

**Twentieth Session
New York, 17 – 28 January 2000**

Item 5
of the Provisional Agenda

REPORTS OF THE DIVISIONS

Report of Africa East Division



REPÚBLICA DE MOÇAMBIQUE

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**REPORT TO THE 20 UNITED NATIONS SESSION ON
STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES**

Since the last Session on standardization of geographical names held in 1998, the National Directorate of Geography and Cadastre has been involved in continuing to collect the geographical names based on topographic maps at 1:50 000 and 1:250 000 respectively, for the geographical dictionary of Mozambique. In addition new names from topographic maps at 1:5 000, 1:10 000 and 1:25 000 scales, covering Maputo, Beira, Quelimane, Nampula and Pemba cities have been collected according to their local spelling.

According to activities plan, the field survey brigades also collected geographical names in the cartographic project of Niassa Province, which is being partially mapped at 1:50 000.

The National Directorate of Geography and Cadastre is setting up a Toponymic Database of all geographical names including names of rivers, mountains, landscapes, etc.

Maps of Administrative Division of Mozambique at 1:2 000 000 and regional maps at 1:1 000 000 (South, Centre and North) are currently being updated and will show official names as well.

In parallel, digital land use/cover maps at 1:50 000, 89 sheets, in some selected Districts (Gurué, Alto Molocué, Búzi, Nhamatanda, Angónia, Malema, Chibuto and Magude) and 1: 250 000, for whole Country, 102 sheets, are being produced and constitute for valuable sources for official geographical names.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES.

As we already mentioned since the last Session of 1998, Mozambique still working towards the establishment of its National Committee on

Geographical Names. The Government of Mozambique, through ministerial dispatch of 3 June 1999, signed by the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Minister of State Administration, already established a working group comprises representatives from National Directorate of Geography and Cadastre (DINAGECA) and National Directorate of Local Administration (DINAL).

On 6 and 7 July 1999, Mr. Alexandre Uisse Chidimatembue, Head of Department of Aerial Photography and Cartography and Mr. Luís Abrahamo, Head of Cartography Division, both from DINAGECA visited the South African Place Names Committee. The aim of visit was to learn from their experience in the implementation of United Nations Resolutions on the standardization of geographical names and the establishment of a national geographical names authority for Mozambique. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Peter Raper, Chairman of UNGEGN and Dr. L.A. Moller Secretary of UNGEGN – Africa South Division.

In the same period, with similar objectives, the two officers visited Botswana and established contact with Botswana Place Names Commission.

Recently, other group of top officials from DINAGECA namely Mr. José Elias Mucombo (National Deputy Director), Mr. Alexandre Uisse Chidimatembue (Head of Department of Aerial Photography and Cartography), Mr. Simeão Velema Cambaco (Head of Department of Geodesy and Photogrametry) and Mr. Luis Abrahamo (Head of Cartography Division) visited the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names in order to get some experience on this matter.

So it is our expectative to have established the National Committee on Geographical Names during the next year (2000).