



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
27 June 2007

Original: English

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

National report of Turkey (2002-2007)

Submitted by Turkey**

Summary***

The Board of Experts for Geographical Names of Turkey (BEGeoN_T), which is responsible for the standardization of geographical names in Turkey, was founded in July 2004 in accordance with the directive of the Ministry of the Interior prepared in cooperation with related national institutions. The directive sets out the terms of reference for the establishment of the Board, as well as its tasks and responsibilities. The Board is a joint inter-ministerial and academic body, responsible for coordinating and accelerating the efforts towards the standardization of geographical names. It carries out its tasks in parallel with the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names. The Board has been given legal competence to standardize all categories of geographical names in Turkey, including exonyms, maritime names and undersea features as well as proposals for the names of objects in space. The Board may create working groups in order to achieve its responsibilities.

The officials on the Board represent a number of institutions, such as the General Directorate of Provincial Management of the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the Society for the Turkish Language, the Turkish Standards Institute, the Turkish Statistical Institute, the Turkish Historical Society, universities, the General Directorate of Land Registry and Cadastre, the General Command of Mapping, and the Department of Navigation, Hydrography and Oceanography of the Turkish Naval Forces.

* E/CONF.98/1.

** Prepared by the Board of Experts for Geographical Names of Turkey (BEGeoN_T), Turkey.

*** The full text of the paper is being issued in English only as document E/CONF.98/29/Add.1.



Standardized geographical names are prescribed on the basis of their appearance in publications of the Ministry of the Interior, and in topographic maps produced by the General Command of Mapping of the Ministry of Defence and nautical charts published by the Department of Navigation, Hydrography and Oceanography of the Turkish Naval Forces.

Currently, standardization of topographic, nautical and local names is carried out by the General Command of Mapping, the Department of Navigation, Hydrography and Oceanography, and local municipal boards, respectively, with the authorization of the Ministry of the Interior and the Board.
