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Geographical Names
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Item 5 (a) of the provisional agenda *

**Reports by Governments on the situation in their countries and on the progress made in the
standardization of geographical names**

Report of Brazil

Submitted by Brazil**

Summary

The full report covers the activities carried out by Brazil since the Eleventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names and includes a discussion of some difficulties that have been faced.

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This report presents the activities of Brazil regarding the standardization of geographical names since the Eleventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names and the Thirtieth Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, in August 2017.

In June 2018, a training course on the standardization of geographical names was prepared and taught by the Geographical Names Department (former Reference Center on Geographical Names - CRNG) of the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics – IBGE. Aligned with Brazil’s intention to become a training center for the Portuguese-speaking Division and the Latin American Division, three staff members of the *Instituto de Nomes Geográficos de Moçambique* – INGEMO, sponsored by the IBGE, took part in the 5-day training course, which took place at the IBGE premises in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The course was taught following the model of UNGEGN’s training courses on geographical names and involved instructions on the steps for the standardization of geographical names. Office research and preparation for the field collection of geographical names, field collection of names and office processing of names were dealt with both with lectures and hands-on activities.

As an important feature of the course, Mr. Anibal Tiane, from the INGEMO, gave a one-hour lecture on the creation and activities of his institution, which is Mozambique’s national authority on geographical names. This lecture was particularly helpful and encouraging for Brazil, which has not yet succeeded in establishing a names authority.

Twenty-three participants were trained: 17 IBGE staff members, 3 staff members of 3 Brazilian governmental institutions and the 3 above-mentioned staff members of the INGEMO.



Training Course on the Standardization of Geographical Names – Jun 2018 – Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.



In 2018, Brazil launched the second edition of the first volume of the Glossary of Generic Terms. It comprises the generic terms of the geographical names in the 1: 1 000.000 cartographic base and has 187 entries. The glossary is available for download at https://biblioteca.ibge.gov.br/visualizacao/livros/liv101626_v1.pdf.

Also, the Geographical Names Department of the IBGE has updated the Portuguese version of the Resolutions adopted at the Conferences, adding the resolutions adopted at the Eleventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names. The updated version is already available at the UNGEGN website.

Brazil was represented in the second International Scientific Symposium “Toponymy and Cartography between History and Geography” which took place in Venice, Italy, from 26th to 28th September 2018 by MSc Vania Nagem from the IBGE. In the first session of the main symposium she presented “*The State of the art on the standardization of geographical names in Brazil*”. The presentation aimed to illustrate the activities implemented by the IBGE and to show the methods and operational criteria for the standartization of geographical names in Brazil. Other items of the presentation were be the publication of the Glossary of Generic Terms of Geographical Names used in the systematic mapping of Brazil in the scale of 1: 250,000 and the UNGEGN & IBGE International Course on Toponymy, organized in 2017 by the UNGEGN Working Group on Training Courses on Toponymy, the UNGEGN Secretariat and by the Reference Center on Geographical Names of the IBGE.

At present, Brazil faces difficulties related to staff shortage and financial constraints for the support of some projects, especially those involving fieldwork and travels.