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ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
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Item 4 of the provisional agenda */

REPORTS BY DIVISIONS AND GOVERNMENTS ON THE SITUATION IN THEIR
REGIONS AND COUNTRIES AND ON THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE
STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES SINCE THE FIFTH CONFERENCE

Report of the Organization of Islamic
Capitals & Cities

(Submitted by the Organization of Islamic
Capitals & Cities)**/

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Agenda 21, Geographic Names, Local Authorities, and Non-Governmental Organizations - General Comments

The Organization of Islamic Capitals and Cities (OICC), (a Non-Governmental Organization - Category II Consultative status with ECOSOC), is participating for the first time in this UN conference on the standardization of Geographic Names. Appreciating the importance of geographic names, the OICC has held a seminar in Amman, Jordan, on "The new fundamentals of naming and numbering streets and districts" in March 1989. Papers of the seminar were contained in one publication.

In respect of the future, it might be beneficial if some of the following comments be considered by the conference:

a. The Earth Summit of June 1992 held in Brazil, demonstrated the establishment of a close link between environment and development. It also realized the important role for the "**Partners**" in development, among them **Local Authorities and Non-Governmental Organizations**.

b. Geographic Names and their standardization process are only a tool for development and not an end by itself. Therefore, and as part of the post UNCED era actions in complying effectively with the AGENDA 21 of the Earth summit, tools of the aforementioned type should be oriented towards, and adapted to the environmentally sound and sustainable development and its mechanism, especially for developing countries.

c. Demonstrating and emphasizing a linkage between the Conference's theme and recommendations on one hand and the environmentally sound & sustainable development, local authorities & Cities, and Non-Governmental Organizations on the other might open new approaches and avenues in one of the different branches of the implementation process of AGENDA 21.

d. About 60% of the World population in the 1st half of the 21st century will be in urban areas. Cities of the developing world will contain the largest portion of the world population. Therefore, improved, and innovative cooperation and education at the national and international level including government and non-government organizations in the field of Geographic Names and their standardization should be explored, encouraged, and supported. . Consequently, Local Authorities and NGO's might evolve in the 21st century as contributing partners in the process of standardization of Geographic Names. They may participate in furthering the education, development and training aspects of this field.

e. Perhaps, establishing a liaison between the Group of Experts on Geographic Names, NGO's, and Local Authorities would be a step towards an effective cooperation.