



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
27 June 2012

Original: English

Tenth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names

New York, 31 July-9 August 2012

Item 6 of the provisional agenda*

National and international meetings, conferences, symposiums, publicity and publications

Report on the International Council of Onomastic Sciences

Summary**

The International Council of Onomastic Sciences is the international organization for all scholars who have a special interest in the study of names (place names, personal names and proper names of all other kinds). The official languages of the Council are French, German and English. In 2011 Carole Hough (Scotland) was elected President of the Council, succeeding Sheila Embleton (Canada).

Since 2007 two international congresses of the Council have been organized: the twenty-third, held in Toronto, Canada, from 17 to 22 August 2008, and the twenty-fourth, held in Barcelona, Spain, from 5 to 9 September 2011. At both conferences several members of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names contributed to papers. At the latter congress a special session on national names authorities was organized and several experts contributed to presentations. The twenty-fifth congress will be held in 2014 at the University of Glasgow, Scotland.

Members of the Council receive its official publication, the journal *Onoma*. The journal contains topical research reports as well as basic theoretical articles concerning all areas of scholarly name research, including names standardization. So far 44 volumes have appeared. The Board of Directors of the Council issues newsletters regularly with information of interest to the members.

It should be mentioned that the Council has established a working group on toponymic terminology, which cooperates with the corresponding working group of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.

* E/CONF.101/1.

** The full report was prepared by Botolv Helleland, State Place-Name Consultant, University of Oslo, Norway, and Liaison Officer of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names to the International Council of Onomastic Sciences. It is available in the language of submission only from <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/ungegnConf10.html>.

