THIRD UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

Athens, 17 August – 7 September 1977

Vol. I. Report of the Conference

UNITED NATIONS

Department of Technical Co-operation for Development

THIRD
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ON THE STANDARDIZATION
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NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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ANNEXES

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE CONFERENCE

Terms of reference

1. The Third United Nations Conference on the Standarcization of Geographical Names was held at Athens from 17 August to 7 September 1977 in pursuance of the decision taken by the Economic and Social Council at its 1854th meeting on 4 May 1973.

Attendance

2. The Conference was attended by 152 representatives from 59 countries 1/ and 11 intergovernmental and international scientific organizations. 2/ A list of the participants was circulated in document E/CONF.69/INF.4/Rev.1.

Opening of the Conference

3. Opening the Conference, K. A. Tripanis, Minister of Culture and Sciences, welcomed the delegates and observers and underlined the importance of the work undertaken by the United Nations in the field of standardization.

4. The Executive Secretary thanked the host Government, the Republic of Greece, for its hospitality.

Adoption of the rules of procedure

5. At its first plenary meeting the Conference adopted as its rules of procedure those used at the Second Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in 1972. Rule 6 was changed in that the Conference was to elect a President, three Vice-Presidents, a Rapporteur and an Editor-in-Chief (see annex III).

1/ Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Central African Empire, Chile, China, Congo, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Finland, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany. Federal Republic of, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Holy See, Hungary, India, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Mauritania, Malaysia, Morocco, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Spain, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom, United States of America, Yugoslavia and Zambia.

2/ European Community (EC), International Committee of Onomastic Sciences (ICOS), International Hydrographic Organization (IHO), International Organization for Standardization (ISO), International Quaternary Association (INQUA), International Society for Photogrammetry (ISP), League of Arab States, Organization of African Unity (OAU), Pan-American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), United Nations Council for Namibia, Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).

Officers of the Conference

6.   The Conference elected the following officers:

President: L. Mavridis (Greece)
First Vice-President: R. O. Coker (Nigeria)
Second Vice-President: F. Gall (Guatemala)
Third Vice-President: H. Ganji (Iran)
Rapporteur: D. P. Blok (Netherlands)
Editor-in-Chief: J. Breu (Austria)

7.   L. N. Mavridis, the newly elected President of the Conference, delivered an address in which he thanked the delegates for the honour bestowed upon him and praised the former Presidents of the First and Second Conferences and the Executive Secretary for their valuable contributions to the cause of standardization. He outlined some of the problems faced by the Third Conference and wished the delegates a fruitfu session and a pleasant stay in the birth-place of science and democracy.

8.   The Conference decided, on the proposals of F. Gall (Guatemala) and L. Mavridis (Greece), respectively, that Meredith F. Burrill (United States of America) and H. A. G. Lewis (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) should serve as Honorary Presidents of the Third Conference.

Credentials

9.   The Credentials Committee, composed of the President, the First, Second and Third Vice-Presidents, the Rapporteur, the Editor-in-Chief and the Honorary Presidents ex officio and the Executive Secretary reported that the credentials of all delegates had been found in order.

Adoption of the agenda

10.   The Conference adopted as its agenda the provisional agenda prepared by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names. The agenda as adopted is given in annex I.

Organization of work

11.   The Conference established the five technical committees proposed by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names at its sixth session 3/ and appointed the following to a committee to nominate officers for those committees:

D. N. Sharma (India)   Chairman
M. F. Burrill (United States of America)   Member
P. Foo (Malaysia)   Member
E. Meynen (Federal Republic of Germany)   Member
C. N. Christopher   Secretary

3/ "Report of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names on the work of its sixth session, 5-26 March 1975" (ESA/RT/GN/4), p. 8.

12. The following officers were nominated and subsequently elected to the technical committees, each of which dealt with specific items of the agenda:

Committee I.	Chairman:	E. Földi (Hungary)
	Vice-Chairman:	P. Foo (Malaysia)
	Rapporteur:	A. Rayburn (Canada)

National standardization (item 8)
Training courses (item 9)
Terminology (item 12)

Committee II.	Chairman:	H. A. G. Lewis (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
	Vice-Chairman:	L. Sawyerr (Liberia)
	Rapporteur:	C. M. Mubita (Zambia)

Gazetteers (item 10)
Automatic data processing (item 11)

Committee III.	Chairman:	A. Komkov (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)
	Vice-Chairman:	E. Moutsoulas (Greece)
	Rapporteur:	A. Ben Khalti (Morocco) 4/

Exonyms (item 13)
Policies, procedures and co-operative arrangements for naming features beyond a single sovereignty (item 14).

Committee IV.	Chairman:	C. N. Sharma (India)
	Vice-Chairman:	E. Haack (German Democratic Republic)
	Rapporteur:	W. J. Absaloms (Kenya)

Writing systems (item 15)

Committee V.	Chairman:	M. F. Burrill (United States of America)
	Vice-Chairman:	E. F. Halvorsen (Norway)
	Rapporteur:	J. B. C. Wekker (Suriname)

It was decided that each delegation could be a member of each committee.

13. The Conference also established an Editorial Committee and editorial groups to assist the technical committees.

Editorial Committee

Chairman:	J. Breu (Austria)
Editors-at-Large:	R. G. M. Geelan (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
	R. R. Randall (United States of America)
	J. Ramondou (France)
	S. Radó (Hungary)

4/ J. Poirier (Canada) was appointed by the Chairman of Committee III to replace A. Ben Khalti, who withdrew from the Committee.

Editorial group - Committee I

Convenor:	J. J. J. Vereerstraeten (Belgium)
Members:	M. Smart (Canada)
	P. Woodman (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
	A. Christofi (Cyprus)
	P. Hovda (Norway)
	M. Dahmani (Morocco)
	J. Cruz (Spain)
	V. Yurkovsky (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic)
	B. Koen (Bulgaria)
	D. J. Orth (United States of America)
	S. Unaydin (Turkey)
	I. Velazquez (Cuba)

Editorial group - Committee II

Convenor:	R. Böhme (Federal Republic of Germany)
Members:	E. A. Stoneman (United States of America)
	J. Poirier (Canada)
	M. Laghouat (Morocco)
	E. Meynen (Federal Republic of Germany)
	D. J. Orth (United States of America)

Editorial group - Committee III

Convenor:	L. Ratjoki (Poland) and H. A. G. Lewis (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
Members:	H. Dorion (Canada)
	J. van den Branden (Belgium)
	E. M. Närhi (Finland)
	J. M. Gonzalez (Spain)
	R. R. Randall (United States of America)
	P. Hovda (Norway)

Editorial group - Committee IV

Convenor:	T. J. Liard (United States of America)
Members:	Y. Slavutych (Canada)
	H. Zikmund (German Democratic Republic)
	P. J. M. Geelan (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
	Sun X. (China)

Editorial group - Committee V

Convenor:	H. Frieswiyk (United States of America)
Members:	V. Koulikov (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)
	A. Hakam (Morocco)
	E. Sundby (Norway)

Documentation

14. A list of the documents submitted to the Conference is given in annex II to the present report. The technical papers are to be published as volume II of the proceedings of the Conference.

Work of the Conference

15. In addition to its committee meetings, the Conference held seven plenary sessions. The work of the Conference is summarized in chapter II. The resolutions adopted by the Conference are given in chapter III.

16. The Conference acknowledged with gratitude the services far beyond the call of duty of P. J. M. Geelan (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), as Editor-at-Large, in producing textually correct and readily comprehensible versions of the proceedings and resolutions. The Conference expressed its appreciation of the valuable work done by C. R. Page (United States of America) in drawing up the glossary of technical terms contained in document E/CONF.69/L.1.

Closing of the session

17. The Conference at its closing meeting on 7 September 1977 adopted a vote of thanks to the host Government, and to its officers and staff (resolution 27).

II. SUMMARY OF THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

Plenary

Reports by divisions and Governments on the situation in their regions and countries and on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names since the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (item 7)

18. The reports made by the linguistic/geographical divisions showed that those organizations played an important role in stimulating and co-ordinating the standardization of names in their respective regions. That was particularly the case in the Asia, South-East division, which organized four meetings, during which regional and international co-operation was well established; the Asia, South-West division, which held two meetings; the East-Central and South-East Europe division; the Norden division; and the Latin America division, where five regional meetings were held, the reports of which were presented to the Conference.

The China division and that of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, presenting their national reports simultaneously with their divisional reports, gave an overview of the amount of work done in their respective areas. Some divisions, such as the Romano-Hellenic and the United States of America-Canada divisions kept contact mostly through correspondence and bilateral meetings. Close interdivisional contact was maintained between the USSR and the East Central and South-East Europe divisions.

19. Most reports presented by the delegates on behalf of their respective countries reflected the stimulating effect of the two preceding conferences not only on developing countries but also on those with a long established tradition in the field of cartography and toponymy. Nearly all delegations declared that in their countries standardization was worked on in consequence of or in accordance with the recommendations made by those conferences. Names authorities of different kinds had been established in a number of countries such as Afghanistan, the Central African Empire, Cuba, Cyprus, Finland, Iraq, Liberia, Madagascar, Morocco, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Turkey and Yugoslavia. In other countries special attention had been given to toponymy by the existing geographic and mapping services, as in the Congo, Japan, Senegal and Suriname. Nearly all delegations could state that in their countries gazetteers, as described by the First Conference, had been published or were in preparation. The delegate of Guatemala, acting as the expert for the Latin America division, exhibited the geographical dictionaries of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Panama. The gazetteers of Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, Finland, the German Democratic Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, Hungary, Norway, the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics were also exhibited.

20. A number of countries - Canada, Chile, Finland, Greece, India, Iran, Nigeria and Uganda - gave some detailed information on the field collection of names, as practised by their services in accordance with the recommendations of the United Nations Conferences. It was stated again that the purpose of field collection was basically to ensure the quality of name standardization. Some reports reflected the many and great difficulties met in the standardizing process, either by the occurrence of a great number of languages in one country, many of which did not yet have a spelling tradition (namely, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal and the Sudan) or because there was an acute shortage of trained personnel. The urgent need for training courses to produce the required personnel was stressed by several delegations (Kenya, Malaysia, the Sudan and Turkey). As a result of the recommendation made by the Second Conference, lists of exonyms had been prepared or were in preparation in many countries - for example, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Iran, Morocco, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Spain and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

21. Some delegations dwelt upon the renaming of places in consequence of a foreign occupation.

22. Reports were presented by the observers from the International Organization for Standardization, the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History and the United Nations Council for Namibia. The latter pointed to General Assembly

resolution 2372 (XXII) of 12 June 1968, in which the name of Namibia was officially recognized by the United Nations as replacing the name of South West Africa. He urged those who were engaged in the standardization of geographical names implement that resolution.

23. The Conference recognized the importance of holding a fourth conference and, after considering the invitation made by the Government of Iran, adopted a resolution to that effect (see resolution 1).

24. The Conference endorsed the decisions taken by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names at its sixth session regarding the information of linguistic/geographic divisions and recommended that a division covering Africa, Central should be added to the list published in the appendix to the report of that session (see resolution 26).

Report on the work of Committee I

National standardization (item 8)

25. Contributions from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, France, the German Democratic Republic, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Hungary, India, Kenya, Malaysia, Morocco, Nigeria, Romania, the Sudan, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America revealed a number of new problems in national standardization which required discussion and solution. It was noted that the problems of field collection varied considerably from region to region. Nigeria and the Sudan drew attention to the need for a comprehensive guide to the methodology of field collection in multilingual areas.

26. It was felt that the responsibilities and functions of various administrative levels involved in the collection, verification, approval and application of names required clarification. Bulgaria referred to the three levels distinguished in its approach to names: national, regional and local. That led to discussion of the place of microtoponymy (names of small features) in national standardization. Cyprus took the view that all names on the ground should be collected while the officer was in the field, providing a basis from which appropriate selection for mapping could be made at later stages, as required.

27. The United States of America stressed the importance and value of names authorities providing inquiry and information services as well as opportunities for organizations and individuals to make and comment on names proposals.

28. The importance of national standardization as a basis for international standardization was generally reiterated.

29. There was considerable discussion of the role of maps in achieving national standardization, some suggesting that only those names published on maps comprised the official toponymy, others pointing out that maps were only one means of reflecting decisions made by names authorities. However, there was general agreement that, where possible, all editions of maps should be subject to toponymic verification prior to publication.

30. A draft resolution submitted by Guatemala and co-sponsored by Greece, entitled "National standardization", was adopted by the Committee and subsequently adopted by the Conference (resolution 16). The Turkish delegation expressed a reservation concerning the Guatemala resolution, taking the view that the "legally constituted entity" referred to in the above-mentioned resolution cannot be conceived as valid and applicable for Cyprus until such time as a legal and constitutional federal Government recognized by the two communities living in the island is established at the conclusion of the bicommunal talks between the two partners of the bicommunal State of Cyprus. The Turkish reservation is consistent with recommendation A, subparagraph (b) (i) of resolution 4, adopted at the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names. The present national names authority in Cyprus is not consistent with the bicommunal governmental structure of the country referred to in resolution 4. The delegation of Guatemala emphasized that resolution 16 concerned geographical and technical questions and contained nothing political.

31. The delegation of Cyprus, as agreed by the Conference, registered the following reservation:

"(a) The Government of the Republic of Cyprus is recognized by the United Nations as the legal Government of Cyprus and hence the 'legally constituted entity' referred to in the resolution;

"(b) The Cyprus Permanent Committee for the Standardization of Geographical Names is an Official Organ of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus as recognized by the United Nations and not as may arbitrarily be interpreted by Turkey alone;

"(c) At the Conference, the Credentials Committee recognized the Credentials of the Cyprus delegation, two of the members of which are members of the Cyprus Names Authority, an official organ of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus. The functions and work of the Cyprus Names Authority are described in documents E/CONF.69/L.80 and L.82."

By Conference concurrence the Government of Turkey submitted its right of reply as follows, "Notwithstanding the views expressed above by Guatemala and Greek Cypriot administration, the Turkish Government still maintains and reaffirms its reservation contained in paragraph 30 above".

Training courses (item 9)

32. It was reported that the Netherlands might be able to proceed with a training course in toponymy, possibly in a form differing slightly from that proposed at the sixth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names. The Executive Secretary suggested that the United Nations might possibly provide fellowships for students to attend a workshop in toponymy but would be unable to consider the provision of additional financial assistance.

33. Malaysia urged that preference be given to candidates from those countries or divisions planning to hold courses of their own, so that they might provide instruction on returning home. Guatemala offered the view that senior officials should be instructed first; they in turn would train junior personnel who could

themselves subsequently be sent to attend courses. It was the opinion of Bulgaria that each country could best train its own officers in the collection and processing of names. Nigeria endorsed that view and went further to state that experts could be sent from other countries to give training. It was proposed that those countries with large numbers of students studying related courses in geography, geodesy and cartography could offer supplementary lectures in toponymy.

34. Morocco stated that lectures on field collection and office treatment were offered in its technical courses for the training of topographical engineers, and that it would welcome the enrolment of foreign students in such courses. Norway reported that training in toponymy was given in the Norden countries and that Norway would welcome a limited number of English-speaking students from other countries to its practical training and university courses held every year. It was reported that Indonesia might be offering a toponymic course in the near future specifically for the benefit of the members of the Asia, South-East division.

35. Canada reconfirmed that it would consider presenting courses in both English and French consequent upon the successful completion of the workshop in the Netherlands; however, no financial commitment had so far been made by Canada.

36. Morocco, Nigeria, Norway and the United States of America proposed that toponymic experts, both domestic and foreign, should be invited to give lectures on a short-term basis in those countries requesting assistance. Canada offered such assistance. The United States of America observed that it would be very useful if each country having a course syllabus on the techniques of field collection and office treatment would send details to the United Nations Secretariat.

37. Spain proposed recommending the establishment, where possible, of training courses, or similar courses modified to suit the circumstances of the country in question, taking as a basis the programme set out at the sixth session of the Group of Experts.

Terminology (item 12)

38. The Chairman commented on the necessary distinction between purely scientific linguistic terminology, on the one hand, and technical terminology with specific application to geographical names standardization work, on the other, emphasizing that the Conference should restrict its concern to the latter.

39. There was general discussion of recent studies of terminology made by Canada, Czechoslovakia and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Delegates were asked to put such detailed comments as they might wish to make directly to the authors of the studies.

40. The three-language glossary (English, French and Spanish) circulated in the spring of 1977 and distributed at the Third Conference as document E/CONF.69/L.1 was considered by Cuba, Guatemala and Spain to be inaccurate in its Spanish rendering. Those countries suggested that the Spanish-speaking nations should jointly consider the terms and definitions given in Spanish with a view to their improvement. It was thought that some of the terms themselves might not apply in all three languages, though it was considered essential that at least the

definitions should be given in each. Afghanistan, Austria, Canada, India and Suriname also felt that among the terms and definitions given in the glossary there were several that required modification.

Action by the Conference

41. In connexion with the work of Committee I, the Conference adopted resolutions on the glossary of technical terminology (resolution 14); training courses (resolution 15); and national standardization (resolution 16).

Report on the work of Committee II

42. The Chairman opened the first meeting by pointing out that Committee II had to deal with two items:

(a) Gazetteers (item 10)

(b) Automated data processing (ADP) (item 11)

He referred to recommendation E (national gazetteers) of resolution 4 of the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names 5/ and to resolutions 17 and 35 of the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names 6/ also on the subject of gazetteers. He also directed attention to a paper presented by Hungary at the sixth session of the Group of Experts which would form the basis of a draft resolution on the format of international gazetteers (see E/CONF.69/C.II/L.1).

43. After much discussion of the various types of gazetteers that came within the scope of both national and international aspects of the problem, the following classification was prepared of the types of gazetteers already in existence or which could be envisaged.

A.   National gazetteers for national use

Examples: All the gazetteers of the provinces and territories of Canada; the gazetteer of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic

These list the names of populated places and natural and man-made features. Recommendation E of the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names is directed towards this type of gazetteer. 7/

5/ United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, vol. I, Report of the Conference (United Nations publications, Sales No. E.68.I.9), pp. 10-11.

6/ Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, vol. I, Report of the Conference (United Nations publications, Sales No. E.74.I.2), pp. 13 and 16.

7/ United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, vol. I ... p. 11.

1. Lists of populated place names prepared only for census, statistical and postal purposes or the like, are not national gazetteers as envisaged in recommendation E.

2. When a national gazetteer of type A is produced co-operatively with another country, which itself also uses the end product as a foreign gazetteer for its own purposes, it may be referred to as a co-operative gazetteer.

B. Foreign gazetteers for national use

Examples: the Russian gazetteer of Korea, the Bulgarian gazetteer of France, the United States Board of Geographic Names (USBGN) gazetteer

These list both populated place and physical feature names of a foreign country produced for the use of the country that prepared the gazetteer. They will, wherever possible, involve acceptance of the subject country's nationally standardized names directly and/or through the medium of transliteration or transcription.

C. Regional gazetteers for national use

Examples: the Bulgarian gazetteer of the Danube Basin, the Russian gazetteer of the Arab States, the USBGN gazetteer of the Indian Ocean

These are limited to a particular region, group of countries or the like.

D. National gazetteers for international use

Examples: the gazetteer of Austria; the gazetteer of the Federal Republic of Germany

These are national gazetteers of type A, specifically prepared as far as possible in accordance with United Nations recommendations and published as such.

NB Interim national lists of standardized names as specified in resolution 35 of the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names 8/ are to be grouped under this heading.

E. International gazetteers of countries (none yet published)

These are national gazetteers of type A, produced in a standard format with standard title page identifying them as United Nations gazetteers.

8/ Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, vol. I..., pp. 13 and 16.

F. Concise gazetteer of the world

Committee II agreed that the Group of Experts should continue to
consider the preparation of such a gazetteer in one or two volumes.

44. The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics said that even though gazetteers
might differ in coverage, volume and content, they all had as their aim the
standardization in every-day usage of domestic and foreign names, first at the
national and subsequently at the international level. Work on gazetteers had
considerably broadened in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in recent
years both in the methods used and in the production of new gazetteers. A list
of the gazetteers published in the period between the Second and Third
Conferences was included as an annex to E/CONF.69/L.20. The characteristic
feature of gazetteers published in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics was
that they do not limit themselves to giving the standard Russian forms of names
but must give at the same time the national forms of names (in national script),
where they exist. The use of computers aided production of gazetteers but greater
effort was needed in the preparation of data to feed the computer.

45. The national gazetteers of the Federal Republic of Germany (Niedersachsen)
and of Austria were examined and generally acknowledged to be of great value. 9/
Both belonged to type D (national gazetteers for international use) in the
classification given above. Austria pointed out that its gazetteer was compiled
in detailed accordance with recommendation E of resolution 4 of the First
Conference, including the optional provisions therein. 10/ The latter involved
the use of International Phonetic Association symbols, which meant that the
gazetteer had to be produced by non-automated methods. Updating was not envisaged
at intervals of shorter than 10 years.

46. It was pointed out by Liberia and others that the situation in Africa was
very different from that facing the Federal Republic of Germany and Austria. The
various Roman alphabets in Europe had long been written in standardized
orthographies, so that gazetteers need contain no more than a guide to
pronunciation. In many countries in Africa, however, given the large number of
unwritten languages, spelling had not yet been standardized. A national names
authority in such cases might have little choice but to take field-collected
names and put them directly into the gazetteer. Therefore, over and above any
question of pronunciation and how to reflect it, in order to be of use such a
gazetteer must include a statement of the rules employed for the spelling of the
names, since it was in the gazetteers (rather than on maps) that those names were
being standardized for the first time.

47. It was agreed that guidelines for the spelling and pronunciation of names
in a gazetteer might be included in the introductory section. Technical problems
concerned with the indication of pronunciation were referred to the Group of
Experts for detailed study.

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9/ See E/CONF.69/L.42/Add.1 and E/CONF.69/L.73.

10/ United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names,...
vol. I ..., p. 11.

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48. The United Nations concise gazetteer of the world in one or two volumes for international use was discussed as to its content, specifications and the scale of reference maps to be used for its compilation. The Conference requested the Group of Experts to undertake more detailed study.

49. The possible use of a United States Board on Geographic Names gazetteer, as amended by the country covered, in the production of provisional international gazetteers, was discussed and the Group of Experts was requested to continue to consider the matter.

50. The gazetteer of the Federal Republic of Germany (E/CONF.69/L.42/Add.1) exclusively containing coded descriptive data designed for computer processing and output, was important as an outstanding example of its type and the Group of Experts would be apprised of its effectiveness from time to time. The Federal Republic of Germany also undertook to inform the Group of Experts of the problems or benefits that might be noted in the process of updating the names file and the subsequent production of revised versions.

51. The United States of America outlined its computer-based Geographic Names Information System, developed by the United States Geological Survey for handling domestic names. The system could provide, on demand, up-to-date information in upper- and lower-case typography in a variety of output media, such as computer print-out, cathode ray tube (CRT), microfilm, microfiche, magnetic tape, disc or punch-cards.

52. Canada reported that, at both the federal and provincial levels, considerable work had been done on the automated handling of geographical names and the production of gazetteers through the use of computer technology.

53. Nigeria reported that a new edition of the Gazetteer of Geographical Names for Nigeria had been produced and had been exhibited at the sixth session of the Group of Experts. The gazetteer had been revised in order to adopt local names and to take account of administrative changes and would soon be published. Liberia mentioned the second edition of its gazetteer.

Action by the Conference

54. On the recommendation of Committee II, the Conference adopted resolutions on the specifications of international gazetteers (resolution 2) and on automated data processing (resolution 3).

Report on the work of Committee III

Exonyms (item 13)

Definition of exonyms

55. It was agreed that it was difficult to arrive at a satisfactory definition of the term exonym but it was evident that in order to apply resolution 28 of the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, 11/ lists of exonyms should not include those spellings that differed from the original

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11/ Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, vol. I..., p. 15.

which the original generic had been translated. Lists should similarly exclude those forms of names that were derivations or that differed from the original by the addition of endings (case and so on) necessary in certain languages and those derived by declension or by the addition of suffixes. However, it was agreed that those exceptions should not invalidate the general principle recognized at the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names that nationally standardized names, including all diacritics, must be respected. It was also suggested that conversion as such of a name from one writing system to another should not, as a rule, be considered as constituting "exonymisation". The point was made by Poland that lists of exonyms, as understood above, should not include the use of derived and translated forms in common use.

Reduction of exonyms

56. The principle of the progressive reduction of exonyms was reaffirmed. Nevertheless, the difficulty of establishing criteria and norms by which those exonyms to be eliminated were chosen was underlined. A number of countries presented documents in which exonyms were categorized according to the nature and extent of their usage. The Chairman saw particular advantage to the five-fold categorization made by Spain:

1. The local official name is never used either in its written or spoken form

2. The local official name is used only in a limited number of cases

3. Usage varies according to the background of the user

4. Name is used in a limited number of cases found only in literature

5. Name is found only in old sources (maps and the like).

57. Austria, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Finland, France, the German Democratic Republic, Guatemala, Malaysia, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America stated that they had prepared at least partial lists of the exonyms in use in their respective principal languages.

58. It was agreed that the problem of the progressive reduction of exonyms should be examined further in the light of the proposed classification by type of exonym and structural differences of languages (as set out in E/CONF.69/L.68 and L.121). That would be a matter for the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names to study, in collaboration with the countries and/or divisions that had worked in the field. It was desirable that the preparation of provisional lists of exonyms by country should continue between now and the fourth conference.

<u>Practicability of carrying out a reduction of exonyms</u>

59. It was emphasized that the reduction of exonyms and their replacement in usage by national or local forms of names was meeting with, and was likely to continue to meet with, lively resistance from the people who used those exonyms. It was important to have an idea of the eventual success of the effort to reduce exonyms, so that the work undertaken in that context in different countries was not rendered useless. It was therefore suggested that studies and tests should be carried out to evaluate the success of the various attempts to introduce local forms of geographical names into general use at various levels: schools, mass communications and the like. Each country would be in the best position to make an evaluation as to the use of foreign names in its own territory.

<u>Names of new States</u>

60. It was suggested that on the creation of a new State, it should be stressed that the national form of the name concerned should be used to the exclusion of all exonyms. Some countries, however, saw difficulties in the application of such a general principle. After discussion, a draft resolution on the subject was proposed for adoption by the Conference.

<u>Policies, procedures and co-operative arrangements for the</u>
<u>naming of features beyond a single sovereignty (item 14)</u>

<u>Features common to two or more countries (item 14 (a))</u>

61. Nigeria drew attention to the need for revision of resolution 25 of the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names 12/ to cover cases in which two countries using the same language failed to agree on a single name. An appropriate draft resolution was recommended for adoption. It was noted that document E/CONF.69/L.50, submitted by the German Democratic Republic, described in detail specific procedures in the German Democratic Republic for the treatment of geographical names of features shared by two or more countries.

<u>Maritime and undersea features (items 14 (b) and (c))</u>

62. Mr. Randall (United States of America), who had been Convenor of the Working Group on Undersea and Maritime Features of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names since the last Conference, summarized the activities of the Working Group. He drew attention to the programme of the Group, as cited on pages 13 and 14 of annex II to the report on the sixth session of the Group of Experts on Geographical Names, held in New York in 1975 (ESA/RT/C/GN/4). That report called for members to review policies, principles and a proposal form used by the United States Board on Geographical Names to determine whether they might serve as a model for international use; develop a list of terms and definitions for undersea features; and prepare a list of corresponding terms and definitions in other languages. The activities of the Working Group were described in document E/CONF.69/L.24, which also presented several recommendations for the consideration of the Conference. Those recommendations were based on suggestions submitted by several members of the

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12/ <u>Ibid</u>., p. 14.

Working Group and specifically included proposed guidelines for the standardization of the names of undersea and maritime features, a name proposal form and a list of terms and definitions relating to undersea features. The Committee gave approval to the report with the provision that its recommendations would be co-ordinated with the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO). The representative of Hungary referred to document E/CONF.69/L.28, which related to the programme of the Working Group and made various suggestions concerning the adequacy of the USBGN principles and proposal form. Mr. Randall pointed out that many of the statements were no longer valid because of the action reported in document E/CONF.69/L.24. The recommendation to co-ordinate the programmes of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names with IHO, a point made by Hungary and other delegations, was recognized as appropriate.

63. The representative of Hungary mentioned the differences in the current use of undersea names and the desirability of standardizing them.

64. Admiral Kapoor (IHO) expressed his appreciation for the work of the United Nations on standardization of the names for maritime and undersea features. He informed the Committee that IHO would be glad to extend its fullest co-operation in this work. In outlining the activities of IHO in the standardization of nautical charts and other hydrographic publications, he referred in particular to the international charting programme. The observer from IHO informed the Committee that there were a number of technical committees working on standardization and that a working group was to be formed to review and update Special Publication No.23, which dealt with limits of oceans and seas. In that context he thanked the authors of document E/CONF.69/L.101 for their valuable contribution which would be given due attention while the Special Publication was being revised. In referring to document E/CONF.69/L.100, Admiral Kapoor stated that the list of terms and definitions had been developed for international use by scientists and hydrographers within the joint International Hydrographic Organization/Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission programme for the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO). The list had been approved by the GEBCO committee and the International Hydrographic Conference.

65. The Chairman welcomed the results of co-operation between the United Nations and the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and several nations stressed the need to develop such co-operation as a matter of some urgency. The United Kingdom expressed the view that neither the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names nor the present Conference could resolve questions connected with the limits of oceans and seas except through close contact with IHO. The United States of America spoke in support, drawing attention to the future need for studies on the identification and naming of ocean features. The Committee accepted the need to standardize names internationally once the limits of oceans and seas had been reviewed and updated in the proposed revision of Special Publication No. 23.

66. The representative of the United States of America cited a publication that contained a list of names of undersea features approved by the United States Board on Geographic Names since the issue of the last Undersea Feature Gazetteer in 1971. Disseminated as document E/CONF.69/L.110, the list was a supplement to the gazetteer and was part of a new series to be released periodically to interested organizations.

67. In response to a question concerning a possible international authority for approving undersea names, the Chairman stated that if nations conformed to standard procedures for naming features and keep other nations informed, no single agency would be necessary.

<u>Extraterrestrial features</u>

68. The Chairman summarized the current position and gave an account of activities of the Working Group on Extraterrestrial Features of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names 13/ between the Second and Third United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names. A working arrangement had been set up with the International Astronomical Union (IAU). The Chairman of the IAU Working Group responsible for banks of names for extraterrestrial planetary features attended a meeting of the sixth session of the Group of Experts in New York in 1975. The Chairman of that Working Group subsequently attended a meeting of the IAU Working Group in Moscow.

69. In document E/CONF.69/L.33 the United States of America explained that USBGN had set up an Advisory Committee on Extraterrestrial Feature Names, one whose roles was to make available to production agencies those names approved by IAU.

70. The representatives of the United Kingdom and others expressed the view that the use of Latin in extraterrestrial names had resulted in variant translations of the terms used and stated that as a consequence each language would tend to use its own generic terms for extraterrestrial features.

71. Some countries, among them Poland and Hungary, had submitted suggested lists for naming extraterrestrial features to the Chairman of the Working Group of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, who submitted them to the International Astronomical Union. The representative of India stated that it had names to suggest for extraterrestrial features and emphasized that the form of proposal should be included in the report of Committee III and that the agency to which the form must be sent should be named. Greece stressed the importance of the participation of all States Members of the United Nations in the procedure of naming extraterrestrial features.

72. The Vice-Chairman outlined the interdisciplinary nature of the work of extraterrestrial nomenclature and stressed the need for close co-operation of scientists from various disciplines in establishing a list of entities to be named; moreover, he referred to cases in which terms and definitions used in the description of planetary surfaces were misleading, and he suggested that members could play a role in helping to clarify terms and definitions.

<u>Action by the Conference</u>

73. In connexion with the work of Committee III the Conference adopted resolutions on the names of countries (resolution 17); the study of exonyms (resolution 18); lists of exonyms (resolution 19); names of features beyond a single sovereignty (resolution 20); maritime feature names (resolution 21); undersea feature names (resolution 22); and extraterrestrial feature names (resolution 23).

13/ See report of the Working Group on Extraterrestrial Features in annex III to the reports of the fifth and sixth sessions of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (ESA/RT/C/GN/3 and 4); see also E/CONF.69/L.33.

Writing systems (item 15)

74. The Committee accepted the Chairman's proposal that the discussion should be based on the report of the Working Group on a Single Romanization System, as contained in annex IV to the report of the sixth session of the Group of Experts (ESA/RT/C/GN/4) and documents E/CONF.69/L.8, L.11, L.14, L.21, L.23, L.61, L.72, L.74, L.77 and L.92.

75. Mr. Breu (Austria), the Convenor of the Working Group introduced his report as contained in document E/CONF.69/L.77, and the Committee then dealt with individual writing systems and alphabets:

(a) Amharic. No change had been indicated by the Ethiopian Government since the Second Conference;

(b) Arabic. Iran, Saudi Arabia and the Sudan reported that they had accepted the Amended Beirut System of 1972 for the romanization of Arabic, despite some limitations which were pointed out by the Sudan in document E/CONF.69/L.95. Morocco said it would submit a resolution modifying the Amended Beirut System in respect of the diacritics used;

(c) Somali. The Convenor of the Working Group reported that since Somalia had adopted the Roman alphabet in 1973, the question of Somali was no longer a matter of concern to the Working Group;

(d) Greek. Greece reported that studies had been carried out, in conjunction with Cyprus, on a system for the romanization of Greek. Because of the complexities of the many aspects of the problem, a final proposal was not yet ready to be placed before the Committee. Work would, however, continue and it was anticipated that a system would be drawn up in time for the next meeting of the Group of Experts. The representative of Cyprus agreed fully with the statement made by Greece;

(e) Bulgarian. Bulgaria reported that they would be submitting a resolution that would amend and replace part of resolution 5 of the Second Conference; 14/

(f) Mongolian. Mr. Földi (Hungary) reported that since there had been no further information from the Mongolian Academy of Sciences, the situation remained as it had been at the time of the Second Conference;

(g) Korean. Mr. Földi (Hungary) reported that there was a romanization system officially used in the People's Democratic Republic of Korea. It was also reported that the Ministry of Education system was officially used in the Republic of Korea for road signs, railway station names and small-scale maps. The McCune-Reischauer system was also widely used for the romanization of Korean names. In view of the existence of those three systems of romanization for the same alphabet, it was suggested that no action should be taken at the Third Conference;

(h) Burmese. No change was reported on the situation of the romanization of Burmese since the time of the Second Conference;

14/ Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, vol. I ..., p. 11.

(i) Maldivian. No changes had been noted since the Second Conference;

(j) Non-Roman alphabets of the USSR. The USSR referred to document
E/CONF.69/L.21 and explained that the systems described in the paper were under
study in the USSR. Geographical names on maps and in atlases had been romanized
according to the USSR Academy of Sciences (1951-1956) system, which would continue
to be used for the time being. It was anticipated that a single romanization
system would be produced by the end of 1977 or mid-1978. The new system would
then be available for appraisal by the Group of Experts;

(k) Hebrew. No change had taken place in the romanization of Hebrew
geographical names since the adoption of resolution 9 at the Second Conference; 15/

(l) Cyrillic alphabets of Yugoslavia. Yugoslavia reported that it would be
submitting a resolution, based on document E/CONF.69/L.87, which would elaborate on
resolution 6 of the Second Conference; 16/

(m) Japanese. There had been no new developments since the Second Conference.
The representative of Japan said he did not expect that a single system of
romanization could be adopted, but the Kunrei system would be preferred to other
systems because it was more in conformity with the phonetic structure of the
Japanese language;

(n) Khmer. No change had been noted since the adoption of resolution 10 at
the Second Conference; 17/

(o) Laotian. No change had been reported since the time of the Second
Conference;

(p) Persian. Iran summarized the results of three meetings of the Asia,
South-West division aimed at minimizing existing differences in the transliteration
of Persian. Those would be reported in detail to the Group of Experts for further
study;

(q) Thai. No change had been noted since the adoption of resolution 14 at
the First Conference; 18/

(r) Chinese. China submitted a draft resolution on the romanization of
Chinese geographical names for consideration by the Committee. After a lengthy
discussion during which China explained the extensive use of the Chinese Phonetic
Alphabet (Pinyin) in China today, it was generally agreed that Pinyin should be
adopted as the international system for the romanization of Chinese geographical
names. It was also agreed that there would be a limited period of transition, after
the introduction of Pinyin, during which time existing systems would also have to

15/ Ibid., p. 12.

16/ Ibid., p. 11.

17/ Ibid., p. 12.

18/ United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names,
vol. I. ..., p. 13.

be used. An addition to the draft resolution proposed by the United States of America and the United Kingdom on the basis of document E/CONF.69/L.129 was rejected by the Committee and the draft resolution as submitted by China was recommended for adoption by the Conference with amendments;

(s) Pashto and Dari. Afghanistan reported that a system of romanization for Pashto and Dari had been adopted by Pashto Academy (see document E/CONF.69/L.86). The romanizations that appeared on old maps were no longer used, and the new system would be applied henceforth. Pakistan stated that they would like to continue with the present Hunterian system, which had been found satisfactory and should be accepted for the transliteration of Pashto and Dari geographical names in Pakistan;

(t) Languages of the Indian division. India would submit a resolution that would correct some misprints and give some amendments in the tables of transliteration of the languages of India published in the report of the Second Conference 19/ and would add a note to the table for Tamil. Bangladesh and Pakistan stated that they would need to study some of the tables further within the Indian division.

76. In reply to a statement made by the delegate of Malaysia on the unacceptability of the international boundary between China and Malaysia as shown in the Atlas of the People's Republic of China (1977) the Chairman made a clarifying statement that the Conference was concerned only with the standardization of geographical names. Other matters, such as international boundaries, should therefore be disregarded, and that matter was agreed upon. The Chinese delegation agreed with the Chairman's statement and pointed out that at the Conference China had circulated copies of the Atlas of the People's Republic of China in the Chinese phonetic spelling, with a view to providing material on geographical names in the Pinyin system; it was not for the Conference to take any decision on that Atlas. There were grounds for the delineation of China's international boundary as shown in the Atlas of the People's Republic of China. It had always been maintained that if disagreements existed on the question of boundaries between neighbouring countries, a reasonable solution should be sought through friendly consultations.

Action by the Conference

77. In connexion with the work of Committee IV the Conference adopted resolutions on the romanization of Chinese geographical names (resolution 8); the romanization of Arabic characters (resolution 9); the Bulgarian Cyrillic alphabet (resolution 10); the Serbo-Croatian and the Macedonian Cyrillic alphabets of Yugoslavia (resolution 11); the transliteration into Roman and Devanagari scripts of the languages of the Indian division (resolution 12); the romanization of the Hebrew alphabet (resolution 13); and the single romanization system for each non-roman writing system (resolution 25).

19/ Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, vol. II, Technical Papers (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.74.I.4), pp. 117-162.

Report on the work of Committee V

International co-operation (item 16)

78. During the discussion reference was made to:

(a) The reports of the linguistic/geographical divisions (E/CONF.69/L.5, L.7, L.25, L.32, L.75, L.76 and L.108);

(b) The report of the Group of Experts on Geographical Names on its sixth session, 1975 (ESA/RT/C/GN/4, paras. 16 and 25, and para. 4(b) of annex II);

(c) Resolutions 1, 5, 6 and 7 of the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names; [20]

(d) Resolutions 2, 3, 4, 13, 15, 17, 19, 20, 23, 26, 27, 32, 33, 37 and 38 of the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names; [21]

(e) Documents E/CONF.69/L.36, 66, 70, 71, 89 and 100.

79. The Chairman suggested that the Committee should review actions taken at the First and Second Conferences, and at various meetings of the Group of Experts, in order to see what modifications and/or additions might be required. It would also be necessary to determine whether matters under item 16 which overlapped with other Committees should be referred to those Committees for action or joint action.

80. The Chairman reported that the Group of Experts had made some revisions in the number and composition of its divisions since the Second Conference. Countries attending the Conference for the first time were invited to consider with which division they would like to be associated. After a lengthy discussion of the possibility of the United Nations paying the expenses of experts attending meetings of the Group of Experts held every two years, it was thought that delegations should try, through governmental channels, to bring the matter before a meeting of the Economic and Social Council.

81. The representative of France commented on the list of country names prepared by the Group of Experts. After listening to the remarks of the Chief of the Terminology and Technical Documentation Section, Department of Conference and General Services of the United Nations Office at Geneva, the Committee decided that the Group of Experts should complete that work in collaboration with the Documentation and Terminology Service, Translation Division, Department of Conference Services, United Nations Secretariat. A draft resolution was submitted for the approval of the Conference (E/CONF.69/C.V/L.3).

82. On the matter of reliability statements, there was agreement on the

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[20] United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, vol. I ..., pp. 9-12.

[21] Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, vol. I ..., pp. 10-17.

desirability of providing information as to the accuracy of names in names source documents (including maps for example) and on whether the names concerned had been approved by the national names authority, whether they had been field-collected or taken from documentary sources and so on. A resolution drafted in collaboration with Committee II was submitted for the approval of the Conference (E/CONF.69/C.V/L.1).

83. The difficulty of providing information on the pronunciation of geographical names nationally standardized in non-phonetic writing was discussed. A resolution drafted in collaboration with Committee II was submitted for the approval of the Conference (E/CONF.69/C.V/L.4).

84. In the discussion of the scope and development of procedures in exchange of information, it was noted that many aspects were being dealt with by Committee II under item 9 of the agenda (training courses). With reference to resolution 5 of the First Conference and resolution 32 of the Second Conference, concerning dissemination of decisions by national names authorities, and the recommendation in resolution 32 that the United Nations Secretariat should distribute the material it received, it was noted that the United Nations Secretariat would distribute information on such material but not the material itself. The Chairman urged the delegates to establish, upon returning to their countries, channels for receiving United Nations documents relating to names as they are distributed to their countries. With reference to resolution 15 of the Second Conference, E. Meynen announced that his bibliography was expected to be published towards the end of 1977. Copies would be sent gratis to delegates attending the Conference. The desirability of consultation between countries before one produced a gazetteer of another was also stressed.

85. The growing productiveness of divisional and interdivisional meetings and co-operative programmes was noted with satisfaction. A draft resolution encouraging the continuation and expansion of those activities was submitted for the approval of the Conference (E/CONF.69/C.V/L.2).

86. In discussion of the problems of technical assistance, the subject of resolution 6 of the First Conference and resolution 27 of the Second Conference, the Executive Secretary explained that the following forms of technical assistance were possible through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP): (a) experts or advisers, (b) equipment and (c) fellowships.

87. The representative of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) made a brief statement on that body's relations with the Group of Experts in its maritime nomenclature work, which was being discussed in detail in Committee II. Mr. Randall, representing the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), gave a brief report on the situation there as it affected geographical names and terminology. The Chairman reported that, as instructed by the Group of Experts, he had written to the Universal Postal Union (UPU) expressing interest in co-operation. The reply from UPU was that their structure was such that no possibility of useful co-operation with the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names could be foreseen. The Chairman had yet to make contact with the International Union of Official Travel Organizations (IUOTO), as suggested in resolution 38 of the Second Conference.

88. Concerning that part of resolution 26 of the Second Conference relating to the question of international conventions, the Group of Experts had examined

that subject and concluded that it was not desirable to pursue the idea of conventions further.

89. No progress was reported in co-operation with public information media.

90. The following resolutions were recommended for reiteration: resolution 6 of the First Conference, and resolutions 13, 17, 20, 27, 32, 35 and 38 of the Second Conference.

Action by the Conference

91. On the recommendation of Committee V, the Conference adopted resolutions concerning a reliability statement on geographical names in documents (resolution 4); divisional activities and meetings (resolution 5); a list of country names (resolution 6); and aids to pronunciation (resolution 7).

III. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE

1. Fourth United Nations conference on the standardization of geographical names

The Conference,

Noting the importance and necessity of continuing the work on the standardization of geographical names on both the national and international levels by States Members of the United Nations,

Further noting the important contributions of this Conference, as well as the contributions of the First and Second United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names,

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Government of Iran for its offer to act as host country for the fourth United Nations conference on the standardization of geographical names;

2. Recommends to the Economic and Social Council that the fourth United Nations conference on the standardization of geographical names be convened in Iran not later than the first half of 1982.

2. Specifications for international gazetteers of countries

The Conference,

Recognizing that several countries have prepared or will prepare national gazetteers of their standardized geographical names,

1. Recommends that the title page and all necessary information in this type of gazetteer should be in the official language(s) of the country concerned and in one or more of the official languages of the United Nations. The title page should contain the following details (blank spaces to be filled in with the appropriate country name):

"United Nations Series of National Gazetteers

_____

"Published by the (formal title of the authority on geographical names) of

_____

"Adopted for official use by the (authority on geographical names) of

_____

"Prepared, as far as possible, in accordance with the recommendations of the United Nations concerning national gazetteers.";

2.   Further recommends that in the introduction to this type of gazetteer reference should be made to recommendation E of resolution 4 of the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names. 22/

3.   Automated data processing

The Conference,

Considering the importance of resolution 3 of the First Conference 23/ and resolution 30 of the Second Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, 24/

Noting the plans for publishing gazetteers under the auspices of the United Nations, including a concise gazetteer of the world based on national standard names,

Recognizing the expanding use of automated data processing for the management of geographical names information and the production of gazetteers,

1.   Recommends that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names consider the problem of compatibility of systems on geographic-name information (data elements) 25/ compiled by different nations for gazetteers and automated data processing systems;

2.   Further recommends that the Group of Experts recognize the importance of the compatibility of output media generated by automated data processing (such as magnetic tapes) so that geographic-name information may be made available to international users in other than the printed form.

4.   Reliability statement on geographical names in documents

The Conference,

Recognizing the desirability of providing information on the basis of which users may judge the accuracy of names contained in a particular names source document,

1.   Recommends that in such documents information be provided on whether the names concerned have been approved by the national names authority or are in a provisional form. In either event the maximum possible information should be provided as to the source of the names - for example, whether field-collected, gathered from documentary sources or specially bestowed;   .

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22/ United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, vol. I ..., p. 11.

23/ Ibid., p. 9.

24/ Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, p. 15.

25/ Data elements are the result of separating data into categories for the purpose of determining the arrangement of gazetteers by vertical or horizontal columns or for the descriptive coding of data for either gazetteer layout or automatic data processing.

2.   Further recommends that an assessment also be given of the degree of
accuracy of the names, together with an indication of their completeness and
currency and, if appropriate, a citation of previous documents that are now
superseded as to names.

5. Divisional activities and meetings

The Conference,

Having considered resolution 7 of the First United Nations Conference on the
Standardization of Geographical Names 26/ and resolution 19 of the Second
Conference, 27/

Considering also the growing productiveness of divisional and interdivisional
meetings and co-operative undertakings as reported to this Conference,

Recommends that the divisions continue and expand such activities and forward
to the Cartography Section of the Centre for Natural Resources, Energy and
Transport, Department of Technical Co-operation and Development, United Nations
Secretariat reports of meetings as they are held, of agreements as they are
reached and of co-operative programmes as they are initiated.

6. List of country names

The Conference,

Considering that a working group of the Group of Experts on Geographical Names
has brought nearly to completion a multilanguage list of names of countries, 28/

Noting that the Terminology Service, Translation Division, Department of
Conference Services of the United Nations Secretariat is also concerned with this
and related matters,

1.   Recommends that the Group of Experts on Geographical Names bring to
completion the list of country names on which it has been working;

2.   Recommends further that the Group of Experts on Geographical Names
concurrently explore ways of co-ordinating its work with that of other offices or
departments of the United Nations Secretariat, including the Terminology Service.

26/ United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names,
vol. I ..., p. 7.

27/ Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical
Names, vol. I ..., p. 13.

28/ "Report of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names at
its sixth session", (ESA/RT/C/GN/4), annex VII.

7. Aids to pronunciation

The Conference,

Noting that the transfer of names from one writing system into another would be facilitated by information on pronunciation,

Recognizing the practical difficulty of indicating precise pronunciations but the feasibility of providing indications of approximate pronunciations adequate for comprehension in the receiver script,

Recommends that the Group of Experts consider the nature and design of research and experimentation that may help to establish the ranges of comprehensible pronunciation.

8. Romanization of Chinese geographical names

The Conference,

Recognizing that the Scheme for a Chinese Phonetic Alphabet is China's official Roman alphabet scheme and that the Rules for the Transliteration of Chinese Place Names with the Chinese Phonetic Alphabet have been drawn up in China,

Noting that the Scheme for a Chinese Phonetic Alphabet is linguistically sound and is most suitable for the romanization of Chinese geographical names, that an Atlas of the People's Republic of China in Chinese Phonetic Spelling, a Gazetteer of Chinese Geographical Names in Chinese Phonetic Spelling (with the usual spellings in English) and other materials have been published in China and that the scheme is already in extensive use,

Considering the full possibility of adopting the Chinese Phonetic Alphabet (Pinyin) for the romanization of Chinese geographical names internationally through a suitable transitional period,

Recommends that the Chinese Phonetic Alphabet (Pinyin) be adopted as the international system for the romanization of Chinese geographical names.

9. Romanization of Arabic characters

The Conference,

Considering the importance attached to establishing a single system for the transliteration of Arabic into Roman,

Considering the effort achieved with respect to transliteration and the results obtained by the Beirut Conference (1971) and the modifications attached to the Beirut Systems at the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names,

Noting the technical and practical difficulties met with in the application
of the amended Beirut System, 29/

Recommends that the Arabic division meet and discuss the Moroccan proposal
to arrive at a solution to be presented at the eighth session of the United Nations
Group of Experts of Geographical Names.

10. Bulgarian Cyrillic alphabet

The Conference,

Considering that resolution 5 of the Second United Nations Conference on the
Standardization of Geographical Names 30/ is no longer appropriate,

Recommends that it be replaced as follows:

"The Conference,

"Noting that in 1972 Bulgaria adopted the System of Transliteration and
Transcription of Bulgarian Geographical Names into Roman Letters, produced by
the Council of Orthography and Transcription of Geographical Names, Sofia,
which has been in use since that time,

"Considering that a great number of Bulgarian geographical names have
been transliterated in accordance with that system,

"Recognizing also that for the Bulgarian Cyrillic alphabet only one single
standardized system meets the requirements of the international standardization
of geographical names,

"Recommends that the System of Transliteration and Transcription of
Bulgarian Geographical Names into Roman letters, as shown in the annex below,
be adopted as the international system for the romanization of Bulgarian
geographical names."

"Annex

№	Cyrillic	Roman		№	Cyrillic	Roman		№	Cyrillic	Roman
1	А а	A a		11	К к	K k		21	Ф ф	F f
2	Б б	B b		12	Л л	L l		22	Х х	H h
3	В в	V v		13	М м	M m		23	Ц ц	C c
4	Г г	G g		14	Н н	N n		24	Ч ч	Č č
5	Д д	D d		15	О о	O o		25	Ш ш	Š š
6	Е е	E e		16	П п	P p		26	Щ щ	Št št
7	Ж ж	Ž ž		17	Р р	R r		27	Ъ ъ	Ă ă
8	З з	Z z		18	С с	S s		28	Ь ь	J j
9	И и	I i		19	Т т	T t		29	Ю ю	Ju ju
10	Й й	J j		20	У у	U u		30	Я я	Ja ja

29/ Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical
Names, vol. II, p. 30.

30/ Ibid., vol. I ..., p. 11.

11. Serbo-Croatian and Macedonian Cyrillic alphabets of Yugoslavia

The Conference,

Recognizing the need for elaboration of resolution 6 of the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, 31/

Recognizing further that in Yugoslavia the romanization of the Serbo-Croatian and Macedonian cyrillic alphabets has long been employed in official gazeteers and maps,

Recommends that the systems that are given in the annex to this resolution be adopted as the international systems for the romanization of Serbo-Croatian and Macedonian geographical names in Yugoslavia.

12. Transliteration into Roman and Devanagari scripts of the Indian division

The Conference

Referring to resolution 11 of the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, 32/

Noting the corrections and amendments given in document E/CONF.69/L.116,

Further noting that the note regarding Tamil has now become applicable,

Recommends the adoption of the tables of transliteration into Roman and Devanagari of the languages of the Indian division, reproduced in the technical papers of the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, 33/ as amended by document E/CONF.69/L.116, subject to further studies being undertaken in conjunction with Pakistan and Bangladesh of Urdu and Bangla.

13. Romanization of the Hebrew alphabet

The Conference,

Recognizing the need for elaboration of resolution 9 of the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, 34/

31/ Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, vol. I ..., p. 11.

32/ Ibid., p. 12.

33/ Ibid., vol. II.

34/ Ibid., vol. I, p. 12.

Recognizing further that in Israel romanization is carried out in all official gazetteers and maps in accordance with the system mentioned in the report of the Second Conference,

Recommends that the system given in the annex to this resolution be adopted as the international system for the romanization of geographical names in the Hebrew alphabet.

Letter numbers	Cyrillic character		Romanization form
	Serbo-Croatian	**Macedonian**	
1	A a	A a	A a
2	Б б	Б б	B b
3	В в	В в	V v
4	Г г	Г г	G g
5	Д д	Д д	D d
6	Ђ ђ		Đ đ
7		Ѓ ѓ	G g *before* е *and* и Đ đ *in other cases*
8	E e	E e	E e
9	Ж ж	Ж ж	Ž ž
10	З з	З з	Z z
11		S ѕ	Dz dz
12	И и	И и	I i
13	Ј ј	Ј ј	J j
14	К к	К к	K k
15	Л л	Л л	L l
16	Љ љ	Љ љ	Lj lj
17	М м	М м	M m
18	Н н	Н н	N n
19	Њ њ	Њ њ	Nj nj
20	О о	О о	O o
21	П п	П п	P p
22	Р р	Р р	R r
23	С с	С с	S s
24	Т т	Т т	T t
25	Ћ ћ		Ć ć
26		Ќ ќ	K k *before* е *and* и Ć ć *in other cases*
27	У у	У у	U u
28	Ф ф	Ф ф	F f
29	Х х	Х х	H h
30	Ц ц	Ц ц	C c
31	Ч ч	Ч ч	Č č
32	Џ џ	Џ џ	Dž dž
33	Ш ш	Ш ш	Š š

ROMANIZATION OF THE HEBREW ALPHABET
TRANSLITERATION AND PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

Hebrew names in romanized editions of maps published by the Survey of Israel are transliterated according to the official rules adopted by the Knesset (Parliament) and published in the Official Gazette No. 519 of 23 January 1957. A list of these rules follows below, together with a simplified pronunciation guide for the English-speaking reader. The Sephardic pronunciation prevailing in Israel is given. The phonetic value of letters is approximately the same as in English except where stated otherwise; stress is mostly on the last syllable. For a more complete treatise see "Transliteration of Geographical Names in the Topographic Maps of Israel" by N. Kadmon and M. Talmi, Survey of Israel, Cartographic Papers, No .4, 1969 (Hebrew, with English abstract). Hebrew is written from right to left.

CONSONANTS[1]

Hebrew letter	Final form	Name of letter	Romanized form	Pronunciation	Example	
א		Alef	ʼ	mute [2]	Arbel, Be'eri	אַרְבֵּל, בְּאֵרִי
ב		Bet	b		Benaya	בְּנָיָה
בּ		Vet	v		Yavor	יָבוֹר
ג‚ג [4]		Gimel	g	hard, as in 'good'	Gedera	גְּדֵרָה
ד‚ד [4]		Dalet	d		Dorot	דּוֹרוֹת
ה		He	h		Hadassim	הֲדַסִּים
ו		Waw	w	w, v [5]	Wardon	וַרְדּוֹן
ז		Zayin	z		Zohar	זֹהַר
ח		Het	ḥ	as ch in Scottish 'loch', but guttural	Hefa	חֵיפָה
ט		Tet	t		Tira	טִירָה
י		Yod	y		Yerushalayim	יְרוּשָׁלַיִם
כ	ך	Kaf	k		Karkur	כַּרְכּוּר
כ‚ך	ך	Khaf	kh	as ch in Scottish 'loch'	Nofekh	נֹפֶךְ
ל		Lamed	l		Lod	לוֹד
מ	ם	Mem	m		Magen	מָגֵן
נ	ן	Nun	n		Naftali	נַפְתָּלִי
ס		Samekh	s		Savyon	סַבְיוֹן
ע		'Ayin	ʻ	mute; gutturalizes following vowel [6]	'Evron, Ma'on	עֶבְרוֹן, מָעוֹן
פ		Pe	p		Pattish	פַּטִּישׁ
פ‚ף	ף	Fe	f		Nof	נוֹף
צ	ץ	Zadi	z	as ts in 'tse-tse'	Zefat	צְפַת
ק		Qof	q	guttural k	Qedma	קַדְמָה
ר		Resh	r	guttural	Reshef	רֶשֶׁף
ש		Shin	sh	as in 'sheet'	Shoval	שׁוֹבָל
ש		Sin	s		Sadot	שָׂדוֹת
ת‚ת [4]		Taw	t		Tel Aviv	תֵּל־אָבִיב

VOWELS

	Name	Romanized	Pronunciation
ַ	Pattah	a	as a in 'bar'
ֲ	Hataf Pattah	a	as a in 'bar'
ָ	Qamaz	a	as a in 'bar'
ְ	Sheva [7]	e	as e in 'yet'
ֶ	Segol	e	as e in 'yet'
ֱ	Hataf Segol	e	as e in 'yet'
ֵ	Zere	e, é [8]	as e in 'yet' or ay in 'bay'
ִ	Hiriq	i	as i in 'hit'
ִי	Hiriq Male	i	as i in 'hit'
ֹ	Holam	o	as o in 'short'
וֹ	Holam Male	o	as o in 'short'
ָ	Qamaz Qatan	o	as o in 'short'
ֳ	Hataf Qamaz	o	as o in 'short'
ֻ	Shuruq	u	as oo in 'good'
וּ	Qubbuz	u	as oo in 'good'

NOTES

1 The addition of a dot (dagesh ḥazaq) within a consonant, except as shown in the list, doubles its value and is represented by doubling the respective letter (with the exception of the digraph sh).

2 The sign ' (Alef) slightly separates between two consecutive vowels or between a consonant and a vowel; at the beginning of a word it is omitted in transliteration.

3 Does not occur at the beginning of a name.

4 At the beginning of a name these letters carry a dot (dagesh qal).

5 Pronounced w in Eastern and v in Western pronunciation.

6 The sign ' ('Ayin) slightly separates between two consecutive vowels or between a consonant and a vowel, and gutturalizes the following vowel.

7 The sheva is of two kinds: sheva naḥ, which is omitted in transliteration, and sheva na', represented by e, which occurs at the beginning of a word or syllable.

8 In some maps and in the following glossary the ẓere, if accentuated, is transliterated é.

GLOSSARY
OF GEOGRAPHICAL TERMS IN NAME COMBINATIONS

Most geographical names in the romanized editions of maps of the Survey of Israel are transliterated from Hebrew. Many of these names contain geographical terms, the transliterations of which are listed below. The suffix -t in feminine nouns ending in -a denotes the 'construct' case (semikhut) i. e. 'of', found in most name combinations. E. g. Ḥorba = Ruin; Ḥorbat Be'ér = Ruin of the Well. Plural forms frequently found in maps are also listed. The article is denoted by the prefix ha- or, in special cases, by he-.

Agam	lake	Me'ara (t) pl. Me'arot	cave
Aggan	basin	Meḥlaf	interchange
'Arava ('Arvat)	plain	Meleḥa (t)	saltpan, mudflat
Bet	house	Meẓad	fort
Be'ér	well	Meẓuda (t)	fortress
Berekha (t)	pool	Midbar	desert
Biq'a (t)	valley	Mifraẓ	bay, gulf
'Émeq	valley	Mishor	plain
'En, pl. 'Enot	spring	Miẓpe	observation point
Gan	garden	Naḥal (abbr. N.)	stream, watercourse, valley
Gay (Gé)	valley	Qeren, pl. Qarné	peak
Gesher	bridge	Qever	tomb
Giv'a (t), pl. Giv'ot	hill	Qirya (t)	town
Har, pl. Haré	mountain	Rama (t), pl. Ramot	plateau
Ḥolot	sands, dunes	Rekhes	mountain crest, range
Ḥorba (t), pl. Ḥorvot (abbr. Ḥ.)	ruin	Rogem	cairn
Ḥoresha (t)	wood	Rosh	mountain top
Kefar	village	Sade (Sedé), pl. Sedot	field
Ma'agar	reservoir	Sheluḥa (t)	spur
Ma'ale	ascent	Tel	hill, ancient mound
Ma'avar	pass, ford	Ya'ar, pl. Ya'arot	forest
Makhtésh	erosion cirque	Yam	sea, lake
Mappal	waterfall	Zomet	junction
Ma'yan	spring	Ẓuq, pl. Ẓuqé	cliff
Maẓoq, pl. Meẓoqé	cliff		

14. Glossary of technical terminology

The Conference,

Noting that the glossary of technical terminology 35/ has almost been completed in the English and French versions,

Further noting that the Spanish version requires additional work because various definitions contained inaccuracies,

Further noting the need to finalize the glossary in all three languages,

1.   Recommends that the Spanish-speaking nations review the present Spanish text and put forward a revised version to the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names;

2.   Further recommends that the term "national language" be considered by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names for restoration to the glossary 36/, and that the following be added to the definition of "exonym": "conversion from one writing system to another does not, as a rule, result in 'exonyms'";

3.   Further recommends that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names consider additions and amendments required in the present text.

15. Training courses

The Conference,

Noting that some countries offer or plan to offer training courses in toponymy,

Further noting that other countries have a desire to obtain expertise in the field collection, office treatment and standardization of geographical names,

1.   Recommends that preference be given to candidates from countries or divisions indicating plans to offer courses of their own,

2.   Further recommends that those countries having technical assistance programmes offer expertise to those countries asking for them and those planning to offer courses in toponymy consider financial assistance to candidates selected to participate in those courses.

35/ Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, vol. II, Technical papers (United Nations publication, to be issued), agenda item 12.

36/ Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, vol. II ..., p.50.

16. National standardization

The Conference,

Recalling that the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names adopted resolution 4, regarding national standardization, 37/

Considering that many countries have their own national geographical names authorities with status, composition, functions and procedures clearly outlined regarding officially standardized geographical names,

Recognizing that those national geographical names authorities have set up rules pertaining to official standardization procedures,

Also recognizing that according to the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names a standardized name is a name that has the official sanction of a legally constituted entity, 38/

Recommends that to recommendation A of resolution 4 of the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names should be added the following:

"It is recommended that any changes made by other authorities in the names standardized by the competent national geographical names authority should not be recognized by the United Nations".

17. Names of countries

The Conference,

Recognizing the desirability of avoiding new exonyms,

Recommends that every country use in its language(s), for newly independent countries and for countries that adopt new names, those names that correspond, as far as possible, to the official local names of the countries concerned.

18. Study of exonyms

The Conference,

Noting that, in accordance with resolution 28 of the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, 39/ progress has been made in the matter of exonyms in so far as a number of countries have identified and prepared, or are preparing, lists of their own exonyms,

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37/ United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, vol. I ..., p.10.

38/ Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, vol. II ..., p.52.

39/ Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, vol. I ..., p.15.

Recognizing, nevertheless, that progress has not been uniform in all countries,

Further recognizing that the reduction of both different types of languages and different linguistic categories of exonyms require different approaches,

Recommends that (a) The countries concerned continue to work on the preparation of provisional lists of exonyms, singling out those suitable for early deletion; (b) The Group of Experts contribute to the exchange of information among the countries concerned on the results of the studies of different categories of exonyms made by those countries.

19. Lists of exonyms

The Conference,

Considering that resolution 28 of the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names 40/ calls for each country to prepare a list of exonyms currently employed,

Noting the definition of the word "exonym" given in the document E/CONF.69/L.1, worked out by that Conference, 41/

Further noting that the implementation of resolution 28 in its present form must result in enormous lists of doubtful value,

Recommends that the lists referred to in resolution 28 should not contain the following categories of exonyms: those differing from the official name only by the omission, addition or alteration of diacritics or the article; those differing from the official name by declension or derivation; those created by the translation of a generic term.

20. Names of features beyond a single sovereignty

The Conference,

Recommends that resolution 25 of the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names 42/ be reworded as follows:

40/ Ibid.

41/ Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, vol. II ..., agenda item 12.

42/ Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, vol. I ..., p.14.

"The Conference,

"Considering the need for international standardization of names of geographical features that are under the sovereignty of more than one country or are divided among two or more countries,

"1. Recommends that countries sharing a given geographical feature under different names should endeavour, as far as feasible, to reach agreement on fixing a single name for the feature concerned;

"2. Further recommends that when countries sharing a given geographical feature do not succeed in agreeing on a common name, it should be a general rule of international cartography that the name used by each of the countries concerned will be accepted. A policy of accepting only one or some of such names while excluding the rest would be inconsistent in principle as well as inexpedient in practice. Only technical reasons may sometimes make it necessary, especially in the case of small-scale maps, to dispense with the use of certain names belonging to one language or another."

21. Maritime feature names

The Conference,

Having considered resolution 22 of the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, 43/

Noting that the International Hydrographic Organization has designated a technical committee to recommend improvements in procedures for naming oceans and seas and their integral subdivisions - referred to as maritime features - beyond the limits of national jurisdiction,

Recognizing the progress made by the International Hydrographic Organization in standardizing names of maritime features,

1. Expresses its appreciation to the International Hydrographic Association for its offer to assist in United Nations programmes related to maritime features;

2. Recommends that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names co-ordinate its programmes with those of the International Hydrographic Organization.

22. Undersea feature names

I

The Conference,

Recalling resolution 26 of the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, 44/

43/ Ibid.

44/ Ibid., p.14

Considering the increased activity in ocean research and the need to develop names to identify a rapidly growing number of newly discovered undersea features,

Recognizing that such names are required for certain hydrographic publications and for bathymetric charts or related material used for research documentation,

Noting that a set of procedures developed by the United Nations would, if implemented by all Member States, lead to a desirable degree of uniformity in naming new features, while also establishing a mechanism for resolving conflicts over or duplication of names,

Realizing the interest of the International Hydrographic Organization and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission in standardizing not only procedures for naming but also the names themselves,

Recommends that the principles and policies, as well as the name proposal form put before the Conference, be submitted to the International Hydrographic Organization for the purpose of developing an agreed statement to meet requirements for an internationally acceptable set of guidelines designed to ensure maximum standardization of undersea feature names.

II

The Conference,

Noting that national and international organizations may employ different terms and definitions for undersea features,

Realizing that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names has elaborated a list of terms and definitions that differ from those approved and submitted to the Conference by the International Hydrographic Organization,

Recommends that the Group of Experts, in collaboration with the International Hydrographic Organization, develop, for international use, a joint list of terms and definitions for undersea features.

23. Extraterrestrial feature names

The Conference,

Recalling resolution 21 of the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, 45/

Noting that recent planetary research programmes have resulted in a growing requirement for names for newly discovered features on the surface of the planets,

Anticipating that names for many features as yet unidentified will be required for the future,

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45/ Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, vol. I ..., p.13

Recognizing that nations active in planetary research must meet requirements for names for maps and charts,

Recognizing that in view of the great importance of space exploration for the whole of humanity, world-wide participation in the procedure for naming extraterrestrial features would ensure that succeeding generations will inherit a nomenclature less confused than that bequeathed by the past,

Realizing that those nations actively engaged in planetary exploration have developed certain procedures for producing names for maps, charts and other publications,

Aware of the role played by the International Astronomical Union in the establishment of names lists and the application of names to features for international purposes,

1.   Recommends that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names collaborate with the International Astronomical Union and other interested international bodies in programmes for the allocation of names to extraterrestrial features so that all requirements for names information may be met;

2.   Also recommends that, as required, nations employ their own languages and writing systems in the treatment of generic terminology;

3.   Further recommends that proposal forms be devised by the Group of Experts for the use of all countries that may wish to suggest names for extraterrestrial features.

24.   Use of the Arabic language as a working language at future United Nations conferences on the standardization of geographical names

The Conference,

Considering that since 1975 the Arabic language has been a working language of the General Assembly of the United Nations and of some of its organs,

Noting that seven Arab States have participated in the Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names and that not less than 15 such States are expected to participate in the fourth conference,

Noting also that the Arabic language is understood by eight delegations (other than those of Islamic States) attending the Third Conference and that the number of delegations that understand the language thus constitutes almost one third of the participating delegations,

Considering that the Arab States are willing to bear in part or in full the cost of making the Arabic language a working language of the fourth conference,

Recommends that Arabic be made one of the working languages of future United Nations conferences on the standardization of geographical names and meetings of the Group of Experts.

25. Single romanization system for each non-roman writing system

The Conference,

Noting that in preparing a single romanization system for a number of important languages no progress has yet been made since the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names,

Noting further that this state of affairs results mainly from the fact that countries in which those languages are spoken have not yet taken part in the sessions of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names and the United Nations conference on the standardization of geographical names,

Recognizing the desirability of preparing a remanization system for those languages,

Recommends that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names take up this matter.

26. African linguistic/geographic divisions

The Conference,

Noting that resolution 4 of the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names designated Africa South of the Sahara as one linguistic/geographic division, 46/

Recognizing that this division is now divided into divisions designated Africa, East and Africa, West,

Further recognizing that the objectives of the Conference will be better achieved by making the divisions more realistically representative,

Recommends that the number of the African linguistic/geographic divisions in the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names be increased to three, under the following titles;

(a) Africa, West

(b) Africa, Central

(c) Africa, East.

46/ Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, vol. I ..., pp.10 and 11.

27. Vote of thanks

The Conference,

1. **Expresses** its heartfelt thanks to the Government of Greece for the excellent arrangements made by it for the organization of the Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names and for the hospitality extended to the participants;

2. **Also expresses** its appreciation to the President for the excellent way in which he conducted the meetings and the manner in which he looked after the welfare of the participants;

3. **Expresses** its gratitude to the officers and staff of the United Nations Secretariat for their hard work.

ANNEXES

Annex I

AGENDA

1. Opening of the Conference

2. Adoption of the rules of procedure

3. Election of officers

4. Report on credentials

5. Adoption of the agenda

6. Organization of work

7. Reports by divisions and Governments on the situation in their regions and countries and on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names since the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names

8. National standardization:

    (a) Field collection of names

    (b) Office treatment of names

    (c) Treatment of names in multilingual areas

    (d) Administrative structure of national names authorities

9. Training courses:

    (a) Consideration of courses already held

    (b) Programmes of future courses

    (c) Prospective developments

10. Gazetteers:

    (a) National gazetteers

    (b) United Nations series of gazetteers

    (c) Concise world gazetteer

    (d) Other publications

11. Automated data processing:

    (a) Coding and abbreviation

    (b) Writing

12. Terminology

13. Exonyms:

    (a) Categories and degree of use of exonyms

    (b) Determination of principles to be followed in the reduction of exonyms

14. Policies, procedures and co-operative arrangements for the naming of features beyond a single sovereignty:

    (a) Features common to two or more nations

    (b) Maritime features

    (c) Undersea features

    (d) Extraterrestrial features

15. Writing systems:

    (a) Conversion of names from one writing system into another:

         (i)   Romanization

         (ii) Conversion into non-Roman writing systems

    (b) Writing of names from unwritten languages

16. International co-operation:

    (a) United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

    (b) Exchange of information:

         (i)   Reliability statement

         (ii) Aids to pronunciation of names nationally standardized in non-phonetic writing

         (iii) Scope and development of procedures in exchange of information

    (c) Divisional and interdivisional meetings and programmes

    (d) Technical assistance

    (e) Co-operation with international organizations

    (f) Co-operation with public information media

17. Report of the Conference

Annex II

LIST OF DOCUMENTS ISSUED FOR THE CONFERENCE

Series E/CONF.69/...

E/CONF.69/1	Provisional agenda
E/CONF.69/2	Rules of procedure
E/CONF.69/3 and Add.1-7	Draft report of the Conference
E/CONF.69/4	Report of the Conference

Series E/CONF.69/INF...

E/CONF.69/INF.1	Documentation for the Conference
E/CONF.69/INF.2 and Add.1	Advance information of interest to the participants
E/CONF.69/INF.3	List of documents
E/CONF.69/INF.4 and Rev.1	List of participants
E/CONF.69/INF.5	Establishment of technical committees and election of officers

Series E/CONF.69/C.I/L...

E/CONF.69/C.I/L.1	Gazetteers - draft resolution submitted by Guatemala
E/CONF.69/C.I/L.2	Glossary of technical terminology - draft resolution submitted by Committee I
E/CONF.69/C.I/L.3	Training courses - draft resolution submitted by Committee I
E/CONF.69/C.I/L.4	Draft report on the work of Committee I

Series E/CONF.69/C.II/L...

E/CONF.69/C.II/L.1	Format of international gazetteers of countries - draft resolution submitted by Hungary
E/CONF.69/C.II/L.2	Automated data processing - draft resolution submitted by the United States of America
E/CONF.69/C.II/L.3	Draft report on the work of Committee II

E/CONF.69/C.V/L.1   Reliability statement on geographical names in documents – draft resolution submitted by the United States of America

E/CONF.69/C.V/L.2   Divisional activities and meetings – draft resolution submitted by the United States of America

E/CONF.69/C.V/L.3   List of country names – draft resolution submitted by the United States of America

E/CONF.69/C.V/L.4   Aids to pronunciation – draft resolution submitted by the United States of America

E/CONF.69/C.V/L.5   Draft report on the work of Committee V

Series E/CONF.69/L...

E/CONF.69/L.1 and Add.1   A glossary of technical terminology for employment in the standardization of geographical names prepared by the Working Group on Definitions of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names
Item 12

E/CONF.69/L.2 and Corr.1 a/ (Spanish only)   Exónimos
(Guatemala) Item 13

E/CONF.69/L.3 a/ (Spanish only)   Autoridades encargadas de la normalización nacional
(Guatemala) Item 8

E/CONF.69/L.4 a/ (Spanish only)   Informe del Gobierno de Guatemala
(Guatemala) Item 7

E/CONF.69/L.5 a/ (Spanish only)   Informe del experto de la División de América Latina del Grupo de Expertos de las Naciones Unidas en Nombres Geográficos
(Guatemala) Item 7

E/CONF.69/L.6 a/ (Spanish only)   Algunas notas referentes a la geografía humana de Guatemala
(Guatemala) Item 8

E/CONF.69/L.7 a/ (Spanish only)   Unas pocas anotaciones sobre cartografía y geografía humana
(Guatemala) Item 8

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a/ Abstracts available in English, French and Spanish.

E/CONF.69/L.8 a/ (Spanish only)	Sistemas de escritura en idiomas ágrafos en Guatemala (Guatemala) Item 15
E/CONF.69/L.9 a/ (English only)	Report on Austria (Austria) Item 7
E/CONF.69/L.10 a/ (English only)	Toponymy research at the federal level in Canada (Canada) Item 8
E/CONF.69/L.11 a/ (English only)	A new Inuit orthography for geographical names (Canada) Item 15 (b)
E/CONF.69/L.12 a/ (English only)	Gazetteer production and names at the federal level in Canada (Canada) Item 10 (a)
E/CONF.69/L.13 a/ (French only)	Le problème "didactique" de la réduction des exonymes (Canada) Item 13
E/CONF.69/L.14 a/ (English only)	The treatment of toponyms in Manitoba from languages without an alphabet (Canada) Item 15 (b)
E/CONF.69/L.15 a/ (English only)	Jurisdictions and the standardization of geographical names in Quebec (Canada) Item 8 b/
E/CONF.69/L.16 a/ (English only)	The computerization of geographical names; the Quebec experiment (Canada) Item 11 b/
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b/ French in Government of Canada, Department of Energy, Mines and Resources,
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c/ English in Government of Canada, Department of Energy, Mines and
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d/ As this document was not presented under an agenda item it will not be reproduced in the Report of the Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, vol. II, Technical Papers (to be issued as a United Nations sales publication). It is available for consultation from the Cartography Section, Transport and Cartography Branch, Centre for Natural Resources, Energy and Transport, Department of Technical Co-operation and Development, United Nations Secretariat.

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Annex III

RULES OF PROCEDURE

Chapter I

REPRESENTATION AND CREDENTIALS

Rule 1

Each State participating in the Conference shall be represented by an accredited representative. If more than one representative is appointed, one of them shall be designated as head of the delegation. Each delegation may also include such alternate representatives, advisers and experts as may be required.

Rule 2

The credentials of representatives, and the names of alternate representatives, advisers and experts shall be submitted to the Executive Secretary, if possible not later than 24 hours after the opening of the Conference. The credentials shall be issued either by the Head of the State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Rule 3

A Credentials Committee shall be appointed at the beginning of the Conference. It shall consist of five members who shall be appointed by the Conference on the proposal of the President. It shall examine the credentials of representatives and report without delay.

Rule 4

Pending the decision of the Conference upon the report on credentials, the representatives, alternate representatives, advisers and experts shall be entitled provisionally to be seated in the Conference.

Chapter II

AGENDA

Rule 5

The provisional agenda set forth by the Secretariat and communicated to the Governments invited to the Conference by the Secretary-General of the United Nations shall form the provisional agenda for the Conference. Any representative of States participating in the Conference may propose any item for inclusion in the provisional agenda.

Chapter III

OFFICERS

Rule 6

The Conference shall elect a President, three Vice-Presidents, a Rapporteur and an Editor-in-Chief from among the representatives of the States participating in the Conference.

Rule 7

The President shall preside over the plenary meetings of the Conference. He shall not vote but may designate another member of his delegation to vote in his place.

Rule 8

If the President is absent from a meeting or any part thereof, a Vice-President designated by him shall preside. A Vice-President acting as President shall have the same powers and duties as the President.

Chapter IV

SECRETARIAT

Rule 9

The Executive Secretary of the Conference appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations shall act in that capacity in all meetings of the Conference. He may appoint a deputy to take his place at any meeting.

Rule 10

The Executive Secretary or his representative may at any meeting make either oral or written statements concerning any question under consideration.

Rule 11

The Executive Secretary shall provide and direct such staff as is required by the Conference. He shall be responsible for making all necessary arrangements for meetings and generally shall perform all other work which the Conference may require.

Chapter V

CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Rule 12

A majority of the representatives participating in the Conference shall constitute a quorum.

Rule 13

In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him elsewhere by these rules, the President shall declare the opening and closing of each plenary meeting of the Conference, shall direct the discussion at such meetings, accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote and announce decisions. He shall rule on points of order and, subject to these rules of procedure, shall have complete control over the proceedings.

Rule 14

The President may, in the course of the discussions, propose to the Conference the closure of the list of speakers or the closure of the debate. He may also propose the suspension or the adjournment of the meeting or the adjournment of the debate on the item under discussion. He may also call a speaker to order if his remarks are not relevant to the matter under discussion.

Rule 15

The President, in the exercise of his functions, remains under the authority of the Conference.

Rule 16

During the discussion on any matter, a representative may at any time raise a point of order, and the point or order shall be immediately decided by the President in accordance with the rules of procedure. A representative may appeal against the ruling of the President. The appeal shall be immediately put to the vote and the President's ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of representatives present and voting. A representative raising a point or order may not speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

Rule 17

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move the adjournment of the debate on the item under discussion. Any such motion shall have priority. In addition to the proposer of the motion, one representative shall be allowed to speak in favour of, and one representative against, the motion.

Rule 18

During the course of the debate, the President may announce the list of speakers and with the consent of the Conference declare the list closed. The President may, however, accord the right of reply to any representative if, in his opinion, a speech delivered after he has declared the list closed makes this desirable. When the debate on an item is concluded because there are no other speakers, the President shall declare the debate closed. Such closure shall have the same effect as closure by the consent of the Conference.

Rule 19

A representative may at any time move the closure of the debate on the item under discussion, whether or not any other representative has signified his wish to speak. Permission to speak on the closure of debate shall be accorded only

to two speakers opposing the closure, after which the motion shall be immediately
put to the vote.

Rule 20

The Conference may limit the time allowed for each speaker.

Rule 21

Proposals and amendments shall normally be introduced in writing and handed
to the Executive Secretary of the Conference, who shall circulate copies to the
delegations. As a general rule, no proposal shall be discussed or put to the
vote at any meeting of the Conference unless copies of it have been circulated
to all delegations not later than the day preceding the meeting. The President
may, however, permit the discussion and consideration of amendments or motions
as to procedure even though these amendments or motions have not been circulated
or have only been circulated the same day.

Rule 22

A motion may be withdrawn by its proposer at any time before voting on it has
commenced, provided that the motion has not been amended. A motion which has thus
been withdrawn may be reintroduced by any representative.

Rule 23

When a proposal has been adopted or rejected, it may not be considered unless
the Conference, by a two-thirds majority of the representatives present and voting,
so decides. Permission to speak on the motion to reconsider shall be accorded
only to two speakers opposing the motion, after which it shall be immediately
put to the vote.

Chapter VI

VOTING

Rule 24

Each State represented at the Conference shall have one vote, and the
decisions of the Conference shall be made by a majority of the representatives of
States participating in the Conference present and voting.

Rule 25

For the purpose of these rules, the phrase "representatives present and
voting" means representatives present and casting an affirmative or negative vote.
Representatives who abstain from voting shall be considered as not voting.

Rule 26

The Conference shall normally vote by show of hands, but any representative
may request a roll call. A roll call shall be taken in the English alphabetical
order of the names of the delegations at the Conference, beginning with the
delegation whose name is drawn by lot by the President.

Rule 27

After the President has announced the beginning of the vote, no representative shall interrupt the vote except on a point or order in connexion with the actual conduct of voting. Explanations of their votes by representatives may, however, be permitted by the President either before or after the voting. The President may limit the time to be allowed for such explanation.

Rule 28

Parts of a proposal shall be voted on separately if a representative requests that the proposal be divided. Those parts of the proposal which have been approved shall then be put to the vote as a whole; if all the operative parts of a proposal have been rejected, the proposal shall be considered rejected as a whole.

Rule 29

When an amendment is moved to a proposal, the amendment shall be voted on first. When two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the Conference shall first vote on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal and then on the amendment next furthest removed therefrom, and so on, until all the amendments have been put to the vote. When, however, the adoption of one amendment necessarily implies the rejection of another amendment, the latter amendment shall not be put to the vote. If one or more amendments are adopted, the proposal shall then be voted upon. A motion is considered an amendment to a proposal if it merely adds to, deletes from or revises part of that proposal.

Rule 30

If two or more proposals relate to the same question, the Conference shall, unless it decides otherwise, vote on the proposals in the order in which they have been submitted. The Conference may, after each vote on a proposal, decide whether to vote on the next proposal.

Rule 31

All elections shall be decided by secret ballot unless otherwise decided by the Conference.

Rule 32

If, when one person or one delegation is to be elected, no candidate obtains the required majority in the first ballot, a second ballot shall be taken, which shall be restricted to the two candidates obtaining the largest number of votes. If, in the second ballot, the votes are equally divided, the President shall decide between the candidates by drawing lots.

In the case of a tie in the first ballot among the candidates obtaining the second largest number of votes, a special ballot shall be held for the purpose of reducing the number of candidates to two. In the case of a tie among three or more candidates obtaining the largest number of votes, a second ballot shall be held; if a tie results among more than two candidates, the number shall be reduced to two by lot.

Rule 33

If a vote is equally divided upon matters other than elections, a second vote shall be taken after an adjournment of the meeting for 15 minutes. If this vote also results in equality, the proposal shall be regarded as rejected.

Chapter VII

LANGUAGES

Rule 34

English, French and Spanish shall be the working languages of the Conference.

Rule 35

Speeches made in any one of the official languages of the United Nations shall be interpreted into the other four official languages.

Rule 36

Any representative may make a speech in a language other than the official language of the United Nations. In this case, he shall himself provide for interpretation into one of the working languages of the Conference. Interpretation into the other working languages of the Conference by the interpreters of the Secretariat may be based on the interpretation given in the first working language.

Chapter VIII

RECORDS

Rule 37

Minutes of the plenary meetings of the Conference shall be kept by the Secretariat in English only.

Chapter IX

PUBLICITY OF MEETINGS

Rule 38

The plenary meetings of the Conference and the meetings of its committees shall be held in public unless the body concerned decides that exceptional circumstances require that a particular meeting be held in private.

Chapter X

COMMITTEES

Rule 39

The Conference may establish such committees as may be necessary for the performance of its functions. Items relating to the same category of subjects may be referred to the committee dealing with that category of subjects. Committees shall not introduce any item on their own initiative.

Rule 40

Each committee shall elect its own Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur.

Rule 41

So far as they are applicable, the rules of procedures of the Conference shall apply to the proceedings of the committees. A committee may dispense with certain language interpretations.

Chapter XI

SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, OTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Rule 42

Observers of specialized agencies invited to the Conference may participate, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference and its committees, upon the invitation of the President or the Chairman, as the case may be, on questions within the scope of their activities.

Written statements of such specialized agencies shall be distributed by the Secretariat to the delegations at the Conference.

Rule 43

Other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations attending the Conference may, upon the invitation of the President or the Chairman of a committee of the Conference, as the case may be, submit written or oral statements to the Conference on subjects for which these organizations have a special competence.

Chapter XII

AMENDMENTS

Rule 44

These rules of procedure may be amended by a decision of the Conference.