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English

**United Nations Group of Experts on
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2023 session

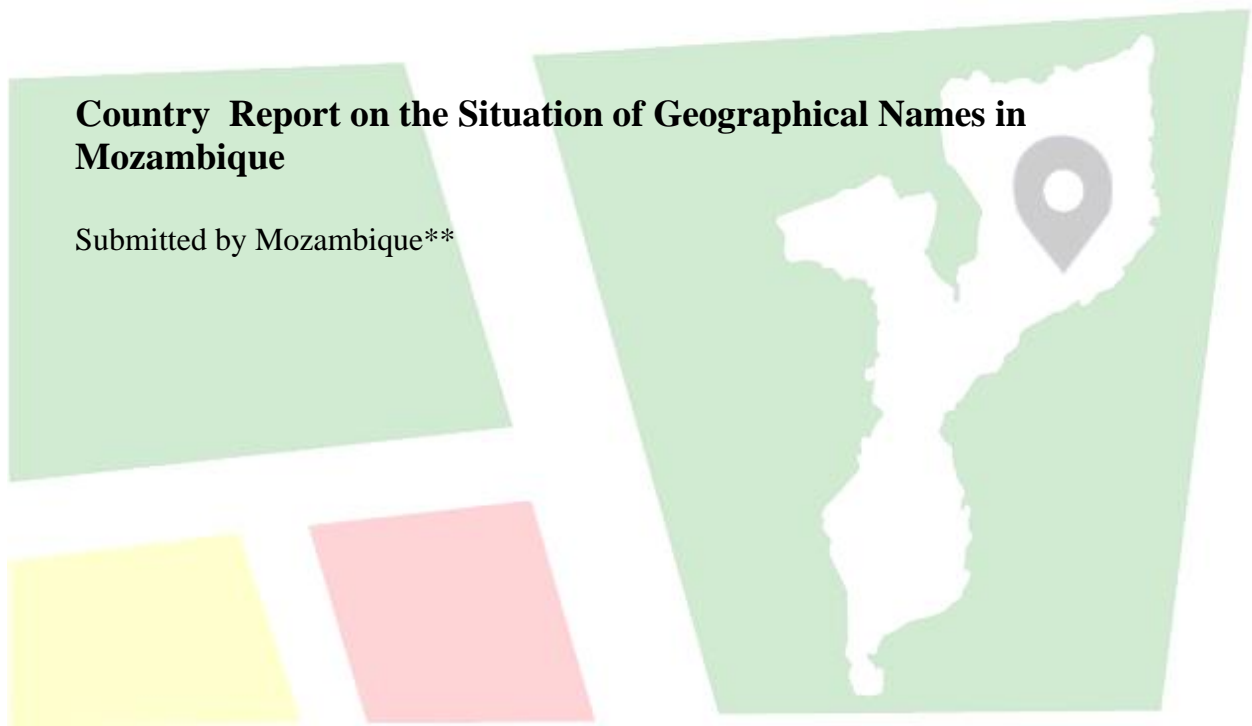
New York, 1 – 5 May 2023

Item 4(a) of the provisional agenda *

**Reports by Governments on the situation in their countries and on the progress made in the
standardization of geographical names**

**Country Report on the Situation of Geographical Names in
Mozambique**

Submitted by Mozambique**



* GEGN.2/2023/1

**Prepared by Mozambique



REPÚBLICA DE MOÇAMBIQUE

MINISTRY OF STATE ADMINISTRATION AND CIVIL SERVICE

INSTITUTE OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES OF MOZAMBIQUE, IP (INGEMO,IP)

COUNTRY REPORT ON THE SITUATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES IN MOZAMBIQUE

1. INTRODUCTORY NOTE

The need to name (name names) places has accompanied man since the beginnings of life in society and has in the development of oral language its determining factor. Man has always felt an intrinsic need to identify and locate the known places distinctively in order to better orient himself.

Due to the relevance that names of places have for society, governments of several countries have devoted special attention to the work of an area of knowledge and management of the territory - the toponymy.

By resolution of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, UN member states are urged to create national entities responsible for standardizing the writing of geographical names. In Mozambique, this entity is the Institute of Geographical Names of Mozambique, IP (INGEMO, IP), which has been operating on the area since 2010.

2. MANAGEMENT OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES IN MOZAMBIQUE

The process of managing geographical names has undergone different transformations throughout the historical process of the country, varying according to the times, cartographic charts, geographical maps and other documents and instruments of geographical orientation and identification of places.

In Mozambique we can distinguish 4 phases in the toponymy of the country, namely, the pre-colonial phase, the colonial phase, the post-Independence phase and the post-Introduction phase of multi-participatory.

3. 1. Pre-Colonial Phase (between the first to fourth centuries a.c.)

In the pre-colonial period the geographical names of the territory that is now Mozambique appear linked to the names of people, families or leaders of the communities (anthroponyms), to the geographical features, traditions, events, events and other types of manifestations of each specific region. In that period there were still

no records of data on Geographic Names. Although they were not spelled, they served as a reference for identification and location of places.

3.2. Colonial phase (From 1497 to 1974)

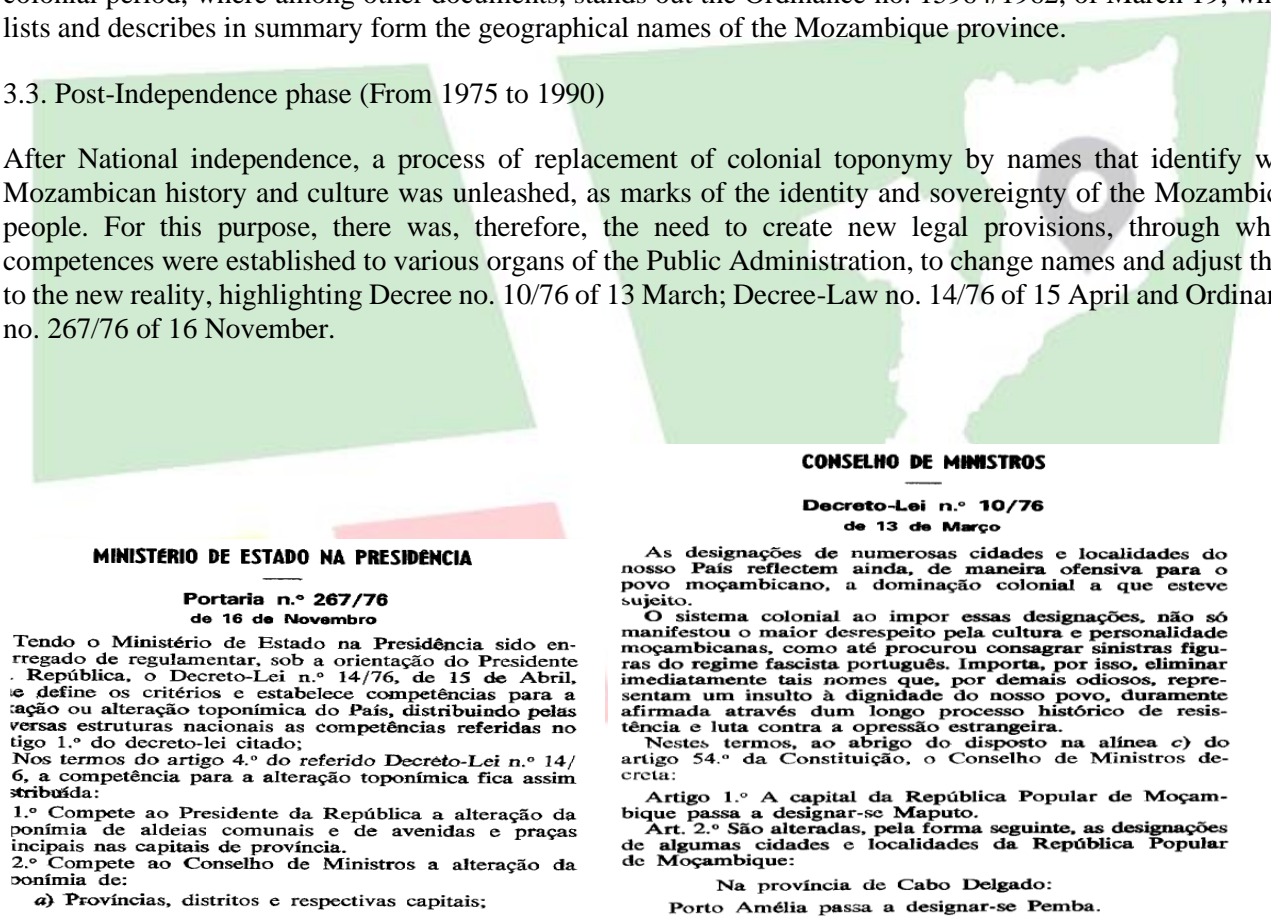
In this period, there was an immense work, on the part of the Portuguese colonial administration, of renaming places and geographical features with Lusitanian geographical names, which in Mozambique witnessed the Portuguese presence and domination.

Thus, there were rare cases in which geographical objects received geographical names of originally Mozambican figures, and when this happened, they were names of figures that had rendered commendable services to the colonial administration or for the good of the colonial regime.

The first works of registration and systematization of geographical names in our country date back to the colonial period, where among other documents, stands out the Ordinance no. 15964/1962, of March 19, which lists and describes in summary form the geographical names of the Mozambique province.

3.3. Post-Independence phase (From 1975 to 1990)

After National independence, a process of replacement of colonial toponymy by names that identify with Mozambican history and culture was unleashed, as marks of the identity and sovereignty of the Mozambican people. For this purpose, there was, therefore, the need to create new legal provisions, through which competences were established to various organs of the Public Administration, to change names and adjust them to the new reality, highlighting Decree no. 10/76 of 13 March; Decree-Law no. 14/76 of 15 April and Ordinance no. 267/76 of 16 November.



Was on the basis of these instruments that a national movement to change the "colonial" geographical names began, opening up a new phase of the naming of places, infrastructures and public buildings, access roads and social institutions. Examples of this were the cases from cities of Lourenço Marques, João Belo, Vila Pery, Porto Amélia and Vila Cabral, which with the National Independence became Maputo, Xai-Xai, Chimoio, Pemba and Lichinga, respectively; of the Technical School Comandante Augusto Cardoso, Liceu Pêro de Anaia, Liceu António Enes, Liceu João de Azevedo Coutinho and Liceu Almirante Gago Coutinho that passed to Industrial and Commercial School Gungunhana de Lichinga, Secondary School Samora Machel of Beira, Francisco

Manyanga Secondary School of Maputo, Secondary School 25 de Setembro, Secondary School of Nampula, among many examples.

As Ngunga (2009) argues, this movement was a way to fill an important chapter of the struggle of the Mozambican people, that of the conquest of dignity, an essential condiment of our independence and aimed to reveal the relationship of belonging of the land and institutions to the people of Mozambique and to show that the country was sovereign and could adapt the geographical names to the culture of the Mozambicans. Meanwhile, after a period of very intensive activity in the early years of National Independence, there followed a long period of slowing down of the process of changing and updating geographical names, due to political, social and economic factors. In this period, there is a lag in normative instruments and little concern with issues such as the standardization of the writing of geographic names and the replacement of maladjusted geographic names.

3.4. Post-introduction phase of Multi participatory (From 1994 to present)

Initiated with the approval of the Mozamican Constitution at 1990, which introduces multiparty democracy, it goes through the first decade of the 2000s, with the emergence of internal initiatives aimed at reversing the scenario of the previous phase, and leads to the creation of the Institute of Geographic Names of Mozambique (INGEMO, IP) in 2009.

It is a phase characterized by the existence of several collecting institutions and users of geographical names, namely, National Center for Cartography and Remote Sensing (CENACARTA), National Institute of Statistics (INE), National Institute of Hydrography and Navigation (INAHINA), National Administration of Roads (ANE), National Directorate of Territorial Organization (DNOT), just to name a few, including the districts and municipalities, but without much concern for the issues of standardization of the writing of the names.

Each institution organizes toponymic information according to its needs, and there is no formal mechanism for standardization and sharing of information. This scenario challenged the country to seek to manage geographical names, creating a coordinating entity of the matter – INGEMO, IP.

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With the creation of INGEMO, IP, in 2009, the process of revision of the legal framework that had been in force since 1975 was triggered, which however was out of tune with the context of democratic pluralism and decentralization through the introduction of local authorities with powers to deal with toponymy at the local level.

In this context, Decree 1/2014, of 22 May, was approved, which regulates the principles, criteria, procedures and competences for the allocation and alteration of geographical names, opening up a new way of looking at the matter, in which the act of assigning names to access roads, geographical features, buildings and other public infrastructures, is no longer a simple act of naming public places, and became an administrative process, subject to approval by the competent authority and publication in the Bulletin of the Republic.

AVISO

A matéria a publicar no «Boletim da República» deve ser remetida em cópia devidamente autenticada, uma por cada assunto, donde conste, além das indicações necessárias para esse efeito, o averbamento seguinte, assinado e autenticado: **Para publicação no «Boletim da República».**

SUMÁRIO

Conselho de Ministros:

Decreto-Lei n.º 1/2014:

Regula a aplicação de princípios, critérios, competências e procedimentos para atribuição e alteração de topónimos.

CONSELHO DE MINISTROS

Decreto-Lei n.º 1/2014

de 22 de Maio

At this stage, the focus was on the assignment and change of names of access roads, administrative units (within cities and towns), infrastructures and public places, a fact that was justified by the demand for the updating of names of these objects at the level of municipalities and local governments. Despite the demand, the response capacity was reduced due to the material, financial and human resources required for this purpose, however, it was possible to approve 542 toponyms.

Resolução n.º 29/2022

de 22 de Julho

Havendo necessidade de homologar as propostas de atribuição e alteração de nomes geográficos de vias de acesso, infra-estruturas públicas, unidades territoriais e administrativas, submetidas pelos Municípios de Maputo (Cidade de Maputo), Inhambane e Massinga (Província de Inhambane), Chimoio (Província de Manica), Dondo (Província de Sofala), Moatize (Província de Tete), Nacala-Porto (Província de Nampula), Chiúre (Província de Cabo Delgado) e Distritos de Boane, Manhiça e Marracuene (Província de Maputo), Govuro, Inhassoro, Inharrime, Morrumbene e Vilankulos (Província de Inhambane), Dondo (Província de Sofala), Angónia e Marara (Província de Tete), Quelimane (Província da Zambézia) e Mueda (Província

CAPÍTULO I**Disposições gerais**

ARTIGO 1

(Objecto)

O presente Decreto-Lei tem como objecto regular a aplicação de princípios, critérios, competências e procedimentos para atribuição e alteração de topónimos.

ARTIGO 2

(Âmbito)

O presente Decreto-Lei aplica-se a acidentes geográficos, vias de acesso, edifícios e outras infra-estruturas públicas.

ARTIGO 3

(Definições)

Para efeitos do presente Decreto-Lei, são adoptados conceitos que constam do glossário em anexo, dele fazendo parte integrante.

CAPÍTULO II**Princípios de atribuição e alteração de topónimos**

ARTIGO 4

(Unidade nacional)

SUMÁRIO

Coonselho de Ministros:

Resolução n.º 41/2018:

Homologa as propostas de atribuição e alteração de topónimos de infra-estruturas, vias de acesso e unidades administrativas submetidas pelos Municípios da Cidade de Maputo, Cidade de Chimoio (Província de Manica), Vila de Ulónguè (Província de Tete), Vila de Maganja da Costa (Província da Zambézia) e Vila de Malema (Província de Nampula).

CONSELHO DE MINISTROS

Resolução n.º 41/2018

de 6 de Novembro

Havendo necessidade de homologar as propostas de atribuição e alteração de topónimos de infra-estruturas, vias de acesso e unidades administrativas submetidas pelos Municípios da Cidade de Maputo, Cidade de Chimoio (Província de Manica), Vila de Ulónguè (Província de Tete), Vila de Maganja da Costa (Província da Zambézia) e Vila de Malema (Província de Nampula),

The standardization of the writing of geographical names has also become a national agenda, in accordance with international practices, especially the recommendations of the UNGEGN, although still slowly, since no national work has been done on this component.

The reference basis for the standardization of the writing of names currently in the country is the standardization of Mozambican languages, made regularly by the Eduardo Mondlane University (UEM).

At this stage, we are also witnessing, although timid, the first works of standardization of the writing of geographical names that culminated in the approval of new designations of the municipal districts of Maputo City (KaMpfumu, KaMaxakeni, KaMavota, Nhlamankulu, KaMubukwana, KaNyakae KaTembe), as well as other administrative units of the Cities of Chimoio (Manica province) and Moatize (Tete province), and territorial units of the District of Angonia (province of Tete). Therefore, the process of attribution or alteration of geographical names is being accompanied by the proper standardization of the writing of names according to the orthography of the Mozambican languages.



1. CHALLENGES OF THE AREA

- Approval of the draft revision of the Decree-Law on geographical names

At the moment, Decree-Law 1/2014 does not cover names of territorial units (names of provinces, districts, administrative posts, localities and villages) and is out of line with the decentralized governance underway in the country, with regard to the competences of the different actors.

- Continue with the standardization of the writing of geographic names

The country is a little behind in the matter of harmonization and standardization of the writing of geographical names especially if we take into account the linguistic and cultural diversity and the recommendation of the UNGEGN on the writing of names in the source language.

- Creation and management of the geographic name base of Mozambique

As the entity responsible for providing reliable data on geographical names to different users (map editors, geographical charts, among others) INGEMO, IP needs to have and manage the national repository of geographical names.

- Ensure the continuous training and qualification of technicians

For a better approach and development of the area of geographical names, especially the investigation and standardization of the writing of geographical names it is necessary to invest in the training and qualification of technicians.

2. FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

The toponymy in Mozambique as an element of the affirmation of national sovereignty carries with it the political and socio-cultural dimensions, which influence the line of orientation and action according to the priorities and vision of governance of the country, a fact that justifies the alignment and response that was given to the challenges of each phase or stage of the country.

The creation of a coordinating entity for the management of geographical names, INGEMO, IP, in a context of coexistence of several national institutions that collect and use geographical names for the various purposes was a great advance in seeking to allow greater coordination and efficiency, so that the use of standardized geographical names is an objective pursued by the country.

If at first the focus was to meet the demands of updating geographical names of access routes, administrative units (within cities and towns), infrastructures and public places, it is currently imposed, and there are already ongoing actions in this direction, to advance to the standardization of the writing of geographical names on a national scale.

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