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SIXTH UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE  
ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF  
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES  
New York, 25 August-3 September 1992  
Item 8 (b) of the provisional agenda\*

RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMMES:

United Nations Resolutions on the  
Standardization of Geographical Names  
and Measures to Implement Them

Submitted by the United States of America \*\*/

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\*/ E/CONF.85/1/REV.1

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## UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTIONS ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES AND MEASURES TO IMPLEMENT THEM

A major task identified by Resolution 4 of the 5th UN Conference, and subsequently assigned to the UNGEGN Working Group on Evaluation, was to review resolutions and measures to implement them. A questionnaire on the topics was circulated by the convenor and findings were submitted to the 14th and 15th UNGEGN sessions. For various reasons, the resulting information could not be easily summarized, and succinct and implementable conclusions could not be derived.

It is difficult, therefore, to recommend further evaluation of efforts to implement resolutions. Another condition is that the limited resources of Working Group members precludes a continuing and detailed analysis of resolutions. The results of the questionnaire show several factors, which were summarized in paragraphs B.4. and B.10 of ANNEX C of a report to the 15th UNGEGN. Comments regarding factors hindering implementation include: lack of a national authority; complex national linguistic patterns prevent implementation; lack of resources; lack of national legislation; resolutions go beyond practical considerations and need not be implemented; resolutions need to be written with greater clarity.

The following recommendations are offered. Future resolutions need to be carefully screened to assure they deal with practical considerations. A Resolutions Committee should be formed to review new resolutions and to approve those adhering to standards. Paragraph 3 of Annex D of the cited report to the 15th UNGEGN also recommends the following: A catalog of resolutions should be made to classify them according to their nature and practicality, such as "Substantive," "Administrative," or "Token." Other classifications could be "Obsolete" and "Partially Covered by Other Resolution(s)." Another category should be according to subject. The UNGEGN secretariat staff should be asked to prepare such a catalog.