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Agenda item 5

**REPORTS OF THE DIVISIONS**

Report on the Status of Standardization  
of Geographical Names in the Republic of Kenya

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1. INTRODUCTION
2. STATUS OF STANDARDIZATION OF  
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
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## STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL

### NAMES IN THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Nearly  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the Republic of Kenya is covered by 1/50,000 scale topographical map series Y731. So far over 480 sheets of a total of 833 have been published.
- 1.2 Similarly, nearly  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the country is covered by 1/100,000 scale topographical map series Y633 consisting of 117 sheets. The series have however, been discontinued and are being replaced by 1/50,000 topographical maps.
- 1.3 The whole country is covered with 1/250,000 topographical map series Y503 consisting of 47 sheets. The sheets are up-dated using 1/50,000 topographical maps.
- 1.4 The 4th edition of the National Atlas of Kenya is currently nearing completion. It consists of 73 maps plus text and illustrative photographs.

#### 2. STATUS OF STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

- 2.1 Since 1987, the main area of activity in the Republic of Kenya has been in the extension/revision of the topographical maps at the scale of 1/50,000. Among these have been 80 map sheets to the South of the Republic; over 4,000 place names have been revised/added as by June, 1991. This is in addition to 9,000 place names which had been processed by 1987. The changes/additions will be used to produce the third edition of the national official standard names gazetteer. The second edition of the gazetteer was published in 1978 by the United States Board on Geographical Names in collaboration with Survey of Kenya.
- 2.2 The Survey of Kenya has printed brief toponymic guidelines for the 4th edition of the National Atlas of Kenya whose printing has been delayed for sometime. The guidelines concentrate more on the spelling of geographical names in Kenya as stipulated by the Standing Committee on Geographical Names. In addition, a small gazetteer has also been finalized for the National Atlas containing approximately 2,000 place names.

- 2.3 It is significant to note that Survey of Kenya is currently installing computers at its Ruaraka offices in Nairobi to improve its mapping operations. The use of the computers in the creation of data-bases for geographical names and the automation of the national gazetteer production will certainly be given priority by Survey of Kenya.
- 2.4 The Republic of Kenya is still interested in hosting a toponymic training course for the Africa East Division as per Resolution 21 of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names held in Montreal from 18th to 31st August, 1987. However, it will require financial support from the United Nations in hosting the course.
3. The Republic of Kenya pledges to support the activities of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names so that it may be successful in meeting its objectives.