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**Eighth United Nations Conference on the
Standardization of Geographical Names**

Berlin, 27 August-5 September 2002

Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

**Reports by Governments on the situation in their countries
and on the progress made in the standardization of
geographical names since the Seventh Conference**

Report of the United States of America

Submitted by the United States of America**

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Summary

Since the Seventh Conference, the United States has been very active in promoting the resolutions of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN), participating in various conferences on the standardization of geographical names, and actively examining and clarifying issues of policy as applied to both domestic names and foreign names programmes within the United States. The Domestic Names Committee and the Foreign Names Committee have worked to remove ambiguity and inconsistency as well as to examine and implement amendments and new policies. The Domestic Names Committee has been proactive in securing local support and developing partnerships with state names authorities, while the Foreign Names Committee has continued its cooperation with appropriate agencies in other countries. Both committees have focused on web-site design and development to enhance existing web sites as a public service and to develop web sites that can serve as official vehicles for promulgating standardized geographical names. In addition, both committees have directed their respective staffs to accelerate their programmes of data collection and database maintenance. The domestic activity has concentrated on support for the pilot programmes of the national map project in the United States, which will establish a seamless, integrated set of current data for the digital version of the national map series. The domestic names database has been completely redesigned to improve the efficiency of data management with a view to providing direct support to the national map project. The domestic programme has also initiated state projects to develop and establish a national model for state and local participation in the database maintenance programme, which is currently supported only by federal agencies.

The Undersea Features Committee has continued its research and approval procedures while providing advice and support for the general bathymetric chart of the ocean. The Committee on Names in Antarctica has continued to refine procedures and adjust policy while providing support to United States mapping programmes and the international guidelines for naming in Antarctica. There has been active and continuous support for international activities, including those of the United Nations and other international symposiums and conferences on geographical names. The United States provided two of the three members of the team of instructors for a training course in applied toponymy offered under the auspices of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History.
