017, in accordance with the procedures outlined in document E/CONF.105/INF/1. It is essential that the documents be kept to a reasonable length, not exceeding 10 pages in any case.

13 March 2017