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**Geographical names as culture, heritage and identity
(including indigenous, minority and regional language names)**

Construction of toponymic culture in China

Summary**

In the more than 5,000-year history of China's civilization, the Chinese people have created a robust culture of geographical names. As part of its large-scale urbanization, a large number of old geographical names are rapidly disappearing in rural areas. In order to protect, inherit and carry forward the culture of geographical names, the Government of China has introduced relevant measures to strengthen the construction of its geographical names culture, to protect geographical names as cultural heritage and to strengthen efforts to publicize and raise awareness of the need to protect the culture of geographical names. Significant progress has been made in these areas.

As part of its large-scale urbanization, China is undergoing a process in which old geographical names are rapidly disappearing in rural areas, while new geographical names are springing up in cities and towns. All sectors of society have nostalgically come to attach greater importance to the preservation of toponymic cultural heritage and called for strengthening the construction of toponymic culture. In recent years, China has made progress in preserving toponymic cultural heritage and in publicizing toponymic culture.

* E/CONF.105/1.

** The full report was prepared by the China Institute of Toponymy, and is available from <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/ungegnConf11.html>, in the languages of submission only, as document E/CONF.105/70/CRP.70.

