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**IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS AND THE AIMS  
AND FUNCTIONS OF UNGEGN**

**THE DEFINITION OF EXONYM AND ENDONYM**

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Submitted by H A G Lewis (UK)

## THE DEFINITION OF EXONYM AND ENDONYM

In the Newsletter of May 1995 I discussed the definition of exonym and endonym. I have had no response from any Expert. I propose the following definitions:-

### Conventional name:

A name used in a certain language for a geographical entity situated outside the area where that language has official status and differing in its form from the name used in the official languages of the area where the geographical entity is situated.

### Exonym:

1. A foreign name. A name from outside the national territory.
2. For the purposes of international standardization, an exonym is regarded as being a geographical name used in a certain language for a geographical name situated outside the area where that language has official status and differing in its form from the name used in the official languages of the area where the geographical entity is situated.

### Endonym:

1. A name of a geographical entity in a sovereign country as written in one of the indigenous languages of that country.
2. When two or more names in a sovereign country are officially recognized by that country, responsibility for determining the precedence of one name over another rests with its national authorities.