

ad hoc

Ad Hoc Group of Experts on
the Standardization of
Geographical Names

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AIMS, FUNCTIONS AND MODUS OPERANDI

ad hoc
submitted by the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on
the Standardization of Geographical Names

1. At its Forty-fourth session under Agenda item 17, the United Nations Economic and Social Council adopted the Resolution 1314 (XLIV)- standardization of Geographical Names. This resolution invited the Ad-Hoc Group of Experts on Geographical Names to provide the necessary co-ordination of international activities in the field of geographical names.
2. In execution of this task the Ad-Hoc Group of Experts is charged with providing for continuous co-ordination and liaison among nations to further the standardization of geographical names and to encourage the formation and work of regional groups.
3. In order to carry out its work and to achieve the results required, both on a national and on an international level, as specified in the Resolutions adopted in Geneva, the regional grouping as defined at Geneva will continue and the Ad-Hoc Group of Experts will encourage and support meetings to be held within each of the regions.
4. The fourteen regional subdivisions of the world as defined at Geneva in 1967 are :
 - 14 (Africa South of the Sahara)
 - 13 (Arabic)
 - 13 (Asia-East)
 - 12 (Asia-South-East)
 - 10 (Asia-South-West)
 - 7 (Europe-East Central and South-East)
 - 4 (Europe-German and Dutch Speaking)
 - 5 (Europe-Northern)
 - 6 (Europe-Romance)
 - 11 (Indian Group)
 - 2 (Latin America)
 - 8 (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)
 - 1 (United States of America and Canada)
 - 3 (United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand)
5. The Group of Experts is composed of one representative from each region. Countries within each region will select by methods of their own choosing an expert to represent the region at meetings of the Group of Experts or to speak when required to do so on behalf of the region as a whole at United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names.
6. The appointed regional expert will be responsible for ensuring that the work of the Group of Experts and its potential for technical assistance is brought to the attention of individual nations within his region and for reporting to the United Nations any special problems within his region.

7. A nation not already a member of a regional group will decide for itself the group to which it wishes to belong. A nation may also participate in the activities of regions other than its own, provided the total number of nations and the nature of their participation are not such as to change the regional character of the proceedings.
8. The Group of Experts will elect the following officers : a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman and a Rapporteur. These officers will serve for a period of four years or until their successors are elected. The posts of Secretary and Assistant-Secretary, which the Ad-Hoc Group of Experts also require, will be United Nations officers of the Cartography Division.
9. In the case of the permanent absence of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman will assume the office of Chairman. In the Vice-Chairman or the Rapporteur, the Chairman will appoint persons to complete the unexpired portion of their terms of office.
10. A meeting of the Ad-Hoc Group of Experts will be held at least one year in advance of each United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names for the purpose of preparing for the Conference.
11. Each government can appoint observers to attend meetings of the Ad-Hoc Group of Experts on the understanding that the said observers will have the right of voice but not of vote, and that their attendance will be coordinated with the Expert who represents the region in question.
12. Persons with special knowledge of particular aspects of the Standardization of Geographical Names may be invited to place before the Ad-Hoc Group of Experts their specialized knowledge.
13. During the meetings of the Ad-Hoc Group of Experts, special working groups may be appointed to deal with particular issues. Upon completion of a nominated task the working group will be automatically disbanded unless specially directed to remain in being.
14. Between meetings of the Ad-Hoc Group of Experts, working groups of specialists can be formed under the chairmanship of one of the Group of Experts to study particular problems. Such groups will only be formed with the approval of the Group of Experts. Their conclusions and recommendations will require approval by the Group of Experts before submission to the United Nations Conference for final acceptance.
15. The working languages of the United Nations selected for the conduct of business during the meetings of the Ad-Hoc Group of Experts will depend upon the nature of the representation and the facilities available at the time.
16. The Group of Experts will maintain communication among themselves and will render a report of their main activities semi-annually to the Cartographic Division of the United Nations and to the Chairman of the Group of Experts.
17. Apart from communication through formal channels, regional experts and national representatives will be notified by informal means of the transactions, programmes and requirements of the Ad-Hoc Group of Experts.