

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL



Distr.
LIMITED

E/CONF.61/L.25
2 February 1972

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SECOND UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE
STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
London, 10-31 May 1972
Item 14 (b) (c) of the provisional agenda

NAMES OF FEATURES BEYOND A SINGLE SOVEREIGNTY

MARITIME FEATURES

UNDERSEA FEATURES

Paper submitted by the Governments of Austria, the
Federal Republic of Germany and Switzerland

MARITIME FEATURES

"Maritime features" are oceans or parts of oceans. The maritime features which are being dealt with here are beyond national sovereignties. On the other hand, they are common to, or extending across the frontiers of several states, at least with major entities, like oceans and marginal seas. Besides, many names of maritime features have been created by foreign seafarers or are based on historical coincidences. For these reasons it will hardly be possible to recommend one name-form only.

The single states often use different names for one maritime feature which - in their "specific" term or in their "generic" term or even in both of them - are not equivalent to each other.

It is therefore recommended:

1. To compile a list of maritime features with their names in the different languages and with their respective limits.
2. Should this list show that the limits for certain maritime features differ in the single states, it should be tried to bring about standard limit.
3. A standing committee, established under United Nations auspices, would have to be entrusted with the task of compiling such a list and bringing about

standard limits. The same committee should also be responsible for "undersea features".

4. When giving a new name to a maritime feature the same rules as those to be established for the new denomination of "undersea features" should apply.

UNDERSEA FEATURES

We support the recommendations submitted by the "Working Group on Undersea Feature Names".

Especially it is recommended:

1. To compile a list giving the equivalents for the "generic terms" in different languages.

As an example for such a list we refer to the paper of the "Ständiger Ausschuss für /Geographische Name (StAGN)": "Bezeichnungen für / untermeerische Bodenformen".- Bonn-Bad Godesberg, Federal Republic of Germany, 2nd edition, December 1971.

2. To set up a standing committee, established under United Nations auspices, which has the task

(a) To collect the existing names and try to reconcile them with the respective "generic terms";

(b) To collect, verify and recognize new names and circulate them to the other states. This standing committee should co-operate as closely as possible with the GEBCO Committee of the IHO, Monaco.
