UNITED NATIONS

Group of Experts on Geographical names

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1 July 1986

Agenda Item 16

LIST BY SUBJECT OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE VARIOUS CONFERENCES ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES a/

(Presented by the Secretariat)

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Note: Resolutions followed by asterisk(s) cover two or more subjects.
* Preparation of Gazetteers (point 10)/Exonyms (point 14)
** Preparation of Gazetteers (point 10)/Automated Data Processing (point 13)
*** Maritime and undersea feature names (point 17)/Names of features beyond a single sovereignty (point 18)

1. UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names

I/2. Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names

The Conference,

Noting the importance of the standardization of geographical names and the great interest shown in this subject by the numerous participants in the Conference from the States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies, as well as interested international organizations,

Appreciating the work that has been accomplished by the participants in this Conference,

Recognising the necessity of standardizing geographical names for both national and international usage,

Recommends to the Economic and Social Council that the second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names be held not later than the last quarter of 1970.

II/1. Third United Nations conference on the standardization of geographical names

The Conference,

Noting the results of the work accomplished in the standardization of geographical names by the States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies as well as by the interested international organizations,

Further noting that these results were for the greater part due to the impetus given by the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names,

Recognizing the important contributions to this work made by the Second Conference, as reflected in the resolutions that have been adopted.

Further recognizing the necessity of continuing this important work,

Recommends to the Economic and Social Council that a third United Nations conference on the standardization of geographical names be held not later than the first half of 1977.

III/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.

III/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.

IV/1. Fifth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names

The Conference,

Noting the results of the work accomplished in the standardization of geographical names on both the national and international levels by the States Members of the United Nations,

Further noting the important contributions made by the Conference to this work,

Recognizing the necessity of continuing this important work,

1.   Expresses its appreciation to the Government of Canada for its offer to act as host for the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names;

2.   Recommends to the Economic and Social Council that a Fifth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names be held in Canada not later than the second half of 1987.

I/1. United Nations Permanent Committee of Experts on Geographical Names

The Conference,

Recognising the importance of a continuing effort by States Members of the United Nations and members of its specialized agencies and other interested international organizations for advancing the standardization of geographical names,

Considering the United Nations to have the most appropriate means for providing the facilities for such an effort,

Recommends to the Economic and Social Council that a United Nations permanent committee on geographical names be created, consisting of experts, to provide for continuous co-ordination and liaison among nations to further the standardization of geographical names and to encourage the formation and work of regional groups;

Further recommends to the Council that the composition of the United Nations Permanent Committee of Experts on Geographical Names should reflect geographical/linguistic distribution, that it should be assisted by the services of a secretariat within the United Nations, and that the members of the Committee should meet annually, beginning in 1968, at their Governments' expense;

Requests that the Secretariat of the United Nations continue to act as the central agency to follow up the clearing-house functions for geographical names by:

(*a*) Collecting information concerning technical procedures and gazetteers;

(*b*) Collecting data on techniques and systems used by countries in the transliteration and transcription of geographical names;

(*c*) Disseminating to all States Members of the United Nations and members of its specialized agencies all information on the work of the Permanent Committee of Experts on Geographical Names as well as on the work of Member States as reported to the United Nations, utilizing where feasible existing United Nations periodicals and other means of communication available.

II/3. Name of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

The Conference,

Having considered the report of the *Ad Hoc* Group of Experts on Geographical Names on its third session,

Noting that the Group is now a continuing body and that the term "*ad hoc*" is no longer appropriate,

Recommends that the Group of Experts should be officially named the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.

II/2. Work of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

The Conference,

Noting the excellent work performed by the Group of Experts on Geographical Names in the period since the First Conference held at Geneva in 1967, including the organization of this Second Conference,

1. *Recommends* that the Group of Experts continue to be guided by the statement of aims, functions and *modus operandi* contained in the report on its second session held in March 1970;[11]

2. *Further recommends* that the Group of Experts undertake the preparatory work for a third conference at a date to be determined in the near future.

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[11] See *Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names : Vol. II. Technical Papers* (United Nations publication, to be issued), agenda item 15.

II/4. Linguistic/geographical divisions

The Conference,

Noting the listing of the linguistic/geographical divisions in the report of the First Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names,[12]

Recognizing some of the preferences as stated in the present Conference,

Recommends that, for the time being, the titles of the linguistic/geographical divisions be the following :

1. United States of America – Canada
2. Latin America
3. United Kingdom group
4. Dutch-speaking and German-speaking group
5. Norden
6. Romance languages, other than Latin America
7. Europe, east central and south-east
8. Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
9. Arabic
10. Asia, south-west, other than Arabic
11. Indian group
12. Asia, south-east
13. Asia, east
14. Africa south of the Sahara

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[12] *United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names : Vol. 1. Report of the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.68.I.9), p. 7.

III/5.   Divisional activities and meetings

The Conference,

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

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 for 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.

III/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.

IV/21. <u>Commendation of the work of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names</u>

<u>The Conference</u>,

<u>Recognizing</u> the positive results of the efforts and work carried out by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names,

<u>Considering also</u> the growing influence of the documents prepared by the Group of Experts on Geographical Names on the national and international development of standardization of geographical names,

1. <u>Recommends</u> that the Group of Experts should continue its efforts to standardize geographical names at the national and international level;

2. <u>Also recommends</u> that the Economic and Social Council should express its appreciation of the efforts of the experts of the various countries which have made it possible to achieve the existing level of standardization of geographical names.

IV/22. <u>Principles of activities and structure of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names</u>

<u>The Conference</u>,

<u>Noting</u> the usefulness of the activities of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names,

<u>Noting also</u> that in order to improve the effectiveness of its future activities, it may be necessary to review the form of the basic documents, which are United Nations decisions, <u>modus operandi</u>, aims and functions and rules of procedure, defining the activities of the Group of Experts,

<u>Acknowledging</u> that the available documents should identify precisely the essential principles of the activities and structure of the Group of Experts,

<u>Noting further</u> that there are several relevant documents which have been prepared separately,

<u>Recommends</u> that the Group of Experts should examine the possibility of preparing a document combining and modifying, where appropriate, the separate documents referred to above.

IV/23. **Statement of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names of aims and functions and its effect on Working Groups**

The Conference,

Noting that the Group of Experts on Geographical Names adopted a statement of aims and functions at its ninth session, 42/

Taking note of function 11 of the statement, which read as follows:

"Take steps to make the working groups of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names more effective:

"(a) Working Groups will be established only where the tasks assigned to them have a direct bearing on the aims of the Group of Experts.

"(b) The need for the existence of working groups will be reviewed at successive sessions of the Group of Experts for the purposes of continuing or terminating their mandates.

"(c) Immediately after conferences, the Group of Experts will discuss and evaluate conference proceedings. Working Groups and their mandates will be evaluated. New working groups will be formed as required",

Considering that this statement provides a means whereby the Group of Experts can operate more effectively,

Recommends that the activities of the Working Groups should be governed accordingly.

42/ Document E/CONF.74/L.44, annex VI.

IV/24. **Divisional activities**

The Conference,

Considering that the Geographical/Linguistic Divisions are a fundamental element in the structure of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names,

Considering further that the Divisions are particularly well qualified to recognize problems of standardization of geographical names common to their geographical/linguistic areas,

Noting that certain divisions have made outstanding progress in the development of solutions concerning name standardization,

Recognizing the necessity of extending the exchange of experience and information among different divisions,

1. **Recommends** that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names should continue to encourage the Geographical/Linguistic Divisions to be more active in implementing the decisions of the United Nations conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names, as applicable, in working out reporting schedules on their activities to all States within their Divisions and to the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names;

2. **Recommends further** that the Divisions should promote the exchange of information among them and, for this prupose, should make available to the other divisions, as frequently as possible, the results of their work in the way deemed appropriate.

IV/25. Funding support of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

The Conference,

Confirming the requirement for the continued operations of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names,

Recommends that the Cartography Section of the Natural Resources and Energy Division of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development of the United Nations Secretariat, on behalf of the Conference, should investigate the possibility of the provision of funds by the appropriate United Nations agency for the financing of the meetings of the Group of Experts.

II/31. A common understanding of the aims and objects of the international standardization of geographical names

The Conference,

Recognizing the desirability of attaining a common understanding of the aims and objects of the international standardization of geographical names,

1. *Recommends* the following general definition in connexion with the continuing study by the Group of Experts of the field of application of international standardization :

"International standardization of geographical names is that activity aiming at the maximum possible uniformity in the form of every geographical name on the earth and of topographical names on other bodies of the solar system by means of national standardization and/or international agreement, including the achievement of equivalences between different writing systems";

2. *Further recommends* that, as far as possible, the standardized local names should be used in maps and charts which are intended for international use and also in all international publications in which geographical names do not appear in the running text, such as international time-tables or tables of international statistic Where geographical names appear in the running te: in international publications in a given language, ex(nyms may be used, but in such cases it is desirable tha the standardized local geographical names should als appear in brackets.

II/33. International co-operation in the standardization of geographical names

The Conference,

Having discussed the problem of the international standardization of geographical names and its field of application,

Recognizing the difficulty of this problem and the necessity of establishing contact with interested international organizations, such as the Universal Postal Union and the International Telecommunication Union,

Recommends that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names continue to study this problem in co-operation with such organizations.

IV/2. Acceleration of work on standardization of geographical names

The Conference,

Noting that, during the period since the First United Nations conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names there has been a change in emphasis from the execution of large special projects to a more general need for development of land use and natural resources, land redistribution, conservation of the environment and the preservation of natural resources, all of which necessitates unambiguous reference in the naming of physical entities.

Noting further that international organizations, aid authorities, government departments, engineering and mining contractors, and agencies concerned with land use, water resources, agriculture, mineral exploration and development require detailed general planning documentation and that geographical names constitute a major element in such documentation and in the identification of administrative elements, land title and a wide range of other legal documents,

Recognizing that discrepancies occurring in geographical names on maps have been experienced by all concerned with such subjects and that this confusion is compounded by similar disparities in the names to be found in material and documents issued for purposes such as transportation and tourism, economic studies and telecommunications, and that variant names result inevitably in doubt and sometimes total confusion causing unnecessary expenditure of time and money,

Recognizing further the cultural and social importance of geographical names,

Recommends that the standardization of geographical names should be accelerated by all possible means.

IV/4. **Publication of toponymic guidelines for map and other editors**

The Conference,

Recognizing the desirability of international exchange of information concerning the main facts, measures and achievements in the field of national name standardization,

Noting that within the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names progress has been made in this respect since its eighth session, 28/

1. **Recommends** that countries should be encouraged to publish and keep up-to-date toponymic guidelines for map and other editors which may enable cartographers of other countries to treat correctly all problems of cartographic toponymy of the countries that produced such guidelines, and which may be of help to all users in interpreting maps;

2. **Further recommends** that those guidelines contain, _inter alia_ and as appropriate, the following items:

(a) Legal status of geographical names in the respective languages of multilingual countries;

(b) Alphabets of the language or languages and furthermore, in the case of non-Roman alphabets and scripts, the officially introduced romanization keys;

(c) Spelling rules for geographical names;

(d) Aids to pronunciation of geographical names;

(e) Linguistic substrata recognizable in the existing place names, but only as far as their knowledge may be of benefit to the cartographer;

(f) Relationship between dialect(s) and standard language(s);

(g) Peculiarities of dialect and areal distribution of the main dialects;

(h) Areal distribution of languages within multilingual countries;

(i) Names authorities and measures taken in names standardization;

(j) Source material;

(k) Glossary of words necessary for the undertanding of maps;

(l) Abbreviations in official maps;

(m) Administrative division;

3. **Recommends also** that the toponymic guidelines submitted by Austria 29/ should serve as a sample of format and contents;

4. **Further recommends** that a correspondent should be appointed by the United Nations Group of Experts on the Standardization of Geographical Names to co-ordinate the work of developing national toponymic guidelines and to maintain communication with national experts involved in the development of such guidelines.

28/ Document E/CONF.74/L.43.

29/ Document E/CONF.74/L.2.

5. National Standardization

I/4. National standardization

The Conference,

Recognising that the national standardization of geographical names provides economic and practical benefits to individual nations,

Further recognising that national standardization of geographical names by all nations is an essential preliminary to international standardization.

1. *Requests* that the following recommendations on the national standardization of geographical names be reviewed by the proper United Nations authorities;

2. *Urges* that these recommendations be conveyed to all Member States and interested international organizations for favourable consideration.

RECOMMENDATION A. NATIONAL NAMES AUTHORITIES

It is recommended that, as a first step in international standardization of geographical names, each country should have a national geographical names authority:

(a) Consisting of a continuing body, or co-ordinated group of bodies, having clearly stated authority and instructions for the standardization of geographical names and the determination of names standardization policy within the country;

(b) Having such status, composition, function and procedures as will:

(i) Be consistent with the governmental structure of the country;

(ii) Give the greatest chance of success in the national names standardization programme;

(iii) As appropriate, provide within its framework for the establishment of regional or local committees according to area or language;

(iv) Provide for consideration of the effects of its actions on government agencies, private organizations and other groups and for the reconciliation of these interests, as far as possible, with the long-rang interests of the country as a whole;

(v) Make full use of the services of surveyors, cartographers, geographers, linguists and any other experts who may help the authority to carry out its operations efficiently;

(vi) Permit record keeping and publication procedures that will facilitate the prompt and wide distribution of information on its standardized names, both nationally and internationally.

It is recommended that those countries which have not yet begun to exercise their prerogative of standardizing their geographical names on a national basis should now proceed to do so.

It is further recommended that the appropriate United Nations office be kept informed by each national names authority of its composition and functions, and of the address of its secretary.

RECOMMENDATION B. COLLECTION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

For each geographical name which is to be standardized, it is recommended that:

(a) The field and office research be as complete as possible in order to provide information on the following points:

(i) Written and spoken form of the name and its meaning according to local inhabitants;

(ii) Spelling in cadastral documents and land registers;

(iii) Spelling on modern and old maps and in other historical sources;

(iv) Spelling in census reports, gazetteers and other relevant documents of value;

(v) Spelling used by other local administrative and technical services;

(b) The local spoken form of the name be recorded on tape and written in the phonetic notation approved by the national names authority;

(c) The character, extent and position of the feature named be determined — in this regard it should be noted that aerial photographs can provide useful supplementary information — and recorded as accurately as possible, and that the meaning of the generic terms used locally be clearly defined;

(d) If possible, at least two local independent sources be consulted for each inquiry.

It is further recommended that personnel responsible for the collection of names should have training adequate to recognize and deal with the linguistic problems (phonetic system, grammatical structure and orthography), geographic phenomena and terminology that they are likely to encounter.

RECOMMENDATION C. PRINCIPLES OF OFFICE TREATMENT OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

It is recommended that each names authority formulate, adopt and define the guiding principles and practices that it will normally apply in the course of operation.

These principles and practices should cover:

(a) Formal procedures to be followed in the submission to the authority of proposals for new names or changes in names;

(b) Factors that the authority will take into account when considering name proposals, such as:

    (i) Current usage;

    (ii) Historical background;

    (iii) Treatment in multilingual areas and in unwritten languages;

    (iv) The extent to which hybrid names should be avoided;

    (v) Avoidance of repetition of names;

    (vi) Avoidance of more than one name for one feature;

    (vii) Clarification of the precise extent of application of each individual geographical name, including the naming of the whole and the parts of major features;

    (viii) Elimination of objectionable names;

(c) Rules of writing names applied by the authority;

(d) Procedures whereby all interested parties may express their views on a name proposal prior to decision by the authority;

(e) Formal procedures for promulgation of the authority's decisions and for ensuring that standardized names shall appear on the national maps.

In the elaboration of these principles it is recommended that:

(1) Unnecessary changing of names be avoided;

(2) The spelling of geographical names be as much as possible in accordance with the current orthographic practice of the country concerned, with due regard to dialect forms;

(3) Systematic treatment of names should not operate to suppress significant elements;

(4) Where some names occur in varying or grammatical forms, the national names authority should consider making one of these forms the standard name (for nouns that can be declined, it will normally be the nominative case);

(5) In all countries in whose languages the definite article can enter into geographical names, the national names authority should determine which names contain the definite article and standardize them accordingly. For languages in which both definite and indefinite forms exist for all or most names, it is recommended that standardization be based on one or the other form;

(6) All countries set up standards for the use of abbreviations of elements in their geographical names;

(7) A system be devised in each country for the treatment of compound names.

It is further recommended that the names authority give adequate publicity to these principles and practices.

RECOMMENDATION D. MULTILINGUAL AREAS

It is recommended that, in countries in which there exist more than one language, the national authority as appropriate:

(a) Determine the geographical names in each of the official languages, and other languages as appropriate;

(b) Give a clear indication of equality or precedence of officially acknowledged names;

(c) Publish these officially acknowledged names in maps and gazetteers.

RECOMMENDATION E. NATIONAL GAZETTEERS

It is recommended that each names authority produce, and continually revise, appropriate gazetteers of all its standardized geographical names.

It is further recommended that, in addition to the standardized names, each gazetteer include, as a minimum, such information as is necessary for the proper location and identification of the named features.

In particular, it is recommended that the following be included:

(a) The kind of feature to which the name applies;

(b) Precise description of the location and the extent, including a point position reference if possible, of each named feature;

(c) Provision for the parts of natural features to be additionally defined by reference to the whole and for the names of extended features to be defined as necessary by reference to their constituent parts;

(d) Such information on administrative or regional areas as is considered necessary and, if possible, reference to a map or chart within which the features lie;

(e) All officially standardized names for a feature, if there are more than one; and provision for cross-references to be made to names previously used for the same feature.

When national authorities determine it possible, both technically and economically, they may include such information on geographical names as gender, number, definite and indefinite forms, position of stress, tone and pronunciation in the system of the International Phonetic Association and such other linguistic information as may lead to the better understanding and use of names both nationally and internationally.

II/27. Assistance for programmes of field collection of names and of office treatment of names

The Conference,

Noting the importance of field collection and office treatment of names for all countries of the world,

Noting also the need, particularly for the developing countries, to draw up a systematic programme for the field collection of names and their office treatment,

Considering that many countries lack qualified personnel and financial means,

Recommends that the authorities and countries that are in a position to do so should give their full support to the establishment of such a programme.

II/32. Dissemination of decisions by national authorities

The Conference,

Having considered the problems connected with the standardization carried out by national geographical names authorities,

Noting that many of the problems have arisen because of insufficient dissemination,

1. *Reiterates* the relevant recommendations contained in resolution 4 on national standardization adopted by the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names,[44] namely, that each national geographical names authority should disseminate as widely as possible, particularly to other national authorities concerned and to the United Nations Secretariat, not only the latest decisions on national geographical names but also the names included in their geographical dictionaries, gazetteers etc.;

2. *Recommends* that the United Nations Secretariat distribute such material as it receives to those international agencies and organizations known to be interested, and to the members of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.

III/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;

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.

III/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".

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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.

6.   Regional Meetings

I/7.   Regional meetings

The Conference,

Recognizing the success of the regional cartographic conferences held at the initiative of the United Nations and the bearing which these conferences have had on the convening of the present United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names,

Recommends that:

(*a*) Regional and subregional conferences should be held at appropriate intervals to discuss common problems connected with, and to further the standardization of, geographical names;

(*b*) Groups of nations having certain common interests and problems should be encouraged to meet at their own initiative and to report on progress made to the appropriate subregional or regional conferences and to the United Nations.

II/12. Sixth Congress of Academies of the Spanish Language

The Conference,

Noting that there is a multilateral understanding among the great majority of Spanish-speaking countries that their linguistic problems should be solved by joint agreement,

Considering further that the Sixth Congress of Academies of the Spanish Language is to be held at Caracas in November 1972 under the auspices of the Government of Venezuela,

Recommends that the decisions of the Congress of Caracas be brought to the attention of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.

II/19. Regional meetings

The Conference,

Having considered resolution 7 on regional meetings adopted by the First Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names,[22]

Considering also the success achieved at the regional meetings held in Latin America, as also in the Norden division, the Europe east central and south-east division, the Dutch-speaking and German-speaking division and the Arabic division,

Recommends that each division prepare and forward to the United Nations a proposed programme of meetings within the division.

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[22] *United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names: Vol. 1. Report of the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E. 68.I.9), p. 12.

7. Education and Training in Treatment of Geographical Names

II/18. Technical training of personnel

The Conference,

Noting the world-wide interest in field investigation and office treatment of geographical names,

Noting also the urgent need to train staff engaged in the field collection of names and in their standardization,

Further noting the proposal made by the representative of the Netherlands and the representative of the linguistic/geographical division that preparations should be made for a course of study covering a period of four to six weeks to be held in the summer of 1974 in co-operation with the United Nations technical assistance programme,

Considering that international courses in the collection and treatment of names, such as those planned to be held in Spain, are vital to the interests of all countries,

1. *Recommends* that pilot training courses in the collection and treatment of names should have all possible support from the authorities that are able to give it;

2. *Further recommends* that the programmes of such courses be submitted to the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names for its advice and that formal notification of the availability of such courses be forwarded to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

III/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.

IV/5. Education in cartographic toponymy

The Conference,

Noting that there exists a need for professional personnel with education in cartographic toponymy,

Noting further that very few universities and academies have cartographic toponymy as part of the curriculum,

Recommends that each country should aim at providing training in cartographic toponymy at the university or corresponding academic level.

IV/6. Course in toponymy

The Conference,

Taking account of the success of the First Pilot Course in Toponymy, held in Cisarua, Indonesia, in June 1982, 30/

Recommends the holding of similar courses and seminars in other geographic/linguistic divisions and further recommends that a submission should be made by the Cartography Section of the Natural Resources and Energy Division, Department of Technical Co-operation for Development of the United Nations Secretariat on behalf of the Conference for the provision of the necessary funds to provide for such courses and seminars.

30/ Documents E/CONF.74/L.65 and E/CONF.74/L.76.

8. Terminology (including glossaries)

I/19. Geographical terms

The Conference,

Recognizing the importance of geographical terms as used in a given region,

Urges that the recommendations that follow should be given complete and due consideration by national names authorities.

RECOMMENDATION A. STUDY OF THE NATURE OF GEO-GRAPHICAL ENTITIES

It is recommended that a study be made of the nature of geographical entities which in a given region have names, as well as the various meanings of the words used to designate those features.

The studies may bring to light noteworthy facts which would allow a better understanding of the geographical entities named. They may also serve to bring out the deficiencies of ordinary dictionaries in this respect.

RECOMMENDATION B. GLOSSARIES

It is recommended that national gazetteers should include a glossary, not necessarily published in the same volume.

RECOMMENDATION C. DEFINITION OF "GENERIC TERM"

The approval of the following definition of "generic term" is recommended:

Generic term: Term included in a geographical name, indicating the type of the named entity and having the same meaning in current local use.

RECOMMEDATION D. DEFINITION OF "GLOSSARY"

The approval of the following definition of "glossary" is recommended:

Glossary: Collection of generic terms with their meanings in geographical names.

II/14. Technical terminology

The Conference,

Noting the good progress made since the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in listing and defining in various languages the technical terms used in the standardization process, as illustrated in several documents of the Conference.

1. *Recommends* that the work be continued by the Group of Experts and its Working Group on Definitions;

2. *Further recommends* that the Experts or other representatives of Member States should send to the Working Group for consideration any additions or amendments which at any time they consider desirable to the list of terms set out in document E/CONF.61/L.1/Rev. 1.[11]

II/16. Uniformity of presentation of glossaries

The Conference,

Recognizing the need for uniformity in the presentation of glossaries in gazetteers,

Further recognizing that such uniformity is difficult to pursue in detail,

Recommends that :

(a) Each gazetteer or geographical dictionary should include :

(i) An exhaustive alphabetized glossary of the designatory terms used in it, with a brief explanation of their meanings;

(ii) An exhaustive alphabetized glossary of the generic terms occurring in it, with a brief explanation as to their meanings and their regional distributions, and with reference to the designatory terms under which they are headed;

(iii) An exhaustive glossary of abbreviations of designations or of other codes used for them;

(iv) An exhaustive alphabetized glossary of abbreviations used in maps on which the gazetteer is based;

(b) Each gazetteer and geographical dictionary may include, where useful, a glossary of frequently recurring name elements other than generic terms;

(c) The designatory terms and the brief explanations referred to in subparagraphs (a) (i) and (ii) above should be translated into one or more of the official languages of the United Nations, where the original document itself is not in one of those languages.

II/37. Standardization

I

The Conference,

Observing that in Spanish the term *"normalización"* is the equivalent of the English "standardization" and the French *"normalisation"*,

Recommends that in future the term *"normalizar"* should be used instead of *"uniformar"* and the term *"normalización"* instead of *"uniformación"* in all documents in Spanish.

II

The Conference,

Noting that in French and Spanish the terms *"latinisation"* and *"latinización"* are sometimes used to translate the English *"romanization"*,

Having regard to the fact that *"latinizar"* implies rather "to translate into Latin" and that the reference is to the adoption of the letters of that alphabet,

Recommends that, in future, in all documents in French and Spanish, *"romanisation"* and *"romanización"* should be used instead of *"latinisation"* and *"latinización"*.

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[11] *Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names : Vol. II. Technical Papers* (United Nations publication, to be issued), agenda item 8.

III/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.

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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.

IV/8. Terminology glossary

The Conference,

Noting that Arabic is to be introduced as an official language of the Economic and Social Council and of United Nations conferences on the standardization of geographical names,

Bearing in mind that the United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names recommended the establishment of a glossary of the terminology used in the standardization of geographical names and that the English, French and Spanish versions of that glossary are available, 32/

Being aware of the importance of that glossary for the harmonization of definitions, the clarification of concepts and the determination of the meanings of technical terms,

Recommends that the Documentation, Reference and Terminology Section of the Translation Division of the United Nations Department of Conference Services should, in collaboration with the Arabic Service of the Translation Division, establish the Arabic version of that glossary.

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32/ See Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, London, 10-31 May 1972, vol. II, Technical papers (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.74.I.4), pp. 48-58 and Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, Athens, 17 August- 7 September 1977, vol. II, Technical papers (United Nations publication, Sales No. E/F/S.81.I.7), pp. 232-245.

9. List of Country Names

III/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.

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

III/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.

IV/10. List of country names

The Conference,

Considering the interest in the list of country names being prepared by the Working Group on a List of Country Names of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names,

Noting that further information is required to complete the list,

Recommends that each country should co-operate in this task with the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.

IV/11. Maintenance of the list of country names

The Conference,

Noting that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names has a programme to prepare and to maintain a list of country names,

Recognizing that the United Nations Documentation, Reference and Terminology Section has a similar programme,

Recommends that the two activities should be co-ordinated and that the United Nations Documentation, Reference and Terminology Section should be approached by the Cartography Section of the Natural Resources and Energy Division, Department of Technical Co-operation for Development of the United Nations Secretariat to assume full responsibility for maintenance of the cited list after it has been published.

10. Preparation of Gazetteers

I/4(E) RECOMMENDATION E. NATIONAL GAZETTEERS

It is recommended that each names authority produce, and continually revise, appropriate gazetteers of all its standardized geographical names.

It is further recommended that, in addition to the standardized names, each gazetteer include, as a minimum, such information as is necessary for the proper location and identification of the named features.

In particular, it is recommended that the following be included:

(a) The kind of feature to which the name applies;

(b) Precise description of the location and the extent, including a point position reference if possible, of each named feature;

(c) Provision for the parts of natural features to be additionally defined by reference to the whole and for the names of extended features to be defined as necessary by reference to their constituent parts;

(d) Such information on administrative or regional areas as is considered necessary and, if possible, reference to a map or chart within which the features lie;

(e) All officially standardized names for a feature, if there are more than one; and provision for cross-references to be made to names previously used for the same feature.

When national authorities determine it possible, both technically and economically, they may include such information on geographical names as gender, number, definite and indefinite forms, position of stress, tone and pronunciation in the system of the International Phonetic Association and such other linguistic information as may lead to the better understanding and use of names both nationally and internationally.

II/17. Consultation on the preparation of gazetteers

The Conference,

Realizing the importance of international co-operation and exchange of information between countries,

Noting the use to which information supplied by one country to another can be put,

Recommends that before one country produces the gazetteer of another country there should be active consultations between the countries concerned.

II/35. Interim lists of standardized names

The Conference,

Recognizing that the final publication of full national gazetteers may not be immediately possible in some countries,

Further recognizing the neccessity for having a basic stock of standardized names available for international use,

Considering the keen interest expressed by various countries in abolishing exonyms and using nationally standardized names, and in order to accelerate this process,

1. *Recommends* that, in the interim, countries be encouraged to publish concise lists of their names of geographical entities, including administrative divisions, within a reasonable time;

2. *Recommends further* that, as far as possible, where these names are officially written in a non-Roman script for which a romanization system has been agreed at the First or Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, romanized names in accordance with those systems should be included in the lists.

III/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.

IV/18. Combined treatment of toponymic data

The Conference,

Noting that it has become increasingly difficult to separate the subjects of automated data processing and gazetteers,

Recognizing that automated data processing is just one means of creating a names information file,

Further recognizing that gazetteers are merely one product of a names information file,

Recommends that future United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names and sessions of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names should consider both subjects under the single agenda item "Toponymic data files, (a) creation, (b) maintenance and (c) output, including gazetteer production".

11. Bibliographies

I/5. Exchange of information and preparation of bibliographies

The Conference,

Recognizing the enormous volume of geographical names to cover the world and the great diversity of geographic nomenclature programmes from country to country,

Considering the advantages to the States Members of the United Nations and members of its specialized agencies of exchanging information relative both to strengthening their own names programmes and to furthering international standardization of geographical names,

Recommends that the United Nations Secretariat continue to serve as a documentation centre where information can be collected and disseminated, bibliographies can be prepared and distributed, and arrangements can be made for direct exchanges among Members States.

II/15. Bibliography

The Conference,

Noting that a bibliography of gazetteers and glossaries has been requested by the Group of Experts,

Noting further that such a bibliography has been brought near to completion by E. Meynen, the Expert from the Federal Republic of Germany,

Recommends that the bibliography upon completion be published in *World Cartography.*

I/6. Technical assistance

The Conference,

Noting the important role which United Nations technical assistance has had and continues to have in cartography,

Recognising the contribution which the United Nations has made and is making in this field,

1. *Recommends* that in all cases where technical assistance experts in surveying and mapping are at work, due attention should be given to the standardization of geographical names;

2. *Further recommends* that individual countries or groups of countries within the same region or having common interests be encouraged to request, when necessary, technical assistance in the form of training for their personnel, consultants and/or technical material and information, which they consider important in fulfilling their work programmes on the standardization of geographical names.

II/20. Exchange of experience

The Conference,

Considering the advisability of exchange of experience among those responsible for the standardization of geographical names within a given division and/or region.

Recommends that exchanges of visits between members of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names should be encouraged.

13. Automated data processing

I/3. Automatic data processing

The Conference,

Recognizing the rapid advances being made in automatic data processing and the rapid developments taking place in the field of computer technology,

Considering the value of the application of these technical aids in geographical names for various purposes, for listing of geographical names to get a continuously up-to-date file of approved names, for special kinds of names, or for retrieving names according to special categories or other demands,

Noting that it is desirable for the problem of geographical names to be properly taken into account in the design of electronic equipment and in systems for its use,

1. *Recommends* that all Member States already engaged in programmes of automatic data processing or which have been involved in discussions on automatic name data processing be requested to exchange information, for which purpose it would be useful to submit the reports in the official languages of the United Nations;

2. *Further recommends* that names specialists establish and maintain working channels of communication with the equipment designers, and that the results be circulated promptly to the names authorities in the Member States;

3. *Requests* that the Cartography Section of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat serve as a documentation centre where information and documents with regard to automatic data processing could be collected and distributed;

4. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to help to develop international standards in relation to geographical coding structures and procedural guidelines.

II/30. Application of data processing

The Conference,

Considering the importance of resolution 3 on automatic data processing adopted by the First Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names,[22]

Noting further the developing technical possibilities for overcoming the difficulties and risks connected with the automatic data processing of geographical names,

Recommends that the application of data processing to geographical names be done carefully with close co-operation between the countries involved and with care being taken that the names are not distorted or shortened in any way, e.g., with regard to diacritical marks or signs, upper-case and lower-case letters, and special characters.

III/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.

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.

IV/18. Combined treatment of toponymic data

The Conference,

Noting that it has become increasingly difficult to separate the subjects of automated data processing and gazetteers,

Recognizing that automated data processing is just one means of creating a names information file,

Further recognizing that gazetteers are merely one product of a names information file,

Recommends that future United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names and sessions of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names should consider both subjects under the single agenda item "Toponymic data files, (a) creation, (b) maintenance and (c) output, including gazetteer production".

IV/19. Exchange of information in automated data processing

The Conference,

Noting the progress being achieved in the field of automated data processing of geographical names,

Recognizing the benefits of the exchange of information among nations in all matters concerning geographical names during the period between United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names,

Recommends that all countries should send to the Cartography Section of the Natural Resources and Energy Division of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development of the United Nations Secretariat reports concerning progress achieved in the collection, treatment, writing and publishing of geographical names, especially in the field of automated data processing, so that a compendium of information may be produced on an annual basis for dissemination by the Cartography Section as seen fit.

14. Exonyms

II/28. Lists of exonyms (conventional names, traditional names)

The Conference,

Desiring to facilitate the international standardization of geographical names,

Recognizing that certain exonyms (conventional names, traditional names) form living and vital parts of languages,

Recognizing further that certain exonyms (conventional names, traditional names) remain in the language after the need for them has diminished,

Recommends that national geographical names authorities prepare lists of exonyms currently employed, review them for possible deletions, and publish the results.

II/29. Exonyms

I

The Conference,

Recognizing the desirability of limiting the use of exonyms,

Recommends that, within the international standardization of geographical names, the use of those exonyms designating geographical entities falling wholly within one State should be reduced as far and as quickly as possible.

II

The Conference,

Recognizing that exonyms are losing ground, even in national use,

1. *Recommends* that in publications intended only for national use the reduction of exonyms should be considered;

2. *Further recommends* that in those cases where exonyms are retained, the local official forms should be shown in addition as far as possible.

II/35. Interim lists of standardized names

The Conference,

Recognizing that the final publication of full national gazetteers may not be immediately possible in some countries,

Further recognizing the neccessity for having a basic stock of standardized names available for international use,

Considering the keen interest expressed by various countries in abolishing exonyms and using nationally standardized names, and in order to accelerate this process,

1. *Recommends* that, in the interim, countries be encouraged to publish concise lists of their names of geographical entities, including administrative divisions, within a reasonable time;

2. *Recommends further* that, as far as possible, where these names are officially written in a non-Roman script for which a romanization system has been agreed at the First or Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, romanized names in accordance with those systems should be included in the lists.

III/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,

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.

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

III/19. Lists of exonyms

The Conference,

Considering that resolution 28 of the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names   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.

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

IV/20. Reduction of exonyms

The Conference,

Noting that, in accordance with resolutions 18 and 19 of the Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, 41/ further progress has been made in the reduction of the number of exonyms used and a number of States have prepared lists of their own exonyms,

Realising that the reduction of exonyms used has not been carried out with the same intensity by all States,

Realising further that the methods and principles aimed at a reduction of the number of exonyms used should constantly be reviewed for expeditious implementation of the resolution and understanding that not all countries can govern the content of maps and atlases published within their territories,

Recommends that exonyms giving rise to international problems should be used very sparingly and published in parenthesis with the nationally accepted standard name.

41/ See ibid., vol. I, Report of the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.79.I.4), chap. III.

I/10.

I/9. A single romanization system

The Conference,

Considering the duplication and confusion arising from the existence of different romanization systems based on the phonetic structure of the receiver languages,

1. *Recommends* that efforts should be made to arrive at an agreement on a single romanization system, based on scientific principles, from each non-Roman alphabet or script, for international application;

2. *Further recommends* that a special working group under the responsibility of the proposed United Nations Permanent Committee of Experts on Geographical Names should concentrate on this subject with a view to making a comparative study of the various romanization systems and to analysing their advantages and disadvantages as media for standardization of geographical names;

3. *Further recommends* that this special working group should consider the views expressed by various international and national bodies, and seek ways to accomplish the adoption of a single romanization system from each non-Roman alphabet or script for international application as soon as may be possible.

I/10. Diacritical signs which accompany letters of the Roman alphabet

The Conference,

Recognising that the accents and diacritical signs which accompany the Roman alphabet letters of many languages are an integral part of the spelling of these languages, in which they express such essential features as the tonic accent, the length and degree of openness of vowels, and other significant aspects of pronunciation and meaning,

Recommends that in international use all geographical names officially written in these alphabets by the countries concerned should remain unmodified and keep their distinguishing marks, even, and indeed particularly, when they are written in capital letters.

II/13. Publication of romanization systems

The Conference,

Having adopted a number of systems for the romanization of various alphabets for international cartography,

Recommends that these be published by the United Nations in a booklet [20] for wide dissemination to its Members.

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[20] The original photocopies will be provided by the experts concerned.

III/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 romanization system for those languages,

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

IV/15. Guidelines for the consideration of romanization systems

The Conference,

Recognizing the need to ensure maximum stability of romanization systems,

Noting that guidelines governing the consideration of romanization systems are desirable,

Further noting the principle that international standardization should be based on national standardization,

1. Recommends that new romanization systems for international use should be considered only on condition that the sponsoring nations implement such systems on their cartographic products (maps and charts);

2. Further recommends that States should refrain from revising systems previously adopted for international use.

IV/16. Guidelines for the achievement of systems of romanization

The Conference,

Reaffirming the validity of resolution 9, adopted by the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, 36/ on achieving a single romanization system for each non-Roman writing system,

Recognizing, however, the difficulties involved in arriving at romanization systems agreeable to all countries,

Considering that suitable consultations are desirable, particularly within the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names,

Recommends that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, at its next session should request the Working Group on a Single Romanization System for each Non-Roman Writing System to discuss any system that might be submitted to it and to report its findings to the Group of Experts at its following session.

36/ See United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, Geneva, 4-22 September 1967, vol. I, Report of the Conference (United Nations Publication, Sales No. E.68.I.9), chap. III.

16. Romanization by languages

I/11. Diacritical signs which accompany letters of the Arabic alphabet

The Conference,

Recognizing that modern practice has come to require the rendition of Arabic alphabet geographical names in terms of standard, that is, classical forms,

Recommends that Arabic-speaking countries provide as soon as possible complete documentation for all geographical names, including the provision of all vowels and the notation of unvowelled and double consonants by means of the Arabic diacritical marks such as vowel points, shaddahs, hamzehs and sukūns.

I/12. Romanization of Arabic geographical names

The Conference,

Noting the romanization system currently being employed in the transliteration of names for official romanized maps of some Arabic-speaking countries, such as Libya and Saudi Arabia,

Noting further the different romanization system being used in the current mapping of other Arabic-speaking countries, such as Lebanon and Syria,

Recognizing the variety of systems being used in other Arabic-speaking countries,

Recommends that those Arabic-speaking countries which intend to produce romanized maps or gazetteers for official use investigate the possibility of agreeing on a single system for the romanization of Arabic geographical names for official use in all Arabic-speaking countries, or alternatively, if a single romanization system proves to be impracticable, that the use of two systems only be considered, one based on the French system of transliteration and the second on the English.

I/13. Romanization of Iranian geographical names

The Conference,

Noting that Iran has officially adopted and used for many years a system for romanizing Iranian geographical names from Persian script,

Noting further that this system is in consonance with scientific linguistic principles relating to transference between writing systems,

Recommends that the system set forth by the Government of Iran in the publication entitled, in its English version, *Transliteration of Farsi Geographic Names to Latin Alphabet* (September 1966) be adopted as the international system for the romanization from Persian script of Iranian geographical names.

I/14. Romanization of Thai geographical names

The Conference,

Recognizing the modified general system currently being officially employed in the transcription of geographical names from Thai characters into Roman,

Noting the application of that system for the official bilingual map of Thailand,

Noting further that there is no competing system for the romanization of Thai,

Recommends the adoption of the modified general system of the Royal Institute of Thailand [9] as the international system for the romanization of Thai geographical names.

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[9] See "Writing systems: transfer of names from the Thai writing system to Roman letters" (E/CONF.53/L.20).

I/15. Romanization of Chinese geographical names

The Conference,

Recognizing the extremely complex nature of the problems connected with the romanization of Chinese characters,

Recognizing further the need to adopt a single system for the romanization of Chinese geographical names,

1. *Recommends* that the attention of the proposed United Nations Permanent Committee of Experts on Geographical Names be drawn to the romanization system at present used by the Government of China for the romanization of its official maps, books and other documents dealing with geographical names in relation to other romanization systems;

2. *Further recommends* the proposed United Nations Permanent Committee of Experts on Geographical Names to consider the suitability of this system for acceptance as the standard system for the romanization of Chinese geographical names.

I/17. Transliteration of Amharic into the Roman alphabet

The Conference,

Recognizing the need to adopt a single system for the transliteration of Amharic into the Roman alphabet,

Recommends that the Amharic-to-English transliteration system to be adopted by the Ethiopian national geographical names authority be considered by the proposed United Nations Permanent Committee of Experts on Geographical Names for acceptance as the standard international system for the writing of Ethiopian geographical names in the Roman alphabet.

II/5. Bulgarian Cyrillic alphabet

The Conference,

Noting that Bulgaria has officially adopted and used for a number of years a system for romanizing Bulgarian geographical names from the Bulgarian Cyrillic alphabet,

Noting also that a substantial body of Bulgarian geographical names currently exists in terms of the BGN/PCGN 1952 transliteration system for Bulgarian Cyrillic,

Recommends that the system set forth by the Council on Orthography and Transcription of Geographical Names in its English version, *System of Transliteration and Transcription of Bulgarian Geographical Names in Roman Letters* (Sofia, 1972), with the addition of certain alternative romanizations for particular Bulgarian Cyrillic characters to be used only as a group, be adopted as the international system for the romanization of Bulgarian geographical names from the Bulgarian Cyrillic alphabet.

ANNEX

1.	A a	a	12.	Л л	l	23.	Ц ц	c
2.	Б б	b	13.	М м	m	24.	Ч ч	č
3.	В b	v	14.	Н н	n	25.	Ш ш	š
4.	Г г	g	15.	О о	o	26.	Щ щ	št
5.	Д д	d	16.	П п	p	27.	Ъ ъ	ă
6.	Е e	e	17.	Р р	r	28.	Ь ь	j
7.	Ж ж	ž	18.	С с	s	29.	Ю ю	ju
8.	З з	z	19.	Т t	t	30.	Я я	ja
9.	И и	i	20.	У у	u	31.	Ы ы	y
10.	Й й	j	21.	Ф ф	f	32.	Ѣ ѣ	ja or e
11.	К к	k	22.	Х x	h	33.	Ѫ ѫ	ă

The following alternatives are permitted, but only as a group :

7.	Ж ж	zh	25.	Ш ш	sh	29.	Ю ю	yu
10.	Й й	y	26.	Щ щ	sht	30.	Я я	ya
22.	Х x	kh	27.	Ъ ъ	ŭ	32.	Ѣ ѣ	ya or e*
23.	Ц ц	ts	28.	Ь ь	'	33.	Ѫ ѫ	ŭ
24.	Ч ч	ch						

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* If pronunciation is known, otherwise ye.

II/6. Cyrillic alphabets of Yugoslavia

The Conference,

Recognizing that two scripts have long been in official use in Yugoslavia, i.e., the Roman and the Cyrillic scripts,

Recognizing further that in Yugoslavia romanization is carried out in official gazetteers and maps in accordance with a uniform system,

Recommends that the system as used in the official publication *Imenik Mesta* (Gazetteer of inhabited places) published by the Federal Statistical Office, Belgrade, latest edition 1971, be adopted as the international system for the romanization of the Cyrillic alphabets officially used in Yugoslavia for Yugoslav geographical names.

II/7. Romanization of the Amharic alphabet

The Conference,

Recognizing the need to adopt a single system for the transliteration of Amharic into the Roman alphabet,

Recommends that the *Amharic to English Transliteration System* (2nd revised edition, August 1962) adopted by the Imperial Ethiopian Mapping and Geography Institute be accepted as the standard international system for the writing of Ethiopian geographical names in the Roman alphabets.

II/8. Romanization of Arabic geographical names

The Conference,

Considering resolutions 11 and 12 of the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names,[14]

Noting the system adopted by the Arabic experts at the conference held at Beirut in 1971, which is reproduced in the annex to document E/CONF.61/L.77,[15]

Further noting the practical amendments carried out and agreed upon by the representatives of the Arabic-speaking countries at their conference,

Recommends the adoption of the amended Beirut system, as shown in the annex to E/CONF.61/L.77, for the romanization of the geographical names within those Arabic-speaking countries where this system is officially acknowledged.

II/9. Romanization of Hebrew geographical names

The Conference,

Noting that the romanization system described in foot-notes 1 and 2 to document E/CONF.61/L.15,[16] has been accepted and legalized by the Government of Israel,

Noting further that a substantial body of toponymy exists in terms of this system,

Recommends the adoption of this system for the romanization of geographical names in Israel for international use.

11/10. Romanization of Khmer geographical names

The Conference,

Recognizing the need to adopt a single system for the romanization of the Khmer writing system,

Recommends that the system set out in document E/CONF.61/L.5/Add.18[17] be accepted as the standard international system for the writing of Khmer geographical names in the Roman alphabet.

II/11. Transliteration into Roman and Devanagari of the languages of the Indian group

The Conference,

Referring to paragraph (c) of recommendation D, Multilingual areas, contained in resolution 4 adopted by the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names,[18]

Considering the need to romanize the geographical names of the official languages of the Indian group for use in international cartography,

Recommends that the tables of *Transliteration into Roman and Devanagari of the Languages of the Indian Group*,[19] with the exception of Sinhala and the note regarding Tamil, be adopted for the romanization of the alphabets of the languages of the Indian group.

[14] *Ibid.,* agenda item 7.
[17] *Ibid.,* agenda item 11.
[18] *United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names : Vol. 1. Report of the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.68.I.9), p. 11.
[19] Revised edition, May 1972, edited by D. N Sharma Atri Harnal, Survey of India.

[14] *Ibid.,* p. 13.
[15] *Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names : Vol. II. Technical Papers* (United Nations publication, to be issued), agenda item 7.

III/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.

III/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.

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

III/10. Bulgarian Cyrillic alphabet

The Conference,

Considering that resolution 5 of the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names 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

№	Cyr	Rom	№	Cyr	Rom	№	Cyr	Rom
1	А а	A a	11	Н н	N n	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

III/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,

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.

III/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,

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, 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.

III/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,

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.

ANNEX

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 e and i Đ đ in other cases
8	Е е	Е е	E e
9	Ж ж	Ж ж	Ž ž
10	З з	З з	Z z
11		Ѕ 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 e and i 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

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

VOWELS

ַ	Patah	a	as a in 'bar'	
ֲ	Hataf Patah	a	as a in 'bar'	
ָ	Qamas	a	as a in 'bar'	
ְ	Sheva '	e	as e in 'yet'	
ֶ	Segol	e	as e in 'yet'	
ֱ	Hataf Segol	e	as e in 'yet'	
ֵ	Zere	e, é	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'	
ָ	Qamas Qatan	o	as o in 'short'	
ֳ	Hataf Qamas	o	as o in 'short'	
וּ	Shuruq	u	as oo in 'good'	
ֻ	Qubbus	u	as oo in 'good'	

NOTES

1 The addition of a dot (dagesh hazaq) 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 nah, 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 sere, 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. Horba = Ruin; Horbat 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
Agan	basin
'Arava ('Arvat)	plain
Bet	house
Be'ér	well
Berekha (t)	pool
Biq'a (t)	valley
'Emeq	valley
'En, pl. 'Enot	spring
Gan	garden
Gay (Gé)	valley
Gesher	bridge
Giv'a (t), pl. Giv'ot	hill
Har, pl. Haré	mountain
Holot	sands, dunes
Horba (t), pl. Horvot (abbr. H.)	ruin
Horesha (t)	wood
Kefar	village
Ma'agar	reservoir
Ma'ale	ascent
Ma'avar	pass, ford
Makhtesh	erosion cirque
Mappal	waterfall
Ma'yan	spring
Mazoq, pl. Mezoqé	cliff
Me'ara (t) pl. Me'arot	cave
Mehlaf	interchange
Meleha (t)	saltpan, mudflat
Mezad	fort
Mezuda (t)	fortress
Midbar	desert
Mifraz	bay, gulf
Mishor	plain
Mizpe	observation point
Nahal (abbr. N.)	stream, watercourse, valley
Qeren, pl. Qarné	peak
Qever	tomb
Qirya (t)	town
Rama (t), pl. Ramot	plateau
Rekhes	mountain crest, range
Rogem	cairn
Rosh	mountain top
Sade (Sedé), pl. Sedot	field
Sheluha (t)	spur
Tel	hill, ancient mound
Ya'ar, pl. Ya'arot	forest
Yam	sea, lake
Zomet	junction
Zuq, pl. Zuqé	cliff

IV/14. Conversion into non-Roman writing systems

The Conference,

Noting the progress which has been achieved in the romanization of non-Roman writing systems,

Recognizing the need to investigate the possibilities of conversion into non-Roman writing systems,

Recommends that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names should consider the conversion of non-Arabic writing systems into Arabic script and, in particular, whether or not non-Roman writing systems should be converted into Arabic script through the medium of the Roman alphabet.

IV/17. 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 37/ and resolution 12 of the Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, 38/

Noting the work done in transliteration into Roman and Devanagari 39/ and amendments thereto accepted at the Third Conference, 40/

Further noting progress made and work required in the Indian Division,

1. Recommends that the Indian Division should undertake further studies in Urdu and Bangla in conjunction with the experts of Pakistan and Bangladesh;

2. Further recommends association with Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka in carrying out those studies.

37/ See Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, London, 10-31 May 1972, vol. I, Report of the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.74.I.2), chap. III.

38/ Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, Athens, 17 August-7 September 1977, vol. I, Report of the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.79.I.4), p. 29.

39/ Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, London, 10-31 May 1972, vol. II, Technical papers (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.74.I.4), pp. 117-162.

40/ Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, Athens, 17 August-7 September 1977, vol. II, Technical papers (United Nations publication, Sales No. E/F/S.81.I.7), pp. 393-395.

17. Maritime and undersea feature names

II/22. Standardization of maritime nomenclature

The Conference,

Recognizing that the increased interest and activities of countries in the marine environment require an improvement in international nomenclatural standardization,

Recommends that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names study existing national and international practices concerning the delimitation and naming of oceans and seas, including their integral subdivisions, beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, with a view to recommending improvements in current nomenclatural practices and procedures.

II/23. Names of Antarctic and undersea features

The Conference,

Noting that the high degree of agreement on Antarctic names reached by the nations actively interested in that area has been achieved through informal co-operation, including the adoption of similar naming policies and the exchange of information supporting new name proposals and counter-proposals, if any,

Recognizing that these procedures come within the established framework of national standardization bodies,

Considering that these procedures are also applicable to co-operation on the naming of undersea features,

1. *Recommends* that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names work on a model statement or statements on the treatment of undersea feature names that can be suggested for adoption by interested countries;

2. *Recommends further* that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names develop model forms for proposing names of undersea features and Antarctic geographical entities for consideration by national names authorities, patterned after those used by the United States Board on Geographical Names and by similar organizations in other countries, and a form or forms for use by a national names authority in notifying any interested countries or institutions of its intention to name an undersea or Antarctic feature.

II/26. Standardization of names of undersea features beyond a single sovereignty

I

The Conference,

Recognizing the importance of the international standardization of names of undersea features beyond a single sovereignty,

Recognizing further the absence nowadays of a definite system and procedure for naming such features,

Recommends that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, in co-operation with the appropriate national and international organizations and, in particular, with the International Hydrographic Organization, draw up a system for naming undersea features beyond a single sovereignty and propose it as a basis for preparing an international convention on the subject.

II

The Conference,

Noting that problems of terminology of undersea features inhibit international standardization of geographical names employing these terms,

Noting further the discussions on terminology of undersea features that are in progress among various countries and with the oceanography profession,

Recommends that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, in co-operation with interested national names authorities and international organizations, attempt to standardize the definitions of undersea feature terms and definitions and to promote their acceptance and use by names authorities.

III/21. Maritime feature names

The Conference,

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

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.

III/22. Undersea feature names

I

The Conference,

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

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.

IV/12.   Maritime and undersea feature names

The Conference,

Noting that the Working Group on Undersea and Maritime Features of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names has completed its tasks in regard to undersea features, as called for by resolution 22 of the Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, 34/

Observing that work in maritime features has not been finished, but should be further co-ordinated with similar work of the International Hydrographic Office, as recommended by the Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in its resolution 21, 35/

1.   Recommends that the task of the Working Group should be limited to maritime features;

2.   Further recommends that the Group of Experts should identify a point of contact to carry out essential liaison and communications regarding names of undersea features proposed by national bodies.

34/   See Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, Athens, 17 August-7 September 1977, vol. I, Report of the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.79.I.4), chap. III.

35/   Ibid.

18. Names of features beyond a single sovereignty

I/8. Treatment of names of features beyond a single sovereignty

A. GENERAL

The Conference,

Recognizing that some features common to, or extending across the frontiers of, two or more nations have more than one name applied to them,

Further recognizing that the names of some features of this kind have different applications or extent,

1. *Considers* that it is preferable that a common name or a common application be established, wherever practicable, in the interest of international standardization;

2. *Recommends* that the geographical names authorities of the nations concerned attempt to reach agreement on these conflicting names or applications.

B. MARITIME AND UNDERSEA FEATURES

The Conference,

Having discussed some of the problems arising from a lack of international standardization of names of maritime and undersea features,

Recognizing the necessity for international standardization of names in and under ocean areas to promote the safety of navigation and to facilitate the exchange of scientific oceanographic data,

Noting that valuable initial steps have been taken towards standardization of both the nomenclature of hydrographic and undersea features and the geographical names of some of these features by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), the International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB), the International Association of Physical Oceanography (IAPO), and member nations,

1. *Recommends* that the proposed United Nations Permanent Committee of Experts on Geographical Names should:

(*a*) Obtain from the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), the International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB) and the International Association of Physical Oceanography (IAPO), full particulars of the work already accomplished by those organizations;

(*b*) Establish means for the collection, approval and distribution by the United Nations of both a list of agreed terms and definitions for nomenclature of maritime and undersea features and an initial list of recommended geographical names for features requiring names;

(*c*) Develop procedures for international standardization of naming new undersea features as they are discovered, defined and identified in the future;

(*d*) Continue to consult with and, as appropriate, to use the facilities of IOC, IHB, IAPO and other relevant bodies to further United Nations objectives in international standardization of names of maritime and undersea features;

2. *Further recommends* that copies of this resolution be forwarded immediately to IOC, IHB and IAPO.

II/23. Names of Antarctic and undersea features

The Conference,

Noting that the high degree of agreement on Antarctic names reached by the nations actively interested in that area has been achieved through informal co-operation, including the adoption of similar naming policies and the exchange of information supporting new name proposals and counter-proposals, if any,

Recognizing that these procedures come within the established framework of national standardization bodies,

Considering that these procedures are also applicable to co-operation on the naming of undersea features,

1. *Recommends* that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names work on a model statement or statements on the treatment of undersea feature names that can be suggested for adoption by interested countries;

2. *Recommends further* that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names develop model forms for proposing names of undersea features and Antarctic geographical entities for consideration by national names authorities, patterned after those used by the United States Board on Geographical Names and by similar organizations in other countries, and a form or forms for use by a national names authority in notifying any interested countries or institutions of its intention to name an undersea or Antarctic feature.

II/24. Standardization of names beyond a single sovereignty

The Conference,

Recognizing the increased tempo and volume of research and investigations of the world, the ocean, Antarctica and space, including the moon and the solar planets,

Recognizing further that the absence of an international convention or any other international document determining the rules and procedures of naming and designating features beyond a single sovereignty presents an obstacle to production and application of maps and other documents for international use,

Considering that a special document elaborated under the auspices of the United Nations might provide a general base for adopting technical rules and procedures for the naming and renaming of various kinds of extra-terrestrial topographic features and geographical features beyond a single sovereignty,

Recommends that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names give consideration to the elaboration of such a document in collaboration with the corresponding United Nations bodies and other international organizations competent in this problem.

II/25. Names of features beyond a single sovereignty

The Conference,

Considering the necessity of an international standard-ization of names of geographical features which 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 a different name form should endeavour to reach agreement on fixing a single name for the feature concerned;

2. *Further recommends* that when countries sharing a given geographical feature and having different official languages do not succeed in agreeing on a common name form, it should be a general rule of international carto-graphy that the name forms of each of the languages in question should be accepted. A policy of accepting only one or some of such name forms while excluding the rest on principle would be inconsistent 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 name forms belonging to one language or another.

II/34. International standardization of names beyond a single sovereignty

The Conference,

Having discussed the problems of the international standardization of geographical names,

Having agreed that its field of application extends to the establishment of standardized names of geographical entities lying beyond a single sovereignty,

Recommends that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical names continue to study this wider aspect.

II/26. Standardization of names of undersea features beyond a single sovereignty

I

The Conference,

Recognizing the importance of the international standardization of names of undersea features beyond a single sovereignty,

Recognizing further the absence nowadays of a defi-nite system and procedure for naming such features,

Recommends that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, in co-operation with the appropriate national and international organizations and, in particular, with the International Hydrographic Organization, draw up a system for naming undersea features beyond a single sovereignty and propose it as a basis for preparing an international convention on the subject.

II

The Conference,

Noting that problems of terminology of undersea features inhibit international standardization of geographical names employing these terms,

Noting further the discussions on terminology of undersea features that are in progress among various countries and with the oceanography profession,

Recommends that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, in co-operation with interested national names authorities and international organizations, attempt to standardize the definitions of undersea feature terms and definitions and to promote their acceptance and use by names authorities.

III/20.   <u>Names of features beyond a single sovereignty</u>

<u>The Conference</u>,

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

"<u>The Conference</u>,

"<u>Considering</u> 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. <u>Recommends</u> 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. <u>Further recommends</u> 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."

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

19. Extraterrestrial feature names

II/21. Standardization of names of extraterrestrial topographic features

The Conference,

Having discussed the current situation with regard to the naming of extraterrestrial topographic features,

Recognizing that greatly increased lunar and planetary exploration, study and associated detailed large-scale mapping require a new perspective on the naming of extraterrestrial features and a wider base for international agreement,

Recommends that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names study the question of drafting an international convention on the standardization of extraterrestrial nomenclature, in co-operation with other competent international bodies.

III/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,

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.

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

IV/13. Extraterrestrial feature names

The Conference,

Considering the statement on the present state of affairs made by the chairman of the Working Group on Extraterrestrial Features of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (E/CONF.74/L.93),

Noting that the naming of extraterrestrial features is done in a satisfactory way by the Working Group for Planetary System Nomenclature of the International Astronomical Union,

1.   Recommends that the Working Group on Extraterrestrial Features of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names should be dissolved;

2.   Further recommends that the chairman of the Working Group on Extraterrestrial Features should continue to maintain liaison between the United Nations Group of Experts and the Working Group for Planetary System Nomenclature of the International Astronomical Union.

I/16. Recording geographical names from unwritten languages

The Conference,

Recognising the many problems resulting from the lack of a writing system for many languages of the world,

Recognising further the need to record such languages as scientifically as possible in a suitable writing system,

Recommends that for the purpose of recording geographical names of unwritten languages, the methods to be employed, in order of preference, will be:

(a) Recording in a phonetic writing system;

(b) Recording in the alphabet of the International Phonetic Association (IPA):

(i) Where necessary, a narrow transcription of the pronunciation of the geographical name will be carried out in order to record as precisely as possible the full phonetic character of each name;

(ii) In normal circumstances, the broad transcription of a name in the IPA alphabet will be carried out;

(iii) The final writing of the geographical name will be in an appropriate conventional alphabet or script, to approximate as nearly as possible the sound represented by the IPA broad transcription;

(c) Recording in the alphabet of a kindred language for which an alphabet exists;

(d) Recording directly into a conventional alphabet or other writing system, if possible by a person familiar with the language from which the recording is made; if the person making the recording is unfamiliar with the language, as much information as possible will be recorded in order to assess the reliability of the name as finally written.

I/18. Writing of African geographical names

The Conference,

Recognising the existence of a large number of unwritten languages in Africa whose rendition in the Roman alphabet presents very complex problems in the transcription of geographical names,

Noting that the French and English alphabets are mostly employed in the rendering of geographical names in these languages,

1. *Draws the attention* of the proposed United Nations Permanent Committee of Experts on Geographical Names to the peculiar nature of these problems;

2. *Requests* the proposed Commission to give special attention to these problems with a view to achieving an accurate rendering of the sounds, by using either the French or the English orthography, depending on the language area.

I/20. Revision of recommendation VII of the Group of Experts on Geographical Names

The Conference,

Having considered recommendation VII of the Group of Experts on Geographical Names,[10]

1. *Suggests* that the following paragraphs replace those previously contained in that recommendation:

"It is recommended that, if they have not already done so, countries of complicated ethnic and linguistic constitution consider and attempt to solve the problems brought about by the existence within their boundaries of geographical names from unwritten languages, or from minority languages (written or unwritten) or from dialects of the principal languages. Since the solutions of the problems brought about by the existence of names from unwritten languages or from dialects of the principal language may be exceedingly difficult, it is suggested that the countries concerned work together with, and profit from the experience of, other nations with similar problems, to bring about solutions satisfactory for their own needs.

"For the treatment of names from unwritten languages two stages are necessary. First, for recording names from oral evidence, one can develop an unambiguous phonemic notation for each language. Alternatively, where there is in use a phonetic alphabet adaptable to a number of unwritten languages, for example the International African Alphabet, it may be advantageous to apply it. Secondly, one can write the names in final form by means of regular correspondence established between that phonemic notation or phonetic alphabet and the writing system adopted by the country concerned for the language in question.

"It is recommended that names from languages with different writing systems be rendered systematically by transliteration or transcription as appropriate";

2. *Recommends* that the proposed United Nations Permanent Committee of Experts on Geographical Names consider this question further.

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[10] See *World Cartography,* vol. VII (United Nations publication, Sales No.: 62.I.25), p. 13.

IV/3. Systematization and generalization of experience in the sphere of the standardization of geographical names

The Conference,

Considering that substantial experience has been acquired in this field since the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names,

Considering also that that experience should be systematized and generalized for its better use by all interested countries,

Aware that some countries are still in the process of drafting national instructions for the standardization of geographical names,

1. **Recommends** that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names should, at its next session, initiate the systematization of the experience acquired so far by preparing a handbook of general technical and methodological principles for the standardization of geographical names which could be used by interested countries as a guide in the elaboration of their own standardization procedures;

2. **Recommends also** that the document in question should be circulated to all participating countries and should be examined at the next Conference.

IV/9. Manual of national name standardization

The Conference,

Noting the importance of resolution 4 of the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names 33/ as the primary document that provides recommended guidelines for accomplishing national standardization,

Noting further that a need has been expressed for a manual of simplified guidelines to assist Member States which are beginning or are in the initial stage of national standardization,

Recommends that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, at its eleventh session, should examine the possibility of developing such a manual by amplifying recommendations A, B and C of the said resolution 4.

33/ See United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, Geneva, 4-22 September 1967, vol. I, Report of the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.68.I.9), chap. III.

22. Aids to Pronunciation

III/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 adequa 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 comprehensi pronunciation.

23. Minority Languages

II/36. Problems of minority languages

The Conference,

Noting that in some areas, e.g., the Lappish-speaking part of northern Europe, a minority language is spoken inside the territory of more than one country,

Noting further that geographical names in the minority language are sometimes spelt according to different principles in the different countries where the minority language is spoken,

Recognzinig the desirability of a uniform treatment of the names in the minority language in such areas,

Recommends that, where possible, the countries in question, in consultation with native speakers of the minority language :

(a) Adopt a common orthography for all geographical names of the minority language;

(b) Use that orthography for the standardization of the place names in the minority language in their territory;

(c) Publish the standardized names in their official maps and national gazetteers.

24. Physiogeographic Names

IV/7. **Standardization of physiogeographic names**

The Conference,

Considering that it is necessary to intensify activities within the framework of national standardisation of geographical names, in accordance with resolution 16 of the Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, 31/

Recognizing that the standardization of named physiogeographic regions contributes to the solution of various problems,

1. **Recommends** that named physiogeographic regions should be registered and characterised unambiguously;

2. **Further recommends** that the named physiogeographic regions should be listed in surveys and other documents along with locations and dimensions of the features, and that the same procedures should be followed also with respect to regional features divided among two or more countries.

31/ See **Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, Athens, 17 August-7 September 1977**, vol. I, **Report of the Conference** (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.79.I.4), chap. III.

25. Geographical Names on Tourist Maps

II/38. Use of names on tourist maps

The Conference,

Desiring to ensure the consistent and systematic use in tourist maps of the geographical names standardized by each country,

Having regard to the increasing distribution and influence of tourist maps in the modern world,

Recommends that the Group of Experts get in touch with the International Union of Official Travel Organizations (IUOTO) and suggest that it should recommend all its members to use, in their tourist maps, geographical names standardized in accordance with the principles of national standardization endorsed by the work of the First and Second United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names.

26. Vote of Thanks

II/39. Vote of thanks

The Conference,

Expresses

(a) Its heartfelt thanks to the Government of the United Kingdom for the excellent arangements made by it for the organization of the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names and for the hospitality extended to each and every participant;

(b) Its gratitude to the President for the excellent way in which he conducted the meetings and the way and manner in which he looked after the welfare of the participants;

(c) Its appreciation to the officers and staff of the United Nations for their hard work.

III/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.

IV/26. Vote of thanks

The Conference,

1. Expresses its gratitude to the President of the Conference and the Chairmen of the Committees for the excellent way in which they conducted the meetings, and to the Editor-in-Chief and the editorial committees for their dedication;

2. Expresses its appreciation to the Government of Switzerland, through its Federal Office of Topography, for the hospitality extended to the participants;

3. Expresses its thanks to the outgoing Chairman of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names for the valuable work done by Professor J. Breu of Austria;

4. Expresses its thanks to the officers and staff of the United Nations for their hard and dedicated work.