



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 9 (d) of the provisional agenda*

National standardization: administrative structure of national names authorities

A New Geographic Board Act for New Zealand

Submitted by New Zealand**

Summary***

The present paper outlines work to date on the New Zealand Geographic Board (Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa) Bill. This draft legislation will update and replace the New Zealand Geographic Board Act 1946. Proposed changes to the existing Act are described and reasons for those changes are given.

The existing Act makes provision for the official naming of places in New Zealand, establishes the New Zealand Geographic Board as the national place-naming authority, and reflects the importance of geographical names in New Zealand culture and history.

The importance of geographical names is being increasingly recognized for local, national and international purposes such as correct emergency incident location, proactive management of New Zealand's continental shelf, and Antarctic mapping, as well as for efficient economic activity, trade and communication. The draft Bill clarifies the jurisdiction of the Board, revises procedures for consultation in the geographical naming process and updates administrative provisions including composition of Board membership. The Bill, which is soon to be introduced to Parliament, provides a sound legislative framework designed to meet New Zealand's official geographical naming needs of the twenty-first century.

* E/CONF.98/1.

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*** The full text of the paper is being issued in English only as document E/CONF.98/50/Add.1.

