

---

United Nations  
Group of Experts on  
Geographical Names

Working Paper  
No. 46

Eighteenth Session  
Geneva, 12-23 August 1996

---

Item 5,9,14  
of the Provisional Agenda

(5) REPORTS OF THE DIVISIONS

(9) MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON TOPONYMIC DATA FILES  
AND GAZETTEERS

(14) TOPONYMIC GUIDELINES FOR MAP AND OTHER EDITORS

REPORT OF THE BRAZILIAN INSTITUTE OF GEOGRAPHY AND STATISTICS  
(IBGE)

---

Submitted by Sonia Luiza Terron, Brazilian Institute of Geography  
and Statistics, Rio de Janeiro.

# **Report of the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics ( IBGE )**

Items 5 and 9 of the Provisional Agenda

## **Recent Developments on Geographical Names**

The Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics, with regard to the 1996 Population and Housing Counts - 1996 Agricultural Census and among many other geographical activities of its responsibility, has updated the toponymic data related to populated places, political, statistical and geographical areas. These data are stored in the Territorial Structures Database, which was built to provide territorial support to the IBGE's statistical and geographical programs.

Since 1991 Demographic Census, the political and administrative division has been expressively changed. In addition to the 54 legal name changes of municipalities and districts, 483 new municipalities were settled in 1993, consequently modifying 496 of the 4,490 existing ones. Considering the district level, almost the same amount of new and modified units has occurred during this period. Furthermore, due to the administrative mobility, the category of populated places (seat of the new municipalities and districts) has been changed, as well as the location of geographical names (features) by administrative division has been updated.

Owing to historical data, a research on the political and administrative evolution since 1940 is taking place and will allow the Territorial Structures Database to provide, among a wide range of legal data, all name changes and genealogical references of the municipalities settled after 1940.

Also recently, in 1995, IBGE started a geographical program of modernization and development for supporting the needs of the 2000 Census. The program first phase includes the digitizing of all the 170,000 census sectors boundaries (enumeration areas) and the compiling of street names and address ranges by census sectors of the largest cities of the country. In terms of geographical names requirements, the digital census sectors boundaries will provide accurate geographic coordinates of the populated places, as well as precise location of the political, administrative and territorial structures of interest. The compiling of address ranges will lead to the first version of the Address Master File, which is expected to cover about 800,000 streets and 42,000,000 housing units, allowing better data collection control, a wide range of demographic and economic data uses, as well as the standardization of the use of street names by governmental and other Agencies.

## Item 14 of the Provisional Agenda

### **Toponymic Guidelines for Maps and Other Editors**

Although toponymic guidelines, as recommended in Resolutions IV/4, V/14 and VI/7, still remained unpublished, one important item to be presented in advance due to the Brazilian Political and Administrative Division, as follows:

#### **Political and Administrative Division**

The political and administrative organization of the Federative Republic of Brazil consists of the Union, the Federal District, the States and the Municipalities, all autonomous in terms of the Federal Constitution.

#### **Federal District**

Seat of the federal government, has the same legislative competence of the states, although its territorial division in municipalities is not allowed. Brasília is the Federal Capital.

#### **States**

The highest order units of the federal organization, they are divided into municipalities and are governed by their own Constitutions, observed the principles of the Federal Constitution. The populated place, seat of the government of the state, has the category of Capital.

#### **Municipalities**

Autonomous units of lowest order within the political hierarchy. Their creation, division or composition follows the requirements of each Constitution of the State, always observing territorial continuity. With regard to administrative purposes, they may divide their territory into districts according to state laws. The populated place, seat of the municipality administration, has the category of City.

#### **Districts**

Administrative units of the municipalities, they are created and changed by municipal laws, according to the territorial continuity criteria and the requirements of the correspondent state legislation. Districts might be divided into minor administrative units. The populated place where the district authorities are settled, exception made for the cities, receives the category of village.

## Political and Administrative Evolution

According to federal, state and municipal legislation, the Political and Administrative Division may be modified due to the creation of new units in all hierarchical levels, boundaries modification of existing units, as well as populated places names and category may be legally changed. The following table presents the Brazilian Geographic Regions, States, their Capital and the quantitative of municipalities by 1980, 1991 and 1996, as an example of this territorial mobility.

Geographic Region / State	Capital	1980	1991	1996
<b>Norte (North)</b>		<b>153</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>398</b>
Rondônia	Porto Velho	7	23	40
Acre	Rio Branco	12	12	22
Amazonas	Manaus	44	62	62
Roraima	Boa Vista	2	8	8
Pará	Belém	83	105	128
Amapá	Macapá	5	9	15
Tocantins	Palmas	-	79	123
<b>Nordeste (Northeast)</b>		<b>1,374</b>	<b>1,508</b>	<b>1,557</b>
Maranhão	São Luis	130	136	136
Piauí	Teresina	114	118	148
Ceará	Fortaleza	141	178	184
Rio Grande do Norte	Natal	150	152	152
Paraíba	João Pessoa	171	171	171
Pernambuco	Recife	164	167	176
Alagoas	Maceió	94	97	100
Sergipe	Aracaju	74	74	75
Bahia	Salvador	336	415	415
<b>Sudeste (Southeast)</b>		<b>1,410</b>	<b>1,432</b>	<b>1,533</b>
Minas Gerais	Belo Horizonte	722	723	756
Espirito Santo	Vitória	53	67	71
Rio de Janeiro	Rio de Janeiro	64	70	81
São Paulo	São Paulo	571	572	625
<b>Sul (South)</b>		<b>719</b>	<b>873</b>	<b>1,058</b>
Paraná	Curitiba	290	323	371
Santa Catarina	Florianópolis	197	217	260
Rio Grande do Sul	Porto Alegre	232	333	427
<b>Centro-Oeste ( Middle-West)</b>		<b>317</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>427</b>
Mato Grosso do Sul	Campo Grande	55	72	77
Mato Grosso	Cuiabá	38	95	117
Goiás	Goiânia	223	211	232
Distrito Federal	Brasília	1	1	1
<b>BRASIL</b>		<b>3,973</b>	<b>4,490</b>	<b>4,973</b>