

Agenda Item 5

ACTIVITIES OF TURKEY IN THE STANDARDIZATION OF  
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES SINCE THE 11TH SESSION OF UNGEGN

(Report presented by Mr. S. Erinc (Turkey))

The Turkish National Committee for the Standardization of Geographical Names has continued its work during the past two years, focusing its efforts mainly on the following items:

1. Gazetteer of Turkey. A Gazetteer of Turkey, which was first published in 1977 as a supplement to the New Atlas of Turkey has been revised. It will be presented to the 5th UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in Montreal.

2. Exonyms. As already expressed in previous Turkish national reports, Turkey is greatly interested in the study of exonyms, not only for the fact that they are a useful means for the interpretation of the past relations, but also because exonyms are, in many cases, a prerequisite to the evaluation of archives and identification of geographical features, the names of which have been changed several times in some areas. As a product of efforts along this line, a list of Turkish exonyms of the Aegean islands and isles have been drawn up and submitted to the Secretariat of UNGEGN for circulation.\*The National Board is continuing its work to complete other lists of widely used Turkish

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\* Working Paper No. 29.

exonyms in various regions of the world.

3. Undersea and maritime features. A special Working Group within the National Board was set up for standardization of names of undersea and maritime features of the seas surrounding Turkey. The work is in progress and the list of standardized names, including some new name proposals, will be submitted to the Secretary of the UNGEGN for circulation to experts in accordance with the relevant decision of the 11th session.

4. Geographical/linguistic divisions. Discussions on this item during the 11th Session of UNGEGN clearly showed the necessity of reviewing both the composition and naming of some divisions. Although it was decided that the status quo would be provisionally maintained, Turkey believes and expects that this item will also be discussed during the 12th session in order to reach an agreement on an appropriate reorganization which seems necessary not only for enabling inter-divisional cooperation between members of some politically, culturally and linguistically heterogenous divisions such as the "Asia South West other than Arabic" division, but also for the fulfilment of the aims of the UNGEGN as well.