

**UNITED NATIONS GROUP OF EXPERTS ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES**  
 15th Session, Geneva, November 11-19, 1991  
 Dutch and German Speaking Division

**REPORT ON COORDINATION OF UNGEGN WITH OTHER TECHNICAL AND PROFESSIONAL GROUPS**

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**Introduction**

During the 14th session of UNGEGN it was decided to form a sub-group of the UNGEGN ad hoc working group on evaluation to strengthen co-ordination of UNGEGN with other technical and professional groups. Amongst the groups mentioned were ACSM, UN regional cartographic conferences, ICA, World Bank, and ICOS. F.J.Ormeling was asked as convenor of the group. As he had had to leave Geneva already at that time, it was not possible for him to convene the "co-ordination group", and to plan a common strategy until the 15th session. Contacts between members of the co-ordination group (Mr Mbika-Mbonguila, Mrs Närhi, Mr Ormeling, Mr Park and Mr Raper) had to take place through letters.

As Mrs Närhi has communicated, a clear proposal has to be made as to what UNGEGN hopes to achieve through its cooperation with other technical and professional organizations. Such a proposal has not been circulated yet; a draft will first have to be discussed by the members of the Co-ordination group during the 15th UNGEGN meeting.

**Inventory of relevant technical and professional groups**

An inventory of the organisations that should be considered for co-ordination would result in the list given below. The considerations for their inclusion should be:

- 1) the organisations should group people actively using (collecting, mapping, studying, broadcasting) geographical names
- 2) the organisations should have international standing, as to facilitate interaction with UNGEGN

In view of the limited resources of the "co-ordination group" it was decided not to contact any national organisations, such as USGS, ACSM, or the National Geographic Association, or major publishers of cartographic material, but to leave this to the national organisations for the standardization of geographical names.

With a view on these considerations, the preliminary list of organisations to be contacted is the following:

Arab League Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ALESCO)  
 Centre Internationale de Civilisation Bantou (CICIBA)  
 Federation Internationale des Geometres (FIG)  
 International Association of Geodesists (IAG)  
 International Association for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS)  
 International Cartographic Association (ICA)

The International Geographical Union has been contacted with the request to either devote a session or allow the presentation of a paper on the work of UNGEGN during its international conference in Washington in August 1992.

**c) The International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS)**

The ISPRS has been contacted and requested to either devote a special session or allow the presentation of a paper on the work of UNGEGN during its international conference in Washington in 1992.

**d) International Committee on Onomastical Sciences (ICOS)**

(section prepared by Mrs Närhi)

UNGEGN was able to assume a high profile at the 17th ICOS Congress in Helsinki, August 1990, as topics connected with the work UNGEGN conducts were discussed in 17 papers, and it had a small section of its own at the international book exhibition where the *Fifth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names. Montreal 18-31 August 1987. Vol.1. Report of the Conference*, a few issues of the *UN Newsletter* and F.J.Ormeling's duplicated report *Seminar on Applied Toponymy in Indonesia, 16-28 October 1989* were among the publications on display.

**e) International Union of Surveying and Mapping**

This umbrella-organisation which groups ICA, FIG, IAG and ISPRS, will meet as well in Washington, August 1992. Its Commission on Education will organize a session with presentations from all member organizations, and in this framework the work of UNGEGN will be presented.

**Results**

It is always difficult to make an estimation of the results of co-ordination work. At least the work of UNGEGN has been presented to a number of international forums. But the lack of proper presentation material has been sorely felt there, however. A booklet describing the work of UNGEGN, its procedures, which explains the rationale behind its resolutions and recommendations could have helped us enormously. Mrs Närhi also feels the need, in her contacts with ICOS, for a short account of the composition, method of operation and goals of UNGEGN.

Such a booklet could be sent by national organisations for the standardisation of geographical names to all national bodies and organisations actively working with geographical names, such as publishers, cartographic associations, geographic organisations, topographic surveys, etc. in their country.