Eleventh United Nations Conference on the 
Standardization of Geographical Names 
New York, 8-17 August 2017 
Item 10 of the provisional agenda* 
Geographical names as culture, heritage and identity 
(including indigenous, minority and regional language names)

National minority languages and regional languages 
in Germany

Summary**

The official language in all parts of Germany is standard German. The 
languages of four national minorities that reside in Germany — the Danes, the 
Frisians, the Sorbs and the German Sinti and Roma — are officially recognized as 
minority languages.

Low German has the status of a regional language, which ensures the 
protection of that language in accordance with the European Charter for Regional or 
Minority Languages.

* E/CONF.105/1.
** The full report was prepared by Jörn Sievers, Permanent Committee on Geographical Names, 
Ständiger Ausschuss für geographische Namen (StAGN). The report is available from 
only, as document E/CONF.105/44/CRP.44.E/CONF.105/1.