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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 on geographical designations in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

Submitted by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya**

The survey department keeps track of updates of designations through meetings, forums and international, regional and national conferences. The most recent conference, held by the department from 18 to 20 December 2004 in Tripoli, was the first regional conference to be held in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. At the conference, numerous studies and reports were presented.

In recent years, the department has also produced illustrated maps, on a scale of 1:500,000, covering the whole of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, and has also produced illustrated maps, on a scale of 1:1,000,000, as well as charts, on a scale of 1:1,750,000, with designations in Arabic and their romanized equivalents, in accordance with the Beirut romanization system.

The department, in a national project, has brought together and reviewed code designations on available maps, especially on those of medium and small scale. It has determined the locations of landmarks in the field and their pronunciation, and confirmed their existence. In addition, the department has, as far as possible, collected information and photographs of all landmarks (a task carried out by three fieldwork teams). Following comparison with data taken from maps currently available, the data thus collected are then entered into a specific database of geographical designations (by three office work teams). The type of landmark is entered together with its name, coordinates, position on maps that are currently

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available, the map scale, the map number and name, the coordinates of the lower left-hand corner of the map and other information so that existing landmarks can be searched for on any map sheet of any determined scale.

The department has carried out this work for the following reasons:

(a) To establish a database that contains all designations in use for landmarks present in nature. This will be followed by the romanization of those designations so as to produce bilingual maps;

(b) To prepare for the production of modern maps, on a scale of 1:25,000, of areas of vital importance (the coastal strip, the oases and inhabited areas). Remaining areas will be covered by maps on a scale of 1:50,000, or other medium and small scales;

(c) To standardize and romanize designations so that they may later be used by map authorities when producing large-scale maps and so as to ensure that there are no inconsistencies between those authorities.

The department aspires to make use of the expertise and experience of Arab countries and to work together with them in standardizing designations and their romanized equivalents so that it will be able to issue a comprehensive national gazetteer consistent with established practice in those countries.
