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UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE
STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
Geneva, 4-22 September 1967

Dual distribution

DRAFT REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE

Chapter II

RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS (in part)

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Resolution 1

UNITED NATIONS PERMANENT COMMISSION ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

The Conference,

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

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

Recommends that a UN Permanent Commission on Geographical Names should be created by the Conference, consisting of a body 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 that the composition of the UN Permanent Commission on Geographical Names should reflect geographical/linguistic distribution and that the work of this body of experts should be assisted by the services of a secretariat within the United Nations and should meet annually at their governments' expense, starting in 1968,

Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the United Nations continue as the central agency to follow up the clearing house functions for geographical names by:

- (a) collection of information concerning technical procedures and gazetteers;
- (b) collection of data on techniques and systems used by countries in the transliteration and transcription of geographical names;
- (c) dissemination to all Member States of the United Nations and of its specialized agencies, of all information on the work of the Permanent Commission on Geographical Names, as well as the work of Member States as reported to the United Nations utilizing where feasible existing United Nations periodicals and other means of communication available.

RESOLUTION 5

EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND 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 Member States of the United Nations and Members of its specialized agencies to exchange information relative both to strengthening their own names programmes and furthering international standardization of geographical names,

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

RESOLUTION 6

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The Conference,

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

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

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,

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.

RESOLUTION 7

REGIONAL MEETINGS

The Conference

RECOGNIZING the success of 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 international Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names,

RECOMMENDS

(a) that regional and sub-regional conferences should be held at appropriate intervals to discuss common problems connected with, and to further the standardization of, geographical names;

(b) that 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 sub-regional or regional conferences and to the United Nations;

RESOLUTION 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,

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

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 toward standardization of both the nomenclature of hydrographic and undersea features and the geographical names of some of these features by the Inter-governmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), the International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB), the International Association of Physical Oceanography (IAPO), and member nations,

Recommends that the proposed United Nations Permanent Commission on Geographical Names should:

(a) obtain from the IOC, the IHB and the IAPO full particulars of the work already accomplished by those organizations;

(b) establish means for United Nations collection, approval and distribution 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, and

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

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