

Ninth Session
New York, 17-27 February 1981
Agenda Item No.

Progress Report of the Netherlands

(Submitted by the Dutch-German Speaking Division)

Submitted by the Dutch-German Speaking Division - DGSD

Progress Report of the Netherlands

1. In 1980 the "Commissie Buitenlandse Aardrijkskundige Namen" or CBAN (Commission on Foreign Geographical Names) presented a "Lijst van Landennamen" (List of Country Names) to the Minister of Education and Science. The Minister has printed and published the List (a copy of which is attached) and given it a wide circulation by disseminating it among educational institutes at different levels among new information media, etc. Though for various reasons the minister cannot officially make the use of the List obligatory, he has recommended its public acceptance.

It should be noted that in drafting this Lijst van Landennamen, C.B.A.N. has reached complete agreement with the Netherland's Normalisation Institute, the Dutch Branch of ISO.

2. The CBAN has further made considerable progress with the compilation of a list of Dutch exonyms. The Commission limits itself to the Latin alphabet countries and to countries with deviating writing systems, that have submitted to the U.N. official transcription systems and which were agreed by the U.N. Conferences on Geographical Names.
3. Unfortunately "Toponymic Guidelines" for the Netherlands cannot be presented yet as the principles of spelling of Dutch geographical names are still a point of discussion. Proposals for the establishment of such principles were submitted to the Minister of Education and Science in 1974 but so far no decision has been made. The problem is complicated by the fact that for certain aspects of the spelling of Dutch Geographical names, agreement with Belgium is required.