

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

New York, 21 - 30 August 2007

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  
Eighth Conference**

**Report of Spain: Situation and progress on the standardization  
of geographical names**

Submitted by Spain \*\*

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\* E/CONF.98/1.

\*\* Prepared by el Instituto Geográfico Nacional y presentado por el Presidente de la Comisión de Nombres Geográficos del Consejo Superior Geográfico.

## REPORT OF SPAIN

### Situation and progress on the standardization of geographical names

#### SUMMARY

Since the Eighth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (Berlin 2002), which Spain submitted the paper E/CONF.94/INF.31, the progress made in the standardization of geographical names can be summarized in the following items:

- National names authorities
  - The *Instituto Geográfico Nacional* (IGN) has been established as the national authority of Spain by the royal decree (*Real Decreto*) 1476/2004, June 2004. A summary about distribution of competences in geographical names in Spain is included in this report
  - The Committee on Geographical Names (*Comisión de Nombres Geográficos*) of the Geographical High Board (*Consejo Superior Geográfico*) has been renovated and strengthened (January 2007) as a coordinator body of geographical names authorities
- Aims and national programs about standardization of geographical names
  - Gazetteers and Data Bases: A Spanish Gazetteer Model has been agreed. The Concise Gazetteer of Spain, carried out by the IGN in collaboration with the Committee on Geographical Names and Autonomous Regions (*Comunidades Autónomas*), has been finished and approved. Currently the IGN is working (also in collaboration with the Committee on Geographical Names and Autonomous Regions) in the draft of National Gazetteer of Spain from the Toponymy Data Base of *BTN25* (*Base Topográfica Numérica 25*), that contains geographical names of National Topographic Map to scale 1:25 000
  - Toponymic Guidelines: The IGN has published the book *Toponimia: Normas para el MTN25. Conceptos básicos y terminología* (Toponymy: Rules for the National Topographic Map 1:25 000. Basic concepts and terminology) in 2006, about rules of treatment of geographical names on this official map. The *Toponymic Guidelines of Spain for Map Editors and other Editors* is expected to be published in 2008, in collaboration with the Committee on Geographical Names
  - List of country names and exonyms: The document *Nombres de países y sus capitales, utilizados en España* (Country names and their capitals used in Spain) has been updated. A list of European capitals and cities greater than 100 000 inhabitants, including Spanish exonyms, is being carried out from data of United Nations Statistics Division
  - Web pages: Information about the Committee on Geographical Names and toponymy in the IGN is currently being improved on the web pages of *Consejo Superior Geográfico* and *Instituto Geográfico Nacional*. Also, main web pages about geographical names of Spain at national level are indicated in the report
- International relations and events
  - IGN representatives attendance at international meetings about geographical names is recorded
- Standardization in Autonomous Regions
  - The milestones in the progress of the standardization in geographical names of some Autonomous Regions and the web sites where this information can be found are finally included before conclusions.