

PROVISIONAL: FOR PARTICIPANTS ONLY

Distr.
RESTRICTED

25 September 1967

Original: ENGLISH

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE STANDARDIZATION
OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE EIGHTH MEETING

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Thursday, 21 September 1967, at 4.20 p.m.

President: Mr. BURRILL United States of America
Rapporteur: Mr. GOMEZ DE SILVA Mexico
Executive Secretary: Mr. URETA
Deputy Executive Secretary: Mr. CHRISTOPHER

CONTENTS:

International co-operation (agenda item 12):

(b) Steps towards international standardization

(a) Formation of a United Nations Permanent Commission of Experts on
Geographical Names

Report of the Conference (agenda item 13)

N.B. Participants wishing to have corrections to this provisional summary record incorporated in the final summary record of the meeting are requested to submit them in writing, preferably on a copy of the record itself, to the Official Records Editing Section, United Nations Secretariat, Room 443, Palais des Nations, Geneva, within two working days of receiving the provisional record in their working language.

E/CONF.53/SR.8
GE.67-19401

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION (agenda item 12) (E/CONF.53/L.15, L.26 and Add.1, L.51, L.67, L.83):

(b) STEPS TOWARDS INTERNATIONAL STANDARDIZATION

Mr. GLEDITSCH (Norway) drew attention to a report submitted by the delegations of Denmark, Sweden and Norway on regional standardization of geographical names (E/CONF.53/L.67), which gave a short account of the action taken jointly by their Governments under a resolution adopted by the VIth International Congress of Onomastic Sciences, held at Munich in 1958. He had chosen to introduce the report under item 12(b) because he believed that co-operation within groups of countries of similar language was the first step towards international standardization. It was obvious that an international agreement on transliteration could not be arrived at immediately, but he was convinced that it would be reached in time. To attain that goal, every effort should be made by groups of countries of similar language to obtain as wide a measure of compromise as was possible. In the experience of the Scandinavian countries, changes in the spelling of geographical names were accepted with surprising speed despite the almost universal view that spellings should not be changed.

Having completed the first step towards regional standardization, the Scandinavian countries were ready to take the second step. If other groups of countries of similar language did what those countries had done, he believed that international agreement on standardization could be reached in ten years.

(a) FORMATION OF A UNITED NATIONS PERMANENT COMMISSION OF EXPERTS ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

The PRESIDENT observed that, according to a view repeatedly expressed, the most important action the Conference could take was to set up machinery to ensure that the co-operation achieved during the session did not lose momentum. Although the proposed Permanent Commission might take some time to establish, there appeared to be no reason why unofficial action should not be taken in the meantime.

An ad hoc group of experts had held its first meeting the previous day and had elected the following officers:

Chairman:	Mr. Burrill (United States of America)
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. Komkov (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)
Rapporteur:	Mr. Nédélec (France)
Co-ordinating Secretary:	Mr. Christopher (United Nations Secretariat).

The ad hoc group would meet again next day, after the closure of the session, and attempt to ascertain what action the Conference had left incomplete and what arrangements could be made for work pending the establishment of the proposed Permanent Commission. The members of the proposed Commission would be appointed by the United Nations, probably after the spring session of the Economic and Social Council in 1968.

REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE (agenda item 13) (E/CONF.53/2 and Add.1, 2 and 5; E/CONF.53/C.1/1 and Add.1; E/CONF.53/C.4/1)

The PRESIDENT invited the Conference to examine the draft reports of Committees I and IV which, after adoption, would be treated as addenda to the report of the Conference.

Draft report of Committee I (E/CONF.53/C.1/1 and Add.

The draft report of Committee I was adopted.

Draft report of Committee IV (E/CONF.53/C.4/1)

Mr. LOXTON (Kenya) suggested that the term "Body of Experts" used in paragraphs 6, 8, 9, 11 and 12 of the draft report should be replaced by the term "Group of Experts".

It was so agreed.

Mr. BREU (Austria), supported by Mr. MEYNEN (Federal Republic of Germany), suggested that the term "German-Dutch", which was used in paragraph 9 to describe a linguistic/geographic group, should be replaced by the expression "German and Dutch speaking countries".

It was so agreed.

The draft report of Committee IV, as amended, was adopted.

The PRESIDENT invited the Conference to examine the successive chapters of its draft report.

Chapter 1 (E/CONF.53/2)

Mr. GOMEZ DE SILVA (Mexico), Rapporteur, invited delegations to submit to him, in writing, any corrections to the names and designations of their members.

Mr. COHEN (Bulgaria) suggested that the addresses of participants might be included in the report.

The PRESIDENT said it was not United Nations practice to include such information in the reports of meetings. Such addresses as appeared in the draft report had been provided by participants on their official registration forms.

E/CONF.53/SR.8

In reply to questions put by Mr. LAMBERT (Australia) and Mr. FRASER (Canada), Mr. GOMEZ DE SILVA (Mexico), Rapporteur, explained that there was a historical reason why paragraph 4 included two texts for rule 3 of the rules of procedure. At its first meeting the Conference had decided that the Credentials Committee should consist of five members (E/CONF.53/SR.1, page 3); at its seventh meeting it had revised that decision and decided that the Credentials Committee should consist of four members (E/CONF.53/SR.7, page 2).

The PRESIDENT suggested that the Conference should adopt chapter I subject to possible corrections to the list of names and designations of participants.

Chapter I of the draft report of the Conference (E/CONF.53/2) was so adopted.

Chapter II (E/CONF.53/2/Add.1, 2 and 5)

Mr. ASSAYE (Ethiopia) suggested that the word "Geographical" should be inserted before "Names" in the title of recommendation A (E/CONF.53/2/Add.1, page 4).

It was so agreed.

The part of Chapter II set forth in document E/CONF.53/2/Add.1, as amended, was adopted.

The parts of Chapter II set forth in documents E/CONF.53/2/Add.2 and 5 were adopted.

The meeting rose at 5.10 p.m.