

# United Nations

## Press Release

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Sixth UN Conference on the  
Standardization of Geographical Names  
9th Meeting (AM)

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CONFERENCE ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES DISCOURAGES CHANGES  
OF PLACE-NAMES BY "UNAUTHORIZED BODIES"

The deliberate changing of geographical names by "unauthorized bodies" could lead to the loss of cultural and historical heritage, stated a resolution of the Sixth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names.

Under its terms, the Conference discouraged the unauthorized changing of nationally-recognized geographical names which had already been established by a legally-constituted entity. The United Nations should not recognize geographical names given by any unauthorized body, the resolution stated.

Prior to the approval of that text, the representative of Cyprus withdrew an earlier proposal by which the Conference would have recommended, "in view of the massive alteration of the geographical names in Cyprus", the establishment of an appropriate body to examine complaints by Member States regarding unauthorized changes of geographical names.

By another resolution adopted today, the Conference recommended that a list of country names in their official language or languages be regularly published by the United Nations.

By the terms of a third resolution, the Conference recommended that the Working Group on Toponymic Terminology be asked to produce a dictionary of toponymic terminology in all six official languages of the United Nations. Also by that text, the Secretariat was asked to produce a translation of the new glossary of toponymic terminology prepared by the Working Group, from English into all other official United Nations languages. The United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names was urged to review the multilingual dictionary periodically and update it as necessary.

The Conference is considering draft resolutions contained in its final report. Proposals still awaiting approval concern toponymy in Antarctica, training courses on applied toponymy and the venue for the Seventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names.

The Conference will meet again at 3 p.m. today to conclude consideration of those remaining draft resolutions.

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