

Item 4 of the provisional agenda

Reports of the divisions

Africa South Division *

* Submitted by Trueman Kubheka (South Africa) on behalf of the Africa South Division

AFRICA SOUTH DIVISION

Africa South Division used Map Africa 2010 Conference held in Cape Town to meet on 24 November 201. The meeting was attended by representative from Botswana, Swaziland, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Namibia. Lesotho was absent from the meeting.

A representative from **Botswana** gave a brief presentation that a committee dealing with geographical names in Botswana was established in 1967. This Committee stopped functioning in 1989 because there were number of disputes in village. Before then, the Committee was effective as it produced a number of reports and liaised with other countries like Mozambique. It worked on its Act and attended UNGEGN sessions but it had ceased its operation in 1989.

A **Swaziland** representative reported that Swaziland did not have a names standardizing body. However, data on the names was currently collected in the rural areas by field workers without a body to standardise or regulate them.

A representative from **Zimbabwe** said that there was a committee in Zimbabwe and its chairperson was from the office of the Surveyor General. This Committee also did not operate to its full potential because of political problems facing the country.

A representative from **Mozambique** reported that geographical names operations are not happening at the rate they would prefer because of lack of funding. Travelling to the city centre where main operations were controlled is a challenge because of lack of travelling expenses. He reported that the country still has a manual database to capture the names that were collected and there seem to be no one coordinating activities of geographical names since the departure of their previous representative.

Namibia did not present a report during the meeting.

As a way forward, it was suggested that the Africa South Division should ensure that the work of standardising geographical names continues in each member country.