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Item 15 of the provisional agenda*

Features beyond a single sovereignty**Representation of geopolitical disputes in geo-names-
supported information systems****Submitted by Turkey******Summary*****

Naming geographical features within national boundaries is a right of sovereignty. The use of exonyms is due either to cultural or historical factors or to the presence of cross-border geographical features. In some cases, an exonym for a politically sensitive feature becomes an international problem between countries bilaterally or within the context of international organizations. Using an exonym with political connotations may create misunderstandings.

Since the United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names held in 1967, several resolutions have been adopted on reducing the use of exonyms.

The need for complete, consistent and correct geo-information coverage (thematic and spatial) forces project designers to handle dispute cases without giving priority to any of the geopolitical representations and to depict the real world as much as possible with due regard to the concerns of each party.

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*** The full text of the paper is being issued in English only as document E/CONF.98/30/Add.1.

