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SECOND UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE  
STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES  
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Item 10 of the provisional agenda

GEOGRAPHICAL TERMS

Presented by the Governments of Austria,  
the Federal Republic of Germany and Switzerland

A. Classification of geographic entities

1. The classification of geographical names (for example, oronyms, hydronyms, minor names) is of no use for the purpose of international standardization, and may even lead to confusion because place-names may be originally river names, river names may be originally field names etc. Therefore classification of geographic names may better be deleted from the agenda and recommended to the International Congress of Onomastics.

2. The classification of geographical entities must provide the framework for the glossaries which are to be included in the gazetteers, that is, first for the glossary of designations and secondly for that of generic terms. If this classification has to promote the uniformity of presentation of these glossaries, it should have to be restricted to large categories, leaving to the single gazetteers the task to work out the subgrouping and ultimate details in accordance with national needs. For the time being it seems impossible to achieve a generally acceptable systematization within these large categories. The classification of geographical entities may read as follows (see also examples in the annex to this paper).

1. Hydrographic entities;
2. Relief and land forms;
3. Terrain: fields, meadows, forests etc.;
4. Political entities, administrative divisions;
5. Regions, natural and historical;

6. Populated places, buildings, structures;

7. Routes: railways, roads, streets etc.

B. Uniformity of presentation of glossaries in gazetteers

3. Uniformity in the presentation of glossaries in gazetteers is achievable to a certain degree only, namely by presenting in each gazetteer four glossaries or lists as described below.

(a) A survey of designations and generic terms in use in the gazetteer, in accordance with the classification of geographic entities mentioned in paragraph 2. The designations should be numbered, and a short definition should be given where the meaning of any designation is not obvious. See example B in the annex to this paper.

(b) An alphabetical list of generic terms found in the gazetteer with references to the numbering in the systematic survey. See example C in the annex to this paper.

(c) An alphabetical list of abbreviations of designations, or of other codes used for them. See example D in the annex to this paper.

(d) An alphabetical glossary of abbreviations used in maps on which the gazetteer is based.

C. Translation of designations and definitions

4. As regards translation of designations and definitions into other languages, refer to the proposals of the Dutch-German speaking group (E/CONF.61/L.27, para.1(b)).

ANNEX<sup>1/</sup>

A. EXAMPLE: CLASSIFIED DESIGNATIONS

1. Hydrographic entities

anabranh, bay, bight, canal, channel, cove, current, deep, distributary, drainage canal, estuary, fjord, ford, geyser, glacier, gulf, harbor, headwaters, inlet, interfluve, intermittent lake, intermittent stream, lagoon, lake, marine channel, narrows, pond, rainpool, rapids, reach, reservoir, river bend, roadstead, salt lake, sea, section of lake, section of river, section of stream, sound, spring, stream, stream mouth, swamps, wadi, waterfall, waterhole, waterway, well.

2. Relief and land forms

arch, bar, basin, beach, bluff, canyon, cape, cave, cleft, cliff, coast, dale, delta, depression, ditch, divide, dune, escarpment, gorge, gully, headland, heights, hill, hillock, hummock, island, isthmus, kettle, landslide, lowland, massif, mesa, mound, mountain, mountain pass, mountain ridge, nunatak, pass, peak, peninsula, plain, plateau, promontory, ravine, reef, ridge, rift valley, rock in water, rock on land, sandbar, shoal, shore, slope, spit, spur, terrace, upland, valley, volcanic cone, volcano, watershed.

3. Terrain: fields, meadows, forest etc.

abandoned airfield, airfield, airport, bog, coal basin, desert, esta, estate, farm, flat, forest, forest reserve, game reserve, gardens, gasfield, glade, grazing land, land, landing field, locality, marsh, meadow, moor, national park, peat-cutting, works, salt basin, salt flat, sands, section of estate, slough, steppe, tree nursery, tundra.

B. EXAMPLE: SURVEY OF DESIGNATIONS AND GENERIC TERMS

Water hydrographic entities

1. afwateringskanaal drainage canal

Definition: level waterway for drainage mainly

Generic terms: boezem, goot, graaf, greb, grep, grub, grup, leiding, loop, ringvaart, sloot, tocht, vliet, watergang, watering, wetering, wijk, zwet.

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<sup>1/</sup> United States of America, Board of Geographic Names, Gazettters Nos. 14, 42, 106, 108, 113, 114 (Washington, D.C.).

2. baai bay

3. haven harbour

Generic terms: dok, haven, kolk.

4. Definition: level waterway for navigation mainly

Generic terms: boezem, diep, gat, gracht, hoofdvaart, kanaal, opvaart, opvaartje, singel, vaart, vaartje, vaarweg, zielvaart.

5. meer lake, pool

Definition: body of fresh water, exceptionally brackish, of any size, surrounded either by land or by land and a bordering lake. Generic terms: boezem, braak, breek, dobbe, gat, kolk, meer, poel, plas, put, ven, waai, waal, weel, wiel, wijde.

6. stromend water

Generic terms: beek, beekje, diep, diepje, gat, loop, maar, sprang, sprank, spreng, sprenk, sprink, strang, stroom.

7. vaarwater in zee marine channel

Definition: marine channel or gully.

Generic terms: balg, diep, gaatje, gat, greul, kanaal, nauw, priel, rak, ril, straat, stroom, vaarwater, vaarweg, zeegat.

8. zeegebied sea area

Definition: part of the sea not 2, 7 or 9, bay, inlet or marine channel

Generic terms: zee, zeegat.

9. zwin inlet

Generic terms: slenk, sluffer, zwin.

RELIEF EN TERREINVORMEN, Relief and land forms

10. ....etc. etc.

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C. EXAMPLE: ALPHABETICAL LIST OF GENERIC TERMS,  
WITH REFERENCES TO THE DESIGNATIONS

balg 7	leiding 1	strang 6
beek 6	loop 1, 6	stroom 6, 7
beekje 6	maar 6	tocht 1
boezem 1, 4, 5	meer 5	vaart 4
braak 5	nauw 7	vaartje 4
breek 5	opvaart 4	vaarwater 7
diep 4, 6, 7	opvaartje 4	vaarweg 4, 7
diepje 6	plas 5	ven 5
dobbe 5	poel 5	vliet 1
dok 3	priel 7	waai 5
gaatje 7	put 5	waal 5
gat 4, 5, 6, 7	rak 7	watergang 1
geul 7	ril 7	watering 1
goot 1	ringvaart 1	weel 5
graaf 1	singel 4	wetering 1
gracht 4	slenk 9	wiel 5
greb 1	sloot 1	wijde 5
grep 1	slufter 9	wijk 1
grub 1	sprang 6	zee 8
grup 1	sprank 6	zeecat 7, 8
haven 3	spreng 6	zeilvaart 4
hoofdvaart 4	sorenk 6	zwet 1
kanaal 4, 7	sprink 6	zwin 9
kolk 1, 5	straat 7	

D. EXAMPLE: ALPHABETICAL LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS OF DESIGNATORY  
TERMS, OR OTHER CODES USED FOR THEM

AFW	AFWATERINGSKANAAL	drainage canal
BERG	BERG	hill
BEW	BEWOOND OORD	populated place

BRUG	BRUG	bridge
DAL	DAL	valley
DIST	DISTRIKT	district
DIJK	DIJK	dam, dike
FAB	FABRIEK	factory
GEB	GEBOUW	building
GEM	GEMEENTE	municipality
HAV	HAVEN	harbour
HEI	HEIDE	heath, moor
HEUV	HEUVEL	hill
HRUG	HEUVELRUG	ridge
KAN	KANAAL	canal
LAE	LANDENGTE	isthmus
MEER	MEER	lake, pool
PROV	PROVINCIE	province
STR	STROMEND WATER	stream
VLV	VLIEGVELD	airfield
VJZ	VAARWATER IN ZEE	marine channel
WEG	WEB	road
ZEE	ZEEGEBIED	sea area
ZPL	ZANDPLAAT	flat
ZWIN	ZWIN	inlet

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