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UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON
THE STANDARDIZATION OF
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
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Item 7 of the provisional agenda

REPORTS BY GOVERNMENTS ON THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE
STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

Submitted by the Government of the Netherlands

As yet an official standardized spelling of geographical names is not in existence in the Netherlands. In general a spelling sanctioned by usage is applied.

Various authorities publish their own name lists or gazetteers of which the spelling is not always identical.

In 1936 a standardized gazetteer of some 40,000 names was published without being officially accepted. The spellings on this list are obsolete.

In 1960 a government spelling committee was asked to elaborate a proposal for a standardized gazetteer in accordance with the spelling system in use for the Dutch language.

A proposal for standardized spelling of all place names is now ready, and the committee is at work preparing an additional list of all geographical names mentioned on the official topographic map of the whole country on the scale 1:25,000 (except names of roads and buildings); this amounts to about 60,000 names. In this the location of geographical entities is expressed not by their co-ordinates but in reference to the nearest place of more than 100 persons. The gender of the names is not indicated. The proposals of the committee have as yet not been officially authorized.
