

**Group of Experts on
Geographical names**

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English

Agenda Item 10

Relevant excerpts from the Report of the Secretary-General to ECOSOC on Cartography at the Third United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas (document E/1985/38)

(Presented by the Secretariat)

F. National geographical names authority, toponymic guidelines and training in geographical names

13. The Conference considered that there was a need for awareness in Governments of the importance of general geographical information as a basic tool for the promotion of decision-making, and noted that the standardization of geographical names was closely linked to this concept and that geographic information standardization required a rational process and an organizational ability. It recommended Member States in the region to establish national geographical names authorities to assist them in implementing the recommendations of the United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names.

14. The Conference recognized the importance of resolution 4 of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, b/ on the publication of toponymic guidelines for map and other editors, and, noting the publication of toponymic guidelines by about 30 countries, recommended that countries of the region should be encouraged to publish and keep up-to-date toponymic guidelines for map and other editors which would enable cartographers of other countries to deal appropriately with problems of cartographic toponymy.

15. The Conference, noting that there existed a need for professional personnel with education in cartographic toponymy in the region, and that few universities and academic institutions had this subject as part of their curricula, recommended that each country should aim at providing training in cartographic toponymy at the university or corresponding academic level. It further recommended the holding of short courses in cartographic toponymy and requested the United Nations Secretariat to seek appropriate funding for such courses or seminars.