



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
2 July 2012

Original: English

Tenth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names

New York, 31 July-9 August 2012

Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

Reports by Governments on the situation in their countries and on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names since the Ninth Conference (for distribution only)

Report of the Netherlands

Summary**

In accordance with the procedure in use within the Dutch- and German-speaking division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, various relevant actions and achievements have been reported under the headings of the relevant resolutions adopted by the consecutive United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names.

Important noteworthy trends include:

(a) Implementation of the web-based gazetteer service *EuroGeoNames*, which provides a data set of geographical names in Europe from European national mapping and cadastral agencies, and is an essential part of the activities of the Dutch- and German-speaking division:

(i) In 2011, databases from all European member States of the division were connected;

(ii) Within *EuroGeoNames*, a database on exonyms and other variant names for European geographical names has been developed, including the exonyms and variant names of all European member States of the division;

(b) Dutch experts are actively involved in the organization of training courses in toponymy, which have been held in Burkina Faso in 2008, Romania in 2008, Kenya in 2009, Cameroon in 2010 and Indonesia in 2010;

(c) The language of the Frisian minority group has received wider attention.

* E/CONF.101/1.

** The full report was prepared by F. J. Ormeling, Utrecht University, and is available in the language of submission only from <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/ungegnConf10.html>.

