



## Economic and Social Council

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### 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 Poland 2007-2012

#### Summary\*\*

In Poland there are two advisory commissions engaged in the standardization of geographical names: the Commission on Names of Localities and Physiographical Objects and the Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland.

The Commission on Names of Localities and Physiographical Objects, affiliated to the Minister of Internal Affairs and Administration, establishes names used within Poland's boundaries. After receiving the opinion of the Commission the Minister publishes name changes in the *Journal of Laws of the Republic of Poland*. In the period 2007-2012, nine new official names of mounts, hills, mountain passes, reservoirs and forests as well as 341 new names of localities or their parts were established; 1,084 names of localities or their parts were changed and 591 names of localities or their parts were abolished.

The Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland, affiliated with the Surveyor General of Poland, is responsible for standardizing Polish geographical names of the world. The Commission met 41 times in the period 2007-2012 (as on 20 May 2012). The fourth edition of the *Toponymic guidelines of Poland for map editors and other users* was published by the Commission in 2010 (<http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/english/tgp.php>). In 2007, the third updated issue of the "Names of countries, their capitals and inhabitants" was published ([http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/english/wykaz\\_panstw\\_3.php](http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/english/wykaz_panstw_3.php)). The new list of country names entitled "Official list of names of countries and non-self-governing

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\* E/CONF.101/1.

\*\* The full report was prepared by Maciej Zych, Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland, and is available in the language of submission only from <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/ungegnConf10.html>.



territories” was published at the end of 2011 (<http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/english/wykaz.php>). In 2008, 2009 and 2010, the Commission published the last three volumes of *Geographical Names of the World* (the gazetteer of the world’s more important geographical objects), with the names of approximately 19,100 geographic features from 51 European countries and territories as well as from the seas, including the Polish exonyms for approximately 7,000 features (<http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/english/wydawnictwa.php>).

According to the Act of 6 January 2005 on national and ethnic minorities and on regional languages, traditional names in a minority language may be used as “additional names”. In the period 2007-2012, some 787 new names of localities were established: 27 Belarusian, 324 German, 397 Kashubian, 9 Lemko and 30 Lithuanian names. The full list of these names is available on the website: [http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/english/files/list\\_of\\_minority\\_names.pdf](http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/english/files/list_of_minority_names.pdf).

The final stage of work on elaborating the State Register of Geographical Names is under way, consisting of name verification. Currently, the Register holds approximately 195,000 names. All names contained in the Register are also accessible in the official Polish geoportal ([www.geoportal.gov.pl](http://www.geoportal.gov.pl)). The new regulation of Ministry of Administration and Digitization states that this register will contain also Polish exonyms. The Central Statistical Office runs the National Official Register of the Territorial Division of the Country. That base contains regularly updated lists of units of the Territorial Division, the names of localities (~103,000 names) and the names of streets (~241,000 names). Moreover, final works on publication of the official list of names of localities and their parts, with approximately 103,000 names, are under way.

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