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**11<sup>th</sup> United Nations Conference on the  
Standardization of Geographical Names**

New York, 8 -17 August 2017

Item 6 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 Tenth Conference**

**Report of the Portuguese-speaking Division**

Submitted by the Portuguese-speaking Division \*\*

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The Portuguese-speaking Division (DPLP) was created in the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the Group of experts on Geographical Names, in August 2007. During this time, efforts have been made towards accomplishing the objectives established in the occasion of its creation. Therefore, besides the accomplishments reported at the 10<sup>th</sup> United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, the Portuguese-speaking Division presents the following advances:

- The publication of the Glossary of Generic Terms of Geographical Names used in the systematic mapping of Brazil in the scale of 1: 250 000. This document was organized by Dr. Cláudio João Barreto dos Santos, from the Reference Center on Geographical Names of the Coordination of Cartography of the IBGE and is available at: [http://biblioteca.ibge.gov.br/visualizacao/livros/liv88835\\_v2.pdf](http://biblioteca.ibge.gov.br/visualizacao/livros/liv88835_v2.pdf);
- Elaboration, in progress, of a List of Exonyms, as recommended by UNGEGN, which contains, initially, country names and capitals. This document was organized by Ana Cristina Resende, from the Reference Center on Geographical Names of the Coordination of Cartography of the IBGE and presented in the 30<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.
- Translation into Portuguese of the UNGEGN's document "Resolutions Adopted at The Ten United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names", published at UNGEGN's website. This document was organized by Ana Cristina Resende, from the Reference Center on Geographical Names of the Coordination of Cartography of the IBGE. Available at:

[http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEKN/docs/RESOLU%C3%87%C3%95ES%20ADOTADAS%20NAS%20DEZ%20CONFER%C3%84NCIAS%20DO%20UNGEKN\\_trad.pdf](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEKN/docs/RESOLU%C3%87%C3%95ES%20ADOTADAS%20NAS%20DEZ%20CONFER%C3%84NCIAS%20DO%20UNGEKN_trad.pdf)

- Translation into Portuguese of the UNGEGN's Media Kit and the Manual for the National Standardization of Geographical Names. Both translations were coordinated by Ana Cristina Resende, from the Reference Center on Geographic Names of the Coordination of Cartography of the IBGE.
- Before the 27<sup>th</sup> International Cartographic Conference (ICC), a Pre-Conference Symposium on Atlases, Toponymy and the History of Cartography, was held in Rio de Janeiro from 19 to 21 of August, 2015. The local organization was in charge of the Reference Center on Geographic Names (CRNG) of the Coordination of Cartography of the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics - IBGE. The symposium was attended by various national and international experts, and had a special technical visit to the *Historica Cartographica Brasiliis* exhibition at the National Library, and a visit to the Navy Museum exhibit *O Rio de Janeiro em Cartas Náuticas*, especially organized for the occasion.
- The UNGEGN & IBGE International Course on Toponymy: organized by the UNGEGN Working Group on Training Courses on Toponymy, the UNGEGN Secretariat and by the Reference Center on Geographical Names of the IBGE, the course was held in Rio de Janeiro, in the IBGE premises, from 15 – 19 May, 2017. The 32 participants were representatives of 7 Member-Countries of the UNGEGN Portuguese-speaking and Latin American Divisions, as follows:

Portuguese-speaking Division: Angola, Brazil, Mozambique, São Tomé e Príncipe and Portugal

Latin American Division: Argentina and Uruguay

The instructors of the course were Ferjan Ormeling, Helen Kerfoot and Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu for the UNGEGN and Ana Cristina Resende, Beatriz Souza Pinto,

Vania de Oliveira Nagem, Américo Ferreira, Jurandir Constantino and José Carlos Corrêa for the IBGE.

Miriam Barbuda, the coordinator of Territorial Structures of the Directorate of Geosciences of the IBGE delivered a one hour lecture on the standardization of statistical areas names and Paulo Menezes, Chair of the Joint ICA/IGU Commission on Toponymy, lectured on the place name history of the State of Rio de Janeiro.

The President of the IBGE, Paulo Rabello de Castro, opened the course, together with Cecille Blake, UNSD/UNGEGN Executive Secretary; Honorary UNGEGN Chair Helen Kerfoot; Wadih Scandar Neto, Director of Geosciences of the IBGE; and Moema Augusto, Vice-Chair of the Portuguese-speaking Division.

In the period of the course, aiming at the revitalization of the Portuguese-speaking Division, a meeting was held with the representatives of the governmental institutions of the Member-Countries which took part in the course. It was then decided that the participants would inform their institutions about the importance and the advantages of the joint efforts of the Member-Countries in the Division in a long term basis.

- In 2010, the Instituto de Nomes Geográficos de Moçambique (Institute of Geographical Names of Mozambique) – INGEMO was created for the management of geographical names in the country. It coordinates the processes of identification, harmonization, standardization and attribution/alteration of names. It also carries out research on the origin and meaning of indigenous toponyms (bantu), aiming at the preservation of local history and culture as well as the creation of Mozambique's geographical names database. From its creation to the present days, the most important accomplishments of the INGEMO are the following:
  - Qualification of local government institutions (provinces, districts and municipalities) for the work in toponymy, so that their staff can elaborate proposals for attribution and alteration of geographical names;
  - The passing of Decree 1/2014 of 22<sup>nd</sup> May containing the principles, criteria, procedures and mandates for the attribution and alteration of geographical names of natural features, access routes and building and public infrastructure;
  - Standardizations of 240 geographical names of access routes and public infrastructure in the municipalities of Maputo (57), Matola, (1), Namaacha (14), Xai-Xai (15), Chókwè (46), Chibuto (4), Mandlakazi (26), Manica (2), Catandica (7), Sussundenga (12), Alto Molócue (20) e Naca Porto (36). In this starting stage, the INGEMO has been strategically prioritizing the work with the municipalities;
  - Field research about the origin and meaning of 56 toponyms of territorial units, of which 6 are names of provinces and 50 of districts. The processing of the collected material (transcription and systematization) is under way, aiming at its publication and the creation of the national Geographical Names Database and of the national Geographical Names Dictionary;

- Surveying of toponyms of access routes, public infrastructure and natural features in use in the country aiming at their standardization;
- Publication of an informative bulletin on geographical names issued yearly, by means of which the main activities developed concerning research, standardization and naming are disseminated.

The main constraint faced by the Institute is the scarcity of financial resources for the research activities on the origins and meanings of the indigenous geographical names of Mozambique, so that a database can be constructed for public use.

The main challenges INGEMO has faced are obtaining funding for these research activities and the creation of the Geographical Names Database and of the Geographical Names Dictionary of Mozambique.