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GEOGRAPHICAL TERMS

Presented by the Governments of Austria,
the Federal Republic of Germany and Switzerland

A. Classification of geographic entities

1. The classification of geographical names (for example, oronyms, hydronyms, minor names) is of no use for the purpose of international standardization, and may even lead to confusion because place-names may be originally river names, river names may be originally field names etc. Therefore classification of geographic names may better be deleted from the agenda and recommended to the International Congress of Onomastics.

2. The classification of geographical entities must provide the framework for the glossaries which are to be included in the gazetteers, that is, first for the glossary of designations and secondly for that of generic terms. If this classification has to promote the uniformity of presentation of these glossaries, it should have to be restricted to large categories, leaving to the single gazetteers the task to work out the subgrouping and ultimate details in accordance with national needs. For the time being it seems impossible to achieve a generally acceptable systematization within these large categories. The classification of geographical entities may read as follows (see also examples in the annex to this paper).

1. Hydrographic entities;
2. Relief and land forms;
3. Terrain: fields, meadows, forests etc.;
4. Political entities, administrative divisions;
5. Regions, natural and historical;

6. Populated places, buildings, structures;
7. Routes: railways, roads, streets etc.

B. Uniformity of presentation of glossaries in gazetteers

3. Uniformity in the presentation of glossaries in gazetteers is achievable to a certain degree only, namely by presenting in each gazetteer four glossaries or lists as described below.

(a) A survey of designations and generic terms in use in the gazetteer, in accordance with the classification of geographic entities mentioned in paragraph 2. The designations should be numbered, and a short definition should be given where the meaning of any designation is not obvious. See example B in the annex to this paper.

(b) An alphabetical list of generic terms found in the gazetteer with references to the numbering in the systematic survey. See example C in the annex to this paper.

(c) An alphabetical list of abbreviations of designations, or of other codes used for them. See example D in the annex to this paper.

(d) An alphabetical glossary of abbreviations used in maps on which the gazetteer is based.

C. Translation of designations and definitions

4. As regards translation of designations and definitions into other languages, refer to the proposals of the Dutch-German speaking group (E/CONF.61/L.27, para.1(b)).