

Ad Hoc Group of Experts on
the Standardization of
Geographical Names

Working Paper No. 3

New York, 10-20 March 1970

REPORT OF THE REGIONAL GROUP
OF GERMAN AND DUTCH SPEAKING COUNTRIES

Submitted by the Federal Republic of Germany

Paper presented

to the ad hoc Group of Experts on Geographical Names
on the occasion of the meeting New York 9.-20. 3. 70

by the Regional Group of German and Dutch speaking countries
submitted by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany

At its meeting in Bonn-Bad Godesberg on 28 January 1970, under the chairmanship of Professor Meynen, the Regional Group of German and Dutch speaking countries, adopted the following recommendations:

I

Proposals regarding organization of the second meeting of the ad hoc Group of Experts on Geographical Names in New York, 10 to 20 March 1970

1. It is recommended that the following organizations be invited to the meeting:

International Committee of Onomastic Sciences (ICOS)
International Organization for Standardization (ISO)
International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB)
International Geographical Union (IGU)
International Cartographic Association (ICA)

The ISO representative should be included in any case.

2. It is recommended that the discussion of extraterrestrial names (item 5 of the provisional agenda) be omitted from the agenda in view of their non-geographical nature.
3. It is recommended that those questions under item 4 b of the provisional agenda which chiefly concern hydrographers and oceanographers be dealt with only cursorily so as to gain time for more important items.

4. It is recommended that the agenda be extended to include the topics mentioned under III below.

II

Proposals regarding the composition and modus operandi of the ad hoc Group of Experts which has taken the place of the United Nations Permanent Committee of Experts on Geographical Names envisaged in Geneva

1. Pursuant to the decision taken by the United Nations Economic and Social Council at its 44th Session on 25 May 1968, the establishment of a Permanent Committee for the Standardization of Geographical Names proposed at the Geneva Conference in September 1967 did not meet with United Nations approval, so that the Committee's tasks had to be referred to the ad hoc Group of Experts. It is therefore recommended that the group be given rules of procedure which should provide for the following:

- Aims and functions
- Membership
- Chairmanship
- Intervals between sessions.

The elaboration of these rules of procedure should be entrusted to a special working group during the Group's second session in New York.

2. It is recommended that consideration be given to whether the setting up of 14 geographic-linguistic regional groups as envisaged for the Permanent Committee should also apply to the future work of the ad hoc Group of Experts.

3. It is recommended that the Cartographic Section of the Economic and Social Council act as the bureau of the ad hoc Group of Experts on the Standardization of Geographical Names and also be a centre for co-ordination among countries and relevant organizations (answering requests for information, arranging exchanges of literature and cartographic material, etc.)

III

Individual Topics

1. Spheres of application should be specified.
2. In contrast to the methods of transference contained in the Report of the Geneva Conference, Vol. I, page 4, column I, paragraph 2, and consistently following the Roman Alphabet Rule (Report of the Geneva Conference, Vol. II, p. 81), the following recommendations are made:

When transferring names from languages using non-Latin script (language of origin) into Latin script, the official transcript of the country in which this language (language of origin) is used, should be adopted.

In cases where no such official transcript exists in the country in question, an international transcript applicable to all languages using Latin script should be used; recommended are the systems elaborated by ISO (cf. the enclosed resolution of the 10th Congress on Onomastic Sciences, Vienna, September 1969).

In cases where neither an official transcript in the country in question nor an ISO transcript exists for a language using non-Latin script, a well-established international transcript should be used.

The ad hoc Group of Experts should endeavour to induce the United Nations to seek a synchronisation of the official systems of the countries in question and the corresponding ISO systems.


3. With regard to item 4 c 6 of the provisional agenda, the setting up of a working group for a single Romanization guide is agreed to. For this purpose, Professor Breu, Austria, is nominated as the representative of the regional group of German and Dutch speaking countries. It is further recommended that one representative from ICOS and one representative from ISO be included in this working group.

It is requested that these recommendations be forwarded in good time to all other participants in the Group of Experts' meeting in New York.

Bonn-Bad Godesberg, 28 January 1970

Blok	m.p.
Breu	m.p.
Draye	m.p.
Meynen	m.p.
Ormeling	m.p.
Romein	m.p.
Spieß	m.p.

I hereby certify the authenticity of the original and the signatures:


(Prof. Dr. E. Meynen)

The 10th Section (topical onomastics and cartography: standardization, transcription and transliteration) of the 10th International Congress on Onomastic Sciences approved on 11 September 1969 the following draft resolution for adoption by the General Assembly on 12 September 1969:

Submitted by: Dr. Back, Prof. Breu, Prof. Hamm,
Prof. Meynen, Dr. Neweklowsky

Seconded by: Dr. Sinnhuber.

"The 10th International Congress on Onomastic Sciences recommends all concerned with topical onomastic questions, especially the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, to apply where possible in the field of onomastic sciences the rules of transliteration contained in the recommendations of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), unless in particular cases important reasons warrant deviations. The existing divergences between ISO rules of transliteration and customary practice in countries using non-Latin scripts should be eliminated by co-operation between such countries, the ISO, and the competent scientific (philological) organizations."