

Ad-Hoc Group of Experts on  
the Standardization of  
Geographical Names

New York, 10-20 March 1970

MINUTE No. 7

Meeting held on Wednesday 18 March 1970

67. After discussion, Working Paper No. 20/Rev 1 on Aims, Functions and Modus Operandi, was approved subject to minor corrections in terminology and order of subject items.
68. Mr. Gall presented an official invitation from the Government of Guatemala for the holding of the next full Conference on Geographical Names in Guatemala City, with all administrative expenses covered by the host Government.
69. The Chairman welcomed Mr. Horacio Ureta, former Chief of the Cartography Section, and thanked him for coming to visit the Group, many of whom had met Mr. Ureta in Geneva.
70. Minutes Nos. 5 and 6 were submitted for the Group's approval. In paragraph 53 of Minute No. 5, "Cartographic Office" should be replaced by "Cartography Section". In paragraph 60 of Minute No. 6, the following phrase should be added after "Sahara" in line 5: "and in east Africa". In line 6 of the same paragraph "sahavel" should be replaced by "sahel". With these amendments the minutes were approved.
71. The Group returned to the consideration of unwritten languages. Mr. Gall reported on the work that had been done in Guatemala in collecting, recording, and standardizing geographic names from some of the twenty-two Maya languages.
72. Mr. Loxton discussed further measures for conferring with the countries in Division 14 on the recording of names from unwritten languages. Information paper number 4, by Mr. Nedelec, and Working paper Number 18, by Mr. Loxton were discussed. Mr. Loxton complemented Mr. Nedelec on his paper and said that he would try to make use as much as possible of the procedures set forth therein when he writes to the countries in Division 14.
73. Mr. Lewis, speaking in behalf of Division 3 drew attention to the work being carried out by Australia in New Guinea, where the unwritten languages present one of the most complex problems of the world today. The Expert of Division 3 was requested to obtain a report on this work for dissemination.
74. The President obtained the agreement of the Group on the following points:
  - the problem of minority languages is difficult to handle.
  - the problem has not always been set down explicitly.
  - it presents different aspects from one division to another; it is up to each expert representing a division to give a detailed account of the situation in his division.