

18 March 2019

English

**United Nations Group of Experts On
Geographical Names
2019 session
New York, 29 April – 3 May 2019
Item 5 (b) of the provisional agenda*
Reports: divisions of the Group of Experts**

Report of the Portuguese-speaking Division

Submitted by the Portuguese-speaking Division**

Summary:

The full report covers the activities carried out by the Portuguese-speaking Division since the thirtieth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.

* GEGN.2/2019/1

**Prepared by Ana Cristina da R. B. Resende and Beatriz Cristina P. S. Pinto, Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística - IBGE

This report presents the activities of the Portuguese-speaking Division 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.

Although the difficulties in communication among Member Countries of the division reported in the last Conference remain, Brazil and Mozambique have managed to keep working together as a Division in terms of toponymic education and technical cooperation. In June 2018, three staff members of the *Instituto de Nomes Geográficos de Moçambique* – INGEMO took part in a 5-day training course on the standardization of geographical names and of a 2-day workshop on the preparation for field collection of geographical names and on toponymic data files. Both course and workshop took place at the IBGE premises in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and were prepared and taught by the Geographical Names Department (former Reference Center on Geographical Names - CRNG) of the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics – IBGE, which also sponsored the participation of INGEMO.

The course was taught following the model of UNGEGN’s training courses on geographical names and involved all 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 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 INGEMO.

The workshop was exclusively designed and prepared for INGEMO staff members by the Geographical Names Department of IBGE. It involved members of 3 departments of IBGE: the Geographical Names Department, the Data Infrastructure Department and the Field Survey for Geodesy and Cartography Department.



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





Mr. Anibal Tiane lecturing on the creation and activities of the *Instituto de Nomes Geográficos de Moçambique – INGEMO*.



The 2-day workshop for INGEMO staff members on the preparation for field collection of geographical names and on toponymic data files.

In the wake of the course in Brazil, Mozambique trained 76 public employees from local governments (provinces, districts and municipalities) on the elaboration of proposals for attributions of names and name changes in accordance with both nationally and internationally recommended principles, criteria and procedures.

Apart from the above-mentioned aspects, the countries continue progressing in their standardization activities individually.

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 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 IBGE. In the first session of the main symposium she presented “*The State of the art on the standardization of geographical names in Brazil*”.

Mozambique reports the standardization of 87 geographical names of roads, public edifices, public places and localities, of which 19 in Maputo city, 06 in Chimoio city, 30 in Ulónguè village, 15 in Maganja da Costa village and 17 in Malema village.

In addition to that, the history of the origin and the meaning of 6 bantu language native toponyms have been compiled, aiming at the preservation of History and Culture through the publication of books and other medias.

Both Mozambique and Brazil face difficulties concerning staff shortage and lack of financial resources. Mozambique especially resents the deficiency of financial resources to carry out research on the origin and meaning of native Mozambican geographical names and for the dissemination of its results. Due to the serious economic crisis in the country, the government has been prioritizing their investments in the provision of basic social services.

The other Member Countries have not sent their reports.