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**11th United Nations Conference on the
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Item 9(a) of the provisional agenda*

National standardization: Field collection of names

Sultanate of Oman's Geographic Names Achievements

Submitted by Oman **

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** Prepared by LT. Col/ Yousuf Harith Nasser Al-Nabhani, SO1 GPN, National Survey Authority

Sultanate of Oman's Geographic Names Achievements

The interest of the Sultanate of Oman in geographic names is as old as the time and place of this country. This can be clearly seen in narration of the historic events of this book, in addition to the issue of a number of encyclopedia, dictionary of the Omani Arabic place names, as well as the poet books that incorporate description to some of Omani places and locations. Nowadays, in the reign of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos, who built Oman as a constitutional state, the National Survey Authority (NSA) was established as one of these organized institutions via a ministerial decision passed in 1983 bestowing to it responsibilities of setting up Oman's geographic policy and providing technical support and advice on all activities related to surveying and mapping.

A map contains a number of important information, geographic names represent one element of this map and without it the map would look dull and lose a vital part of its identity. Because of this, the National Survey Authority has introduced a specialized section concerned with geographic names which was later upgraded to the level of branch in 2015 with the following duties:

- A. Arabize all types of Omani maps.
- B. Review and check in the field all Omani geographic names.
- C. Collect and determine Omani geographic names which are not available in NSA sources and references.
- D. Maintain the Omani geographic identity, standardize it and transfer to foreign languages in a way that ensures not to be distorted, deviated from and keep its originality, further to preserve its homogeneity on national, regional and international levels. The National Survey Authority has represented the Sultanate of Oman in many conferences as well as in regional and international committees pertaining to geographic names.
- E. Establish and maintain a geographic database for the Sultanate.

Omani Geographic Names Database

This database was created by the National Survey Authority and it incorporates information about the geographic names such as name of a place, phenomenon type, its coordinates and the administrative division it belongs to, its transliteration into foreign languages using a standardized Arabic system for names transfer, reference to the body authorized the name and all its related documents. The database encompasses more than 9,000 approved geographic names.

The National Surveys Authority's Participation in Conferences, Sessions and Scientific Seminars Related to Geographic Names

In its endeavor to achieve the above objective, the National Surveys Authority (NSA) has been diligently trying to apply the scientific systems used to collect, approve and transfer geographic names from Arabic language into Latin languages. To do so, it started by using the PCGN system followed by the Beirut system which then changed (2007) to become The Arab Standardized System for transfer of names. As a result, the National Survey Authority was very keen to take part in almost all meetings conducted by the Arab Division for geographic names under the umbrella of the Arab League. The NSA have also become one of the United Nations (UN) experts in geographic names which gave it an opportunity to greatly benefit from the UN technical expertise in this field.

Participation of NSA as the Sultanate of Oman Representative on Regional /International level Meetings

A- UN Conferences

- 7th Conference from 14-27 Jan 1998 (NY)
- 8th Conference from 27th Aug – 5th Sept 2002 (Berlin)
- 9th Conference from 21st – 30th Aug 2007 (NY)
- 10th Conference from 31st Jul – 9th Aug 2012 (NY)

B. UN SESSION

- 17th **SESSION** from 13th -24th Jun, 1994 (NY)-Presenting paper
- 19th **SESSION** from 12th -23rd Jan, 1998 (NY)
- 20th **SESSION** from 17th -28th Jan, 2000 (NY)
- 24th **SESSION** from 20th – 31st Aug, 2007 (NY)
- 25th **SESSION** from 5th – 12th May, 2009, Nairobi(Kenya)
- 26th **SESSION** from 2nd – 6th May, 2011, Vienna /Austria
- 27th **SESSION** from 30th Jul – 10th Aug, 2012 (NY)
- 28th **SESSION** from 28th April- 2nd May, 2014 (NY)
- 29th **SESSION** from 25th -29th April, 2016 , Bangkok (Thailand)

C. UN Workshops Related to Geographic Names

- Workshop relevant to geographic names supervised by the UN and held in Indonesia – 2012

D. Arabic Division's Sessions and Conferences for Arabic Geographic names

- 3rd Conference from 30th – 31st May, 2007 (Beirut)
- 5th Conference from 26th – 29th May, 2010 (Beirut)
- 6th Conference from 10th -13th July, 2012 (Amman)- presenting paper
- 7th Conference from 10th -13th Nov, 2014 (Amman)
- 1st Conference on Survey& geographic names - October, 2013
- 2nd Conference from 6th - 8th 2016 (NY)

E- Annual Meetings and coordination with the GCC state in maps and geographic Information field.

F- Presenting work paper titled “Geographic names and its importance in society” at the GIS forum held in Sultan Qaboos University, Oman in May, 2009.

G- National Projects Related to Geographic Names

- Take part in the revision of maps of the Omani encyclopedia in 2009
- Take part in the project of producing Muscat map at scale 1:75000 in 2009 (both Arabic & English versions)

- Take part in the project of producing Sohar map at scale 1:20000 in 2013- Bilingual Arabic/English
- Take part in the project of producing Nizwa map at scale 1:20000 in 2015- Bilingual Arabic/English.
- Take part in the project of producing 3D Sultanate map on the occasion of the 45th National Day Anniversary at scale 1:1,300,000, in 2015- Bilingual Arabic/English.
- Take part in the project of producing topographic map at scale 1:50000 covering the Sultanate (498 maps) in 2015- Bilingual Arabic/English
- Take part in the project of producing topographic maps at scale 1:100,000 covering the Sultanate (136 maps) in 2015- Bilingual Arabic/English.
- Publish an article about the Geographic names activity in the UNGEGN Information Bulletin No. 51 NOVEMBER 2016.
- Publish an article about the Omani Geographic names in the Geographic names magazine that is issued by the Arabic Division for the Geographic Names, Issue no 4th 2017.

Thank you,,,

LT. Col/ Yousuf Harith Nasser Al-Nabhani

SO1 GPN

National Survey Authority

Sultanate of Oman- May 2017

Recorder Arabic Division for Geographic Names