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Standardization of Geographical Names**

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Item 12 (d) of the provisional agenda*

Toponymic data files: automated data-processing systems**Geographic names information system of the United States
of America****Submitted by the United States of America******Summary*****

The Geographic Names Information System is the United States federal standard for geographic nomenclature. The United States Geological Survey developed the System for the United States Board on Geographic Names as the official repository of domestic geographical names data; the official vehicle for geographical names used by all departments of the federal Government; and the source for applying geographical names to federal electronic and printed products. The System provides services and data critical to national security, emergency preparedness and response, regional and local planning, site selection and analysis, cartographic applications, environmental problem-solving, tourism and all levels of communication.

The System contains 30 years of data on physical and cultural geographical features in the United States. In addition to being a federal standard, it is becoming a national standard through a proposal to the American National Standards Institute and other standards efforts. The system supports federal, State and private sector systems, databases and applications, and provides data to Government and the public through numerous web applications and services. Data are collected from a broad programme of partnerships with federal, State, and local government agencies and other authorized contributors. The latest information technology tools and methodologies are applied to ensure that local data are properly represented in the System and, through it, to all federal agencies and the public.

* E/CONF.98/1.

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*** The full text of the report is being issued in English only as document E/CONF.98/121/Add.1.

