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Geographical Names**

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WORKING PAPER 2

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Agenda item 5

PROPOSAL FOR CHAPTER V OF THE STATUTE

(RULES OF PROCEDURE)

Paper submitted by D. Blok, Chairman
of the UNGEGN

Proposal for Chapter V of the Statute
(Rules of Procedure)

Submitted by the Chairman.

The Fourth Conference, by Resolution no.22 had recommended that the Group of Experts should examine the possibility of preparing a document combining and modifying, where appropriate, the separate documents on Aims, Functions, Modus operandi and Rules of Procedure of the UNGEGN.

Implementing this Resolution the twelfth Session of the Group accepted a Statute of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (Report of the twelfth Session, ESA/RT/C/GN/10, Annex III).

This document is a composite of the proposals contained in the Working Paper no 28, prepared by the Chairman, and no. 59, submitted by the expert of the USSR. It contains four Chapters, respectively on Aims, Principles, Functions and Composition. It was agreed that a fifth and last Chapter, containing the Rules of Procedure, should be added during the thirteenth Session.

I think it wise to alter as little as possible the existing Rules, that were elaborated and thoroughly checked by the legal department of the United Nations and were adopted by ECOSOC. Their general framework and the wordings are in accordance with current United Nations procedures.

Yet the Working Paper submitted by the expert of the USSR contains two important proposals that ought to be adopted in our new Rules.

The first one (Rule 8,1-2 in Working Paper 59) states that decisions on all but procedural matters will be reached by consensus. This is in accordance with the existing practice of the Group of Experts and with the Principles as expressed in § II.1 of the Statute.

The second one (Rule 12.1 of Working Paper 59) concerns the status of the Working Papers presented to the Group of Experts. This is a very useful addition, as it may prevent political discussions that do not belong to the tasks of the UNGEGN. See also my remarks on this subject made at the opening of the twelfth Session (Report of the twelfth Session, § 7).

Therefore I submit to the Group the following proposals.

- 1) We adopt the existing Rules of Procedure with the following alterations.
- 2) Rule 23 will read:
 1. The Group of Experts as well as its regional and working groups reach decisions on all but procedural matters by consensus.
 2. In the absence of a consensus on procedural matters, the Chairman may, and at the request of any member shall, put the proposal to the vote.
- 3) Rule 35, under the heading "Documents" will read

1. The Secretariat of the Group of Experts circulates copies of working papers submitted by divisions and experts to the participants of the Session.
2. The title-page of each working paper should be provided with the following disclaimer:
 - Consideration of the present paper by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names does not imply its approving and adoption.
 - consideration of the present paper by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names cannot be used by anybody for interpretation of any political matter.
- 4) The existing Rules 35-41 will be renumbered into 36-42.