

**Twenty-second Session  
New York, 20-29 April 2004**

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**Item 13 of the Provisional Agenda**

**MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON PUBLICITY AND FUNDING**

**Report of the Working Group on Publicity and Funding\***

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**\* Prepared by Mr. David M. Munro, Convenor**

## REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON PUBLICITY AND FUNDING

Prepared by Dr D M Munro, Convenor

The Working Group on Publicity and Funding was set up by the 6<sup>th</sup> UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in 1992. Its aims are to work with other place name experts and with the UN Secretariat to (1) disseminate information, both of a popular and professional nature, on the work of the UNGEGN and the benefits to be derived from the standardization of geographical names and (2) investigate ways of ensuring that adequate funding is made available to support the activities of the Group of Experts.

### Working Group Meetings

Two meetings of the Working Group on Publicity and Funding were held during the 8<sup>th</sup> United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in Berlin, August-September 2002. Twelve experts, including new representatives from Australia, South Africa and Vanuatu, reviewed the remit of the Working Group and advanced initiatives designed to make the work of the UNGEGN more visible.

### Consistent Use of Place Names

Following the publication in 2000 of the English Language version of the promotional brochure *Consistent Use of Place Names*, it was noted in 2002 that this document was now available in eight languages. It was agreed that every effort should be made to encourage the distribution of this brochure as widely as possible and to encourage its publication in other languages in co-operation with the UN Secretariat.

### UNGEKN Website

The launch of the UNGEGN Website <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo> in 2002 has provided a valuable tool in helping to advance the dissemination of information. Recently updated with input from other Working Groups and Divisions, this website includes electronic copies of the reports of the 8<sup>th</sup> United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names and 21<sup>st</sup> Session of UNGEGN. Comments on the website and input for updates are welcomed by the UN Secretariat.

### Publicity at Conferences

In order to reach both government agencies and the wider public, the Working Group agreed that UNGEGN members should be encouraged to write articles in their local and national press as well as contribute towards the development of exhibition display material. It was recommended that place-name societies be kept informed of UNGEGN activities and that the work of the UNGEGN be promoted through publicity and sessions at national and international conferences. Since 2002, a number of conferences such as the meeting of the International Cartographic Association held in Durban in August 2003, have stimulated awareness of the activities of the UNGEGN. The Exhibition on Geographical Names first displayed in Berlin in 2002 was exhibited at the Durban ICA conference. The Convenor of the Working Group on Publicity and Funding gave a presentation on geographical names to the Annual Meeting of the British Cartographic Society in 2003. A session on toponymy, arranged in association with the British Cartographic Society and the International Cartographic Association, has been included in the programme of the forthcoming 30<sup>th</sup> International Geographical Congress to be held in Glasgow, UK, during 15-20 August 2004. Speakers will include the UNGEGN Chairperson, Helen Kerfoot, and the Convenor of the Working Group on Publicity and Funding, David Munro. For further information and registration details see the congress website <http://meetingmakers.co.uk/IGC-UK2004>.

### Support for UNGEGN activities

The Working Group on Publicity and Funding in consultation with other UNGEGN Working Groups considered priorities in the short and long term with respect to securing support for

the production of selected documents and attendance at training courses. Resolution 15 of the 8<sup>th</sup> United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names requested the UN Statistics Division include in its publication programme for 2004-2005 (1) a basic manual for the standardization of geographical names and (2) a technical reference manual on romanization systems, country names and formats and standards for toponymic data exchange. Both of these publications, compiled by an editorial team in collaboration with other Working Groups and place name experts, have been submitted to the UN Statistics Division for publication.

Notification of training courses to be organized by other Working Groups and Divisions during 2003-2004 indicated a need for funding to assist in making these events accessible to delegates from developing countries wishing to promote the standardization of geographical names. Resolution 15 of the 8<sup>th</sup> UN Conference stressed the importance of training and requested the Statistics Division continue to provide funding to support participants from developing countries.

In the longer term, it was suggested to the Working Group that funding should be sought for the development of a web course on toponymy. Further comments and recommendations are welcomed.