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Item 7(a) of the provisional agenda*

**National and international standardization of
geographical names: names collection, office treatment,
national authorities, features beyond a single sovereignty
and international cooperation**

Report of Mongolia

Summary**

A commission on Mongolian geographical names was established in 1925 at the Academy of Science of Mongolia, and it transliterated geographical names written in the traditional Mongolian language. This work resulted in the publication of a book on Mongolia's modern geographical names.

Even though Mongolian people regularly use geographical names for protected and sacred areas and pass the names to the next generation, many geographical names have changed over time. Nomadic peoples make greater use of geographical names than communities with a sedentary lifestyle, and it is important to preserve the original names.

The Council of Ministers of Mongolia passed a resolution prohibiting arbitrary changes of geographical names in 1949 and another on establishing a commission in 1961. Local administrative units were tasked with restoring and collecting geographical names in their areas.

The Council of Ministers, in its resolution No. 280, on restoring and regulating geographical names, established the Permanent Commission on Geographical Names. According to the resolution, the State Administration of Geodesy and Cartography was tasked with collecting geographical names throughout the country in order to preserve them and prevent arbitrary changes in geographical names.

In order to implement the resolution, the State Administration of Geodesy and Cartography conducted field studies throughout Mongolia during the period 1980–1987 and recorded 242,388 geographical names.

* [GEGN.2/2019/1](#).

** The full report was prepared by the Agency for Land Administration and Management, Geodesy and Cartography, Mongolia. The report will be available at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/1st_session_UNGEGN.html, in the language of submission only, as document GEGN.2/2019/84/CRP.84.



The Mongolian parliament adopted the Geodesy and Cartography Act in 1997, section 11 of which regulates geographical name issues. In accordance with the Act, the State Administration of Geodesy and Cartography issued a list of 214,805 geographical names, which was approved by the Parliament in resolution No. 42 in 2003.

The Administration of Land Affairs, Geodesy and Cartography prepared a project proposal and received approval from the Ministry of Construction and Urban Development in 2017 to conduct field verification of geographical names to produce a map on a scale of 1:25000 for the entire territory of Mongolia as part of the work to conduct countrywide field verification of geographical names that is specified in the implementation plan for the Government Action Plan 2016–2020.

However, there is no budget provision for this activity in the 2019 Government Budget Act.

In relation to the parliamentary resolution mentioned above, the President of Mongolia issued decree No. 186 in 2017 to protect geographical names and tasked the governors of each administrative unit to implement the decree.

In the light of the above, the Agency for Land Administration and Management, Geodesy and Cartography is working to establish the National Council on Geographical Names, with the goals of protecting geographical names, encouraging regular use of original Mongolian geographical names, defining State policy on geographical names and establishing an institutional structure to implement the State policy. Currently, the draft documents are being reviewed by the relevant ministries and agencies.

The work of establishing an integrated database on geographical names was initiated in 2017 by the Agency, and the design was approved by the head of the Agency in resolution No. A/202 in 2018. An integrated database on geographical names is under construction, with three main categories (natural, human-made and administrative) and 15 subcategories covering 214,000 names.
