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**Eleventh United Nations Conference on the  
Standardization of Geographical Names**

New York, 8-17 August 2017

Item 5 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 Tenth Conference (for  
distribution only).**

**National Report of the Islamic Republic of Iran for 2012-2017**

Submitted by the Islamic Republic of Iran\*\*

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\*\* Prepared by Abolfazl Bolandian, Secretary of Iranian Committee on the standardization of Geographical Names

## **National Report on Activities on the Standardization of Geographical Names in Iran during 2012-2017**

Iranian Committee on the Standardization of Geographical Names (ICSGN) is an entity that consists of eight members from organizations and ministry that from 2000, with the approval of government serves as warden of standardization of geographical names of Iran. Proportional to relation of each entity with category of standardization of geonames, government has assigned national and international missions to this committee. According to that, below is what the committee and its related organizations have done during 2012-2016:

### **Completion of Iranian National Geographical Names Database by National Cartographic Center(NCC)**

Iranian National Geographic Names Database (INGNDB) is intended to promote the usage of standard genomes , that, is accessible through web. This database consists of 150 thousand geonames that assigned to 250 thousand feature. These data is extracted from National Topographic Database (NTDB) and after a deep control and removing writing errors and adding transcription of geonames was registered on Iranian National Geographic Names Database (INGNDB). At the present, this database is composed of all existing geonames of 1:25000 scale and country divisions' boundaries. On the next step, our goal is to adding data of big scales map, like urban passages and places, to our geoname database. This database is accessible for all through the webpage <http://gndb.ncc.org.ir>.

### **Compilation of exonyms' information by National Geography Organization (NGO)**

Compilation and registering of Persian orthography of exonyms that are outside of our national borders is one of our goals. This mission is assigned to Expert Group on Exonyms with the responsibility of National Geography Organization(NGO).

Nearly one million geographical names of bordering countries, Persian Gulf, Central Asia and North African countries have been compiled and registered in Exonym Database with their geographical coordinates and transcription. In fulfilling of this project and its transcription, we used the every countries own transcription guideline.

### **Adding transcription of populated places in the National Statistical Database (Statistic Center of Iranian)**

On March 2012 Iranian Geographical Names' Transcription Guideline was used for transcription of geonames by ministries and organizations. Iranian Statistical Center have transcribed more than ninety thousand populated places transcription with that guideline and registered them in Iran Statistical Database webpage. Moreover, planning for standardization of topographic names was devised by national ministry and Iran's Statistical Center resulting in removing writing errors of geonames on eight provinces.

### **Activities that took place in Post Office Centers**

Applying Geocoded National Address File(GNAF) by Post Offices , is an effective measure to standardization of geographical names .On this plan, geographical coordinates will be add to postal information that was formerly saved as text. Next step is to standardize transcribing postal addresses.

### **Transcription method courses in country**

In order to extend system of transcription affirmed by committee, short term courses is intended in ministries and organizations by Expert Group on Transcription and also transcription guidelines have been sent to government sub-organizations.

## **Trend of standardization of Iran's geographical names development**

Establishment of committee as an entity that oversees standardization of geographical names in Iran originally was useful in standardization but still users used to work in common and traditional methods. Committee has done different measures to amend traditional methods and notified responsible organizations meanwhile transitions speed are not desirable.

Advertising of necessity, importance and sensitivity of standardization of geographical names, is one of key actions that resulted in, awareness of people and organizations, and is so effective in performing decisions and ratifications of committee. Advertising in the press and printed matters, publishing brochures and so on.