

30 September 1986

Agenda item 5Report on the activities in Kenya
presented by Mr. J. Absaloms (Kenya)

Since the eleventh session of U.N.G.E.G.N. which took place in Geneva in October 1984, the standardization of geographical names in Kenya has continued in the same trend as before. The activities included mainly the following:-

- Further training of field staff in procedures of collecting geographical names.
- Collecting of new names.
- Renaming of features.
- Correcting of geographical names and amending the gazetteer (revision copy).

Preference was given to two major activities. The first involved collecting new names during the extension of 1:50,000 topographical mapping. This mapping extension is being carried out over districts previously mapped at smaller scales. The old mapping had been done many years ago and numerous naming and spelling errors have been identified and corrected. Over one thousand names were processed by the Standing Committee on Standardization of Geographical Names.

The second, and currently ongoing, project, is a country-wide programme which is meant to identify accurately the names of all administrative units. Due to the finances involved the revision of topographical maps has lagged behind. Administrative units have been renamed and many new ones created all over the country, without reflecting the changes on maps and the national gazetteer. The project, aimed mainly at providing accurate information for the 1989 national population census, will produce very up-to-date administrative unit names up to December 1986.

On international co-operation preparations have already been made to collect and standardize names of features extending across the international border between Kenya and Tanzania. This is in connection with the ongoing new 1:50,000 topographical mapping of North Eastern Tanzania by the Overseas Survey Directorate of U.K. The data will also be used during remapping of southern Kenya at the same scale scheduled to start in 1987.