

Fifth session of the
United Nations Group of Experts
on Geographical Names

New York, 5 to 16 March 1973

WORKING PAPER No. 2

Letter from A. Konkov, Vice-Chairman
of the Group of Experts

GROUP OF EXPERTS ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

379 USSR

by airmail

JAN 31 1973

January 19, 1973

ACTION

Mr. M.F. Burrill
Chairman, United
Nations Group of
Experts on Geographical
Names.

1	Mr. Christopher
2
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<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Completed
<input type="checkbox"/>	Acknowledged
<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Required
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Mr. Ch. N. Christopher,
Chief,
UN Cartography Section
Resources and
Transport Division

Dear Colleagues,

EC 613(2)

I am in receipt of the draft agenda of the Group of Experts fifth session. Having studied in addition recommendations of the London Conference on Standardization of Geographical Names and the Report of the fourth session of our group, I should like to draw your attention to the fact that, by my opinion, the agenda you suggested requires as to its points some addition and specification.

You can judge my corrections by my version of the provisional agenda which I enclose herewith. Not delaying over the points which, as I think, do not need explanatory remarks I intend to give grounds for the other, more essential, points.

I advise to exclude reports of working groups from point 2 of the agenda (from here on I retain the numeration given in your draft). Such reports should follow separate meetings of each working group. During these meetings members of working groups and other experts who will like to join them will be able to meet at the first time after the London conference, to discuss problems in their charge, and prepare co-ordinated reports which can later be submitted by chairmen (co-ordinators) to the consideration of all the participants.

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The previous sessions showed that if the meetings of working groups were conducted above the approved agenda of the session, i.e. in the morning or in the evening before or after plenary meetings, they did not obtain desirable results. Difficulties redouble when one and the same person is at the same time a member of different working groups.

Therefore, I suggest that the meetings of working groups be included in the agenda as a separate item and no less than a day or even two full working days of the forthcoming session be planned for that purpose. That will permit to prepare more interesting and specific reports which will take less time to discuss them at the plenary meeting of the session. Further I suggest the subdivision of point 5 of the preliminary agenda into subitems to which different recommendations of the London conference correspond (to (a) - Recommendation 24, (b) - Recommendation 25, (c) - Recommendation 22, 26, (d) - Recommendation 21). These recommendations contain instructions for our group.

Proposing further to exclude from point 8 the question about the acceptability of romanization systems, I think that this problem should receive sufficient consideration during discussing the report of the working group on romanization. As to the reduction of exonyms and application of diacritics they, as I think, need a different discussion.

My version of the agenda of the forthcoming session, as you can see, retains all its previous points and at the same time permits to conduct the discussion with more order, completeness, and less waste of time.

Yours respectfully,


A. Komkov

Enclosure

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Group of Experts on Geographical
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Draft

FIFTH SESSION OF THE UNITED
NATIONS GROUP OF EXPERTS ON
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

(United Nations, Headquarters,
New York, 5 to 16 March, 1973)

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the session
2. Approval of the agenda
3. Summary reports on the activities since the London Conference of 1972 by:
 - a) Chairman of the Group of Experts
 - b) Representatives of Regional Groups and Countries
4. Review of "Aims, functions and modus operandi"
5. a) Separate meetings of working groups on:
 - I. Romanization for geographical names in non-roman writing countries
 - II. Undersea features names
 - III. Extraterrestrial features names
 - IV. Geographical names standardization terms
5. b) Summary reports by chairmen (co-ordinators) of working groups I, II, III, IV
6. Proposals for the United Nations gazetteers
7. Names of features beyond a single sovereignty
 - a) General aspect of the problem
 - b) Features belonging to two or more states
 - c) Sea and undersea features

d) Extraterrestrial topographical features

8. Proposals for co-ordination of different systems rendering geographical (generic) terms used in gazetteers of different countries
9. Courses to train personnel for the standardization of geographical names in under-developed countries
10. Reduction in exonyms
11. Use of diacritics
12. Co-operation with other international organizations
13. Plan of activities between the fifth and sixth sessions
14. Report of the fifth session