



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
29 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

Report of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**

Summary***

There is no national names authority in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Instead, the geographical names as portrayed on hard-copy and digital products of the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain and the Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland are recognized as being the authoritative geographical names of the United Kingdom. The present paper outlines the function of the Ordnance Survey as the national mapping agency and its role with regard to toponymy, highlighting developments since the Eighth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names. The paper pays particular attention to developments in Wales and Scotland.

A new edition of the United Kingdom's *Toponymic Guidelines for Map Editors and Other Editors* is planned. As an initial step, a few items of information relevant to that publication are included within this national report, in particular a note about geopolitical terminology and an outline of the current administrative divisions of the United Kingdom.

* E/CONF.98/1.

** Prepared by the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names and the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain.

*** The full text of the paper is being issued in English only as document E/CONF.98/48/Add.1.

