



# Economic and Social Council

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## Eleventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names

New York, 8-17 August 2017

Item 5 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 Tenth Conference (for distribution only)**

### Report of Sweden

#### Summary\*\*

The national report of Sweden is divided into 11 sections. The first, on national standardization, contains a short overview of current legislation and of the main authorities involved in the standardization of geographical names. The second, on names in multilingual areas, provides comments on minority language names and the responsible authorities. The third section addresses amendments to the legislation on place names in Sweden. The fourth presents a revised version of a booklet on good place-name practice and refers to a more exhaustive presentation in a separate working paper. The fifth indicates how the implementation of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage is organized in Sweden. The sixth provides an overview of the development of place names from medieval parishes to the names of modern districts (established in 2016), which still preserve the old names. The seventh focuses on so-called statistical localities in Sweden, a dynamic and changing concept that often arouses discussions about names and causes problems. The eighth provides information about new names of buildings that have expanded the place-name register and made many names of buildings available for other users, for example, emergency and rescue services. The ninth presents a newly formed working group called The Geographical Names Network. The tenth indicates that the Place-Name Advisory Board is trying to find ways to implement United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names resolution X/4 of 2012 on discouraging the commercialization of geographical names (see [E/CONF.101/144](#)). The eleventh section provides a list of articles and books on place names and the standardization of place names written by Swedish experts from 2012 to 2016.

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\* [E/CONF.105/1](#).

\*\* The full report was prepared by Leila Mattfolk, Staffan Nyström, Annette Torensjö and Ebba Berling Åselius. The report is available from <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/ungegnConf11.html>, in the language of submission only, as document [E/CONF.105/14/CRP.14](#).



The following resolutions of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names are particularly relevant to work on the standardization of names in Sweden:

- 1972: resolution II/36 on problems of minority languages (see [E/CONF.105/14/CRP.14](#), in particular sects. 1-3)
  - 2002: resolution VIII/9 on geographical names as cultural heritage (see [E/CONF.105/14/CRP.14](#), in particular sects. 1 and 4-6)
  - 2007: resolution IX/4 on geographical names as intangible cultural heritage (see [E/CONF.105/14/CRP.14](#), in particular sects. 1 and 4-6)
  - 2012: resolution X/4 on discouraging the commercialization of geographical names (see [E/CONF.105/14/CRP.14](#), in particular sect. 10).
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