SECOND
UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
ON THE STANDARDIZATION
OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

London, 10-31 May 1972


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NOTE

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I. ORGANIZATION OF THE CONFERENCE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. The second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names was held in London from 10 to 31 May 1972 in pursuance of the decision taken by the Economic and Social Council at its 1676th meeting.

ATTENDANCE

2. The following countries were represented at the Conference: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, Guatemala, the Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, India, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, the Khmer Republic, Laos, Lebanon, the Libyan Arab Republic, Madagascar, Mexico, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, the Republic of Viet Nam, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Uganda, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Yugoslavia. The International Hydrographic Organization (IHO), an intergovernmental organization, was represented and observers from the following international scientific organizations also attended: International Astronomical Union (IAU); the International Cartographic Association (ICA); the International Committee of Onomastical Sciences (ICOS); the International Phonetic Association (IPA); the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG); and the Pan American Institute on Geography and History (PAIGH). A list of the participants was circulated in document E/CONF.61/INF.5.

OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE

3. Opening the Conference, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence for the Army, G. Johnson Smith, stressed the need for standardization of geographical names and the problems arising out of that process. He outlined the important work done in the field since the first Congress of Geographic, Cosmographic, and Commercial Sciences was held at Amsterdam in 1871, especially that of the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, and drew attention to the tasks which still lay ahead.

4. The Executive Secretary thanked the host Government, the United Kingdom, for its hospitality.

ADOPTION OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

5. At its first plenary meeting the Conference adopted as its rules of procedure those used at the First Conference in 1967 (see annex III).

OFFICERS OF THE CONFERENCE

6. The Conference elected the following officers:

   President : H. A. G. Lewis (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
   First Vice-President : E. Meynen (Federal Republic of Germany);
   Second Vice-President : F. Gall (Guatemala);
   Rapporteur : D. P. Blok (Netherlands).

7. The Conference decided, on the proposal of F. Gall (Guatemala), that the President of the previous Conference, Meredith F. Burrill (United States of America), should serve as the Honorary President of the present Conference.

CREDENTIALS

8. The Credentials Committee, composed of the President, the First and Second Vice-Presidents, the Rapporteur and the Honorary President of the Conference, reported that the credentials of all the delegates had been found in order.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

9. The Conference adopted as its agenda the provisional agenda prepared by the Group of Experts. The agenda as adopted is given in annex I.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

10. The Conference established five technical committees to which it referred items of the agenda:

   Committee I. Chairman : C. Voravong (Laos)
   Vice-Chairman : M. Z. Al-Ayoubi (Lebanon)
   Rapporteur : J. Poitier (Canada)

   Special attention to problems identified in papers presented by Governments (item 16)
Committee II. Chairman: J. Loxton (Kenya); 
Vice-Chairman: R. Lapesa Melgar (Spain); 
Rapporteur: J. A. Saenz (Panama); 
Terminology of geographical names standardization (item 8); 
Geographical terms (item 10).

Committee III. Chairman: D. N. Sharma (India); 
Vice-Chairman: E. Dahle (Norway); 
Rapporteur: M. H. Guzil (Iran); 
Writing systems (item 11).

Committee IV. Chairman: A. M. Komkov (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics); 
Vice-Chairman: L. Rataski (Poland); 
Rapporteur: M. B. Smart (Canada); 
Conventional names (item 12); 
International standardization and its field of application (item 13); 
Automatic data processing (item 17).

Committee V. Chairman: M. F. Burrill (United States of America); 
Vice-Chairman: O. Coker (Nigeria); 
Rapporteur: K. Hakulinen (Finland); 
Names of features beyond a single sovereignty (item 14); 
International co-operation (item 15).

11. The Conference also established an Editorial Committee and editorial groups to assist the technical committees.

Editorial Committee
Chairman: J. Breu (Austria); 
Vice-Chairman: G. F. Delaney (Canada); 
Editors-at-large (serving in all editorial groups): 
V. N. Dmitroichenkov (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics); 
P. J. M. Geelan (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland); 
F. Nédelec (France).

Editorial group — Committee I
G. W. Bakibinga (Uganda) (Convenor); 
W. J. Absaloms (Kenya); 
P. S. Falla (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland); 
J. Vereerstraeten (Belgium); 
A. J. Wraight (United States of America).

Editorial group — Committee II
C. R. Page (United States of America) (Convenor); 
W. J. Absaloms (Kenya); 
J. T. Gissendanner (United States of America); 
F. Lanza Sandoval (Honduras); 
J. Vereerstraeten (Belgium).

Editorial group — Committee III
J. B. Rudnyckyi (Canada) (Convenor); 
W. Eggers (Federal Republic of Germany); 
E. F. Halvorsen (Norway); 
Y. M. Navabi (Iran); 
C. R. Page (United States of America); 
D. Vayasacos (Greece); 
J. Vereerstraeten (Belgium).

Editorial group — Committee IV
P. K. Clark (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) (Convenor); 
H. Dorian (Canada); 
Th. J. Liard (United States of America); 
C. R. Page (United States of America); 
S. Rado (Hungary).

Editorial group — Committee V
V. A. Moitoret (International Hydrographic Organization) (Convenor); 
R. D. Hodgson (United States of America); 
N. Khilani (India); 
V. Kuklov (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics).

DOCUMENTATION

12. A list of the documents submitted to the Conference is to be found in annex II. The technical papers are to be published as volume II of the proceedings of the Conference.

WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

13. In addition to its committee meetings, the Conference held seven plenary meetings. The work of the Conference is summarized in chapter II. The resolutions adopted by the Conference are given in chapter III.

CLOSING OF THE SESSION

14. The Conference at its closing meeting on 31 May 1972 adopted a vote of thanks to the host Government, and to its officers and staff (resolution 39).

II. SUMMARY OF THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

Plenary
Reports by divisions and Governments on the situation in their regions and countries and on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names since the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (item 7).

15. A number of representatives presented reports on the progress made in their respective countries on the standardization of geographical names since the 1967 Conference. Several delegations reported that, since the Geneva Conference, a national names authority had been established in their countries or that one was in the process of being organized. In many countries gazetteers had either been published in the past five years or were currently being prepared for publication. Others reported that names standardization in their countries was controlled by government decree. It was noted that many of the developing countries faced a major problem in financing their names standardization
programmes and that it would be necessary for them to receive some form of technical assistance.

16. During the general discussion, consideration was given to the question of the regional and/or divisional meetings that could be held within the linguistic/geographical divisions. It was emphasized that any country could attend meetings of more than one division if it so desired. It was also feasible to hold subregional or subregional meetings. The linguistic/geographical divisions reported that several meetings had been held within the divisions as well as within the subdivisions. This was particularly the case in the Norden division, the Dutch-speaking and German-speaking group, the Arabic and the Latin American divisions; the latter had held two meetings in Central America. Interregional meetings had been held biennially between the United States of America-Canada division and the United Kingdom group, and interdivisional conferences had been held between the USSR and the Europe east central and south-east divisions. Several other divisions, such as the Indian group and the Romance languages, other than Latin America division expected to achieve closer co-operation through special meetings in the near future. It was planned to hold the first South American meeting late in 1972 in Brazil, and a meeting of all the Latin American countries some time after that.

17. The Chairman of the Group of Experts on Geographical Names stressed the importance of developing a good working communications system among the experts themselves, the names authorities within the divisions and other organizations working in the field of names standardization. He expressed satisfaction with the work that had been accomplished since the 1967 Conference, and he recognized the many difficulties that had be encountered by the developing countries in the field.

18. Reports were presented by the observers from the International Hydrographic Organization, the International Cartographic Association and the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics.

Third United Nations conference on the standardization of geographical names

19. The Conference recognized the importance of holding a third conference and adopted a resolution to that effect (resolution 1).

Report on the work of Committee I

National standardization (item 9)

Field collection of names

20. Contributions by Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Finland, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Nigeria, Norway, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Uganda, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America showed that much work was being done and considerable progress being made along the lines of recommendation B. Collection of geographical names, of resolution 4 of the 1967 Conference. It was again emphasized that field collection was of fundamental importance in the whole process of standardization. There was much scope in this respect also for regional co-operation; a paper submitted by Guatemala (E/CONF.61/L.17) dealt comprehensively with procedures for field collection in Latin America in general. The collection of dialect forms of names and the question of how far those can be reconciled with, and expressed in terms of, the standard language remained perhaps the most difficult problems. Of particular importance was the elimination of the entrenched garblings and mishearing by earlier surveyors who had not been conversant enough with local languages and dialects. A number of references were made to the toponymic consequences of migration, urbanization, rural depopulation and land development, and the desirability of special efforts being made to record previously used names before these were irretrievably lost. Later discussion revealed a prevalent opinion that maps should primarily reflect the existing toponymic situation, but it was agreed that in depopulated areas the pre-existing names were necessary for cartographic purposes.

21. The shortage of toponymically and linguistically trained personnel to work in the field remained an acute problem. Academic institutions could and often did provide considerable help to official survey agencies in that respect, but a particularly encouraging development in recent years had been the use of university students, secondary school pupils and even conscript soldiers to collect and/or verify names in the field. Provided that their work was carried out under the careful supervision of competent personnel and was always subject to close scrutiny, the natural enthusiasm of young people could make a significant contribution to speeding up the immense amount of work that remained to be done. It was agreed that that possibility should be actively pursued by the Group of Experts. Two draft resolutions on the subjects of improved field collection techniques and qualified personnel were approved for adoption by the Conference.

Office treatment of names

22. The representative of Guatemala, drawing on his country's experience in Latin America, stressed that newly formed national names authorities should pay particular and continuing attention to the principles outlined in recommendation C, Principles of office treatment of geographical names, of resolution 4 of the 1967 Conference.

Treatment of names in multilingual areas

23. There was discussion of the problem of minority languages spoken in one or more States. In Spain, Catalan and Basque names were treated not on the
basis of their spoken form but in accordance with the
standardized orthographies of those regional languages; a
standardized orthography for Galician was in course
of preparation. Where the Spanish form of the name was
different, it also was given. Finland, Norway and
Sweden intended to collaborate on the treatment of
Lappish names.

24. The Committee approved a draft resolution on
that subject and similar problems in other parts of the
world for adoption by the Conference.

25. The Committee agreed that problems involving
the Khmer language outside the Khmer Republic
should be referred to the Group of Experts together
with other problems associated with the term “minority
language”.

National gazetteers or other similar publications in
which countries make available their standardized
names

26. The Committee proposed to amend the text of
recommendation E, National gazetteers, of resolution 4
of the 1967 Conference \(^4\) by inserting after the word
“Association” in the fourth line from the end, the words
“in case of non-Roman scripts, and the romanized
spellings of names in accordance with the systems
approved by the first or Second United Nations Conference
on the Standardization of Geographical Names”.

27. It was agreed that the prompt and wide dissemina-
tion of decisions on standardized names was highly
desirable, the publication Principles of the Use
of Names of Geomorphological Units on the Territory
of the Czech Socialist Republic in Texts in Foreign
Languages (Prague, 1972), which had been distributed
to the Conference, being cited as an example.

Administrative structure of national names authorities

28. In the discussion of the question of the deccen-
tralization of national names standardization, it was
agreed that it was more important that names autho-
rities should fit in with the structure of the national
government than that they should all be alike. It was
perhaps even preferable that they should be different.
In some cases a national names authority was not the
full and final answer and it was more appropriate
that decisions should be taken at the local level, as
they were in Australia, Austria and Canada.

Special attention to problems identified in papers
prepared by Governments

29. The many problems raised in the papers presented
to the Conference by Governments were dealt with in
connexion with specific agenda items.

Action by the Conference

30. On the recommendations of Committee I, the
Conference adopted resolutions on Technical training
of personnel (resolution 18); Assistance for programmes
of field collection of names and of office treatment of
names (resolution 27); Dissemination of decisions by
national names authorities (resolution 32); and Minority
language problems (resolution 36).

31. The Conference endorsed recommendation C,
Principles of office treatment of geographical names,
of resolution 4 of the 1967 Conference, and it amended
recommendation E, National gazetteers, of the same
resolution as set out in paragraph 26 above.

REPORT ON THE WORK OF COMMITTEE II

Terminology of geographical names standardization
(item 8)

32. In connexion with this item, the Committee had
before it a report of the Working Group on Definitions
(E/CONF.61/L.1/Rev.1), and documents submitted
by Spain (E/CONF.61/L.8), the Dutch-speaking and
German-speaking group (E/CONF.61/L.24), and
France (E/CONF.61/L.67 and Add.1). The Committee
considered that document E/CONF.61/L.1/Rev.1
provided a corpus of definitions which might be included
in the final report of the Conference, and a number
of changes and additions were suggested. In order
to expedite the work, it was decided that those
should be submitted in writing to the Chairman of the
Working Group on Definitions. It was suggested that
since the greater part of the document already existed in
French, Spanish and Russian, the final Glossary of
Technical Terminology might be set forth in all the
official languages of the United Nations. It was also
suggested that participation in the Working Group
should be expanded.

Geographical names (item 10)

33. The Committee considered and discussed at length
generic terms and their inclusion or omission in
gazetteers and lists. The advisability of the retention of
generic terms in such gazetteers and lists was cited, as
were also certain circumstances where that appeared
to be difficult. Items (a), (b), (c) and (d) of section B
of the document presented by the Dutch-speaking and
German-speaking group (E/CONF.61/L.26) were cited
as useful guidelines in the preparation of such gazetteers
and lists.

34. The Committee suggested that the words “and
geographical names” should be deleted from subitem 10
(a) of the agenda.

35. The translation of generic terms and of designatory
terms from one language to another in dictionaries
and in glossaries of such terms, the creation of multi-
lingual dictionaries of generic terms and of designatory
terms, the translation of generic elements of toponyms
from one language to another, particularly in coastal
and hydrographic features, were discussed.

36. The revision of the definition of “glossary” as it
appeared in recommendation D of resolution 19 of

\(^4\) Ibid., p. 11.
the First Conference was referred back to the Working Group on Definitions of the Group of Experts.

37. The use of signs and symbols was discussed and the term "choronym" was suggested as a term of possibly wider application than "toponym".

38. The Committee agreed that the classification of geographical entities was of no practical value in the compiling of glossaries.

**Action by the Conference**

39. On the recommendations of Committee II, the Conference adopted resolutions on Technical terminology (resolution 14) and Uniformity of presentation of glossaries (resolution 16). It also decided to amend the title of subitem 10 (a) of its agenda by omitting the words "and geographical names".

**REPORT ON THE WORK OF COMMITTEE III**

**Writing systems (item 11)**

40. The Committee discussed the transcription of Eskimo names under subitem 11 (b) of the agenda and in connexion with the document presented by Canada (E/CONF.61/L.34). The Committee considered it desirable to unify the transcription of Eskimo names in Canada, Greenland, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America, and to this end, consultations among those countries was suggested. It was noted that Greenlandic names had already been standardized for several decades.

41. It was recognized that phonetic transcription by linguistic experts was of great value as a first step in rendering toponyms from unwritten languages, and also that, once so recorded, such names tended to be standardized in terms of the national language of the country concerned. The representative of the United Kingdom drew attention to the possible dangers of giving too much emphasis to maps as linguistic documents.


43. After extensive discussion, the Committee agreed upon the following general principles for romanization systems:

(a) Systematic reversibility should be sought in so far as practical;

(b) Consistent employment of graphic symbols within any give romanization system should be sought.

44. The Committee then dealt with individual writing systems and alphabets.

(a) **Persian.** The representative of Iran confirmed that no changes in the official romanization of Persian had taken place since 1967 and that the recommendation contained in resolution 13 of the First Conference was still valid.

(b) **Amharic.** On the basis of information received from Ethiopia, the Committee recommended the adoption of a resolution that would supersede resolution 17 of the First Conference.

(c) **Somali.** The question of a script was under active consideration in Somalia. The Group of Experts was instructed to keep the situation under review.

(d) **Maldivian.** Since there was not sufficient material available on geographical names in the Maldivian script, the Committee considered that it was not appropriate to recommend any system of romanization for international use at the current time. The representative of India reported Maldivian interest in the standardization of Maldivian names. The matter was referred back to the Group of Experts for further study.

(e) **Bulgarian.** After discussion of the various difficulties which receiver languages would encounter in the use of Croat orthographic conventions, a compromise solution was accepted on the proposal of the representative of Austria. The official Bulgarian system would be accepted with the proviso that certain alternatives would also be permitted if used as a group. (This followed the pattern of ISO recommendation R/9, second edition.)

(f) **Languages of the Indian group.** The tables of Transliteration into Roman and Devanagari of the Languages of the Indian Group, prepared by D.N. Sharma (India) as a member of the Working Group on a Single Romanization System, with the exception of Sinhala and the note on page 36 regarding Tamil, were recommended for adoption for the romanization of the alphabets of the languages of the Indian group.

(g) **Greek.** The Committee took note of the Working Group’s comparative study of the romanization of Greek. The many difficulties that exist in the romanization of Greek were discussed. The representative of Greece stated that, in view of the Conference’s concern with that problem, he would refer the question to his Government with a view to developing jointly with the Government of Cyprus a system which would then be submitted to the Group of Experts. He stated that the BGN/PCGN system was currently being used for cartographic purposes.

(h) **Hebrew.** J. Breu (Austria) pointed out that, in the comparative study by the Working Group on a Single Romanization System, it had not been possible to take account of the important paper by N. Kadmon and M. Talmi of the Israeli Department of

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Surveys. A draft resolution was recommended for adoption by the Conference.

(i) Cyrillic alphabets of Yugoslavia. The Committee recommended the adoption of a draft resolution on the Cyrillic alphabets of Yugoslavia.

(j) Arabic. The Expert of the Arabic division reported on the results of the regional conference of Arab countries held at Beirut in 1971 (E/CONF.61/L.77) pursuant to resolution 12 of the 1967 Conference. At a meeting of the Arab delegations to that conference improvements had been presented to the table contained in document E/CONF.61/L.77.

The representative of Spain stated that there was in existence a long-established Spanish transliteration system for Arabic which would make any new system hard to accept. The representative of France drew attention to the fact that Morocco, Algeria and Mauritania had not been represented at the Beirut meeting. Tunisia had been represented but its current position regarding the transliteration of Arabic was not known to the Institut géographique national. The official maps of Morocco, Algeria and Mauritania, at both small and large scales, were romanized according to systems differing from the one recommended at Beirut. It was impossible, therefore, for the proposed new system to be approved for application to the States of north-western Africa. The Expert of the Arabic division said that the recommendations of the Beirut conference had been sent to all members of the Arab League.

A draft resolution was recommended for adoption by the Conference.

(k) Pashtu. Since the proposed comparative study was not ready, the matter was referred back to the Group of Experts for further study.

(l) Mongolian. The Working Group’s report was considered as well as the Hungarian paper (E/CONF.61/L.108), giving the system of transliteration used on the world map at 1:2,500,000 (Karta mira). On the proposal of the representative of the Soviet Union that the transliteration of Mongolian was a problem that could best be resolved by collaboration with the Academy of Sciences in Ulan Bator, the matter was referred back to the Group of Experts for further study along the lines suggested.

(m) Burmese. Reporting as the member of the Working Group responsible for Burmese, P. J. M. Geelan (United Kingdom) said that only very small-scale cartographical material was available in Burmese script. Such evidence as there was (e.g., entries in the UPU list of post offices) suggested that Burma still used the 1908 rules for romanization purposes, but it had not been possible to determine the official position. The whole country had been mapped at a scale of 1 in. to 1 mile (1:63,360) by the pre-Independence Survey of India, but the extent to which that mapping was still officially used in Burma was not known. The Chairman of the Committee confirmed the existence of boundary maps in Burmese script. The matter was referred back to the Group of Experts for further study.

(n) Thai. No changes in the official Thai romanization had taken place since 1967 and the recommendation contained in resolution 14 of the First Conference was still valid.

(o) Khmer. Carl R. Page (United States of America), the member of the Working Group responsible for Khmer, reported that the draft BGN/PCGN 1972 system was directly derived from the modified Service géographique khmer system of 1959 and was now in entire conformity with romanizations found on maps of the Khmer Republic. A draft resolution was recommended for adoption by the Conference.

(p) Lao. The transliteration system presented by the Working Group on a Single Romanization System corresponded with the usage on current maps of Laos. The Commission nationale de toponymie of Laos may, however, have some modifications to make and the Group of Experts was requested to keep that system under review.

(q) Chinese. In his report, Mr. Geelan, the member of the Working Group responsible for Chinese, referred to the two factors that govern the current situation: the almost total lack of up-to-date information on Chinese names (the latest available atlas being dated 1966) and the lack of a fully comprehensive statement of Pinyin readings for about 12,000 Chinese characters found in place names. After an exchange of views on the availability of Chinese names in the Pinyin and the Wade-Giles systems, the Committee decided that, in the absence of a representative of the People’s Republic of China, the matter should be kept under review by the Group of Experts in the expectation that, with the change in circumstances, more information would be forthcoming.

(r) Korean. Mr. Page reported that there were two systems of transliteration in use in the Republic of Korea. The official maps he knew of used the McCune-Reischauer system, He had no precise information on the status or current use of the Ministry of Education system. The matter was referred back to the Group of Experts for further study.

(s) Japanese. Two systems of transliteration were in use in Japan. The Kunreishiki system, approved by Cabinet decree, was used on the International Map of the World on the Millionth Scale, in charts and other publications of the Maritime Safety Agency, and in the National Atlas of Japan. Modified Hepburn was in use in other fields within Japan and was also the dominant system in use outside Japan for both maps and documents. The 1970 Lisbon meeting of the ISO Committee concerned had been unable to determine any firm Japanese commitment to one system or the other. The representative of Japan

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8 Ibid., p. 13.
not being able to give such a commitment, the matter was referred back to the Group of Experts for further study.

(t) **Russian.** The Committee had before it a statement on the romanization of Russian submitted by the Soviet Union (E/CONF.61/L.75). In the light of that statement and on the proposal of the representative of the USSR, the matter was postponed until the next Conference.

(u) **Languages of the Soviet Union other than Russian.** It was agreed that discussion of this question should be postponed and referred to the Group of Experts.

### Action by the Conference

45. In connexion with the work of Committee III, the Conference adopted resolutions on Romanization of the Amharic alphabet (resolution 7); the Bulgarian Cyrillic alphabet (resolution 5); Transliteration into Roman and Devanagari of the languages of the Indian group (resolution 11); Romanization of Hebrew geographical names (resolution 9); the Cyrillic alphabets of Yugoslavia (resolution 6); Romanization of Arabic geographical names (resolution 8); Romanization of Khmer geographical names (resolution 10); Sixth Congress of Academies of the Spanish Language (resolution 12); and Publication of romanization systems (resolution 13).

46. The Conference decided to change the name of the Working Group on a single Romanization System to the Working Group on a Single Romanization System for each Non-Roman Writing System.

47. The Conference decided to amend recommendation D, Multilingual areas, of resolution 4 of the First Conference 


9. **Conventional names** (item 12)

48. The discussion, in which the representatives of Austria, Belgium, Canada, Federal Republic of Germany, Finland, Greece, Hungary, India, Kenya, the Khmer Republic, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Uganda, the United Nations of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, as well as the representative of the International Hydrographic Organization, took part, first focused on the use of the terms “conventional name”, “exonym” and “traditional name” and on the semantic range of such terms. Exonyms of border features, the names and titles of states, translated names, exonyms engendered by pronunciation difficulties, phonetic exonyms and abbreviated forms of exonyms were also discussed. It was agreed that paragraphs 5-10 of document E/CONF.61/L.24 provided a useful guide to the use of exonyms and traditional names.

49. There was general agreement that the term “exonym” had advantages for international use in that, as a relatively recent coining, it was free of special connotations in the various languages, unlike the term “conventional name”, which might have different implications in French, Russian and other languages as compared with English. Exonyms and traditional names, taken as a single category, belonged to a particular language and could not in themselves be subject to international standardization. There was nevertheless clear practical advantage in reducing the use of those names but it was recognized that that must be a careful process, in which consideration should be given to the context and purpose for which the names were used. Examples were given of the confusion that could be caused by unwise displacement of exonyms and traditional names in certain circumstances.

50. The Committee recommended two draft resolutions for approval by the Conference. It was recognized that many difficulties in respect of exonyms remained to be solved and that the matter would be the subject of continuing study both by the Group of Experts as a whole and by regional meetings of the various linguistic/geographical divisions.

### International standardization and its field of application (item 13)

51. Preliminary discussion revealed many different views. The representative of the United States of America raised the question of practicality as against idealism, and the necessity therefore for some testing of acceptability. The representative of the Federal Republic of Germany felt it was necessary to distinguish between the process of arriving at the international standardization and its eventual application, elements referred to by Sweden as the formal and substantial aspects, respectively. The Chairman said that the now generally accepted position that international standardization must be based on prior national standardization implied the reciprocal acceptance within nations of internationally standardized names. He further pointed out that the field of application of international standardization of geographical names included the naming of features beyond a single sovereignty.

52. Discussion of the definition of international standardization took as its starting point paragraph 1 of document E/CONF.61/L.23. The representatives of the Netherlands and the Federal Republic of Germany preferred the extended and more generalized definition suggested by the representative of Hungary, and that was the basis of the draft resolution approved for adoption by the Conference.
53. International standardization will be a continuing process depending particularly on the national standardization programmes; a draft resolution concerning some preliminary steps that might be taken in the latter respect was approved for adoption by the Conference.

54. Reference was made to the fact that directories of place names published, for example, by the Universal Postal Union and the International Telecommunication Union had a direct bearing on the field of application of international standardization and it was agreed that contact with those organizations would have to be established. There were indeed many facets, particularly financial ones, to that whole subject which needed to be examined in more detail than had been possible at the Conference and it was agreed that those should be studied further by the Group of Experts.

55. The representative of Romania drew attention to the growing use of touristic maps and suggested that, in order to ensure the systematic and consistent use of standardized geographical names, the Group of Experts should request the International Union of Official Travel Organizations (IUOTO) to recommend to its members the use on their tourist maps of geographical names standardized according to the guidelines laid down at the two United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names. A draft resolution was accordingly prepared for adoption by the Conference.

**Automatic data processing (item 17)**

56. Papers on automatic data processing presented by Israel, the Federal Republic of Germany and the United States of America (E/CONF.61/L.15, L.19 and L.48) showed that the matter was one of increasing importance; traditional processing methods are now inadequate in some countries for handling the vast number of names that are being standardized.

57. Practical experience mentioned by Canada, the Federal Republic of Germany, Finland, Hungary, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom and the United States demonstrated that the aspect of automatic data processing most crucial to the work of names standardization was the need to preserve diacritical marks and other printing form distinctions. The necessity for improving international exchange of information in that field was emphasized. A draft resolution on the subject was approved for adoption by the Conference.

**Action by the Conference**

58. On the basis of the work of Committee IV, the Conference adopted resolutions on Lists of exonyms (conventional names, traditional names) (resolution 28); Exonyms (resolution 29); and Application of data processing (resolution 30); A common understanding of the aims and objects of the international standardization of geographical names (resolution 31); International co-operation in the standardization of geographical names (resolution 33); International standardization of names beyond a single sovereignty (resolution 34); Interim lists of standardized names (resolution 35); and Use of names on tourist maps (resolution 38).

59. To provide future guidance for the translation of the English terms “standardization” and “romanization” into French and Spanish, the Conference adopted a resolution on Standardization (resolution 37).

**Report on the work of Committee V**

**Features beyond a single sovereignty (item 14)**

60. It was agreed to separate the item into the following subitems:

(a) Names of features whose sovereignty is shared by two or more nations;

(b) Names of Antarctica;

(c) Undersea and maritime names;

(d) Extraterrestrial names.

61. With reference to (a), it was noted that the Scandinavian countries had agreed upon a common spelling of Skagerrak, and made progress in uniform rendition of Lappish names along frontiers. It was agreed, as proposed in E/CONF.61/L.22, that if nations sharing a feature cannot agree on a common name form, international cartography should apply the name forms of each of the languages in question.

62. Antarctica presented a special case since some countries did and others did not recognize national sovereignties in that area. The treatment of the names of Antarctica by the United States Board on Geographic Names was an example of the successful work done through international exchange of information; during the past 25 years all countries active in the area had reached a wide measure of agreement on those names. In 1943, when the work was begun, the situation had been chaotic, but there was currently almost total agreement on the 15,000 to 20,000 existing names.

63. The representative of the Soviet Union considered that the lack of an international agreement hampered the standardization of such names. The Chairman mentioned as an example that undersea features were defined on the basis of shape and size in the United States of America and on the basis of genesis in Canada. The two countries would discuss the problem further at a meeting to be held in Canada. The International Hydrographic Bureau would co-operate in any way desired.

64. The Committee discussed various proposals including those in E/CONF.61/L.5 and E/CONF.61/L.91 and agreed to pursue the standardization of Antarctic and undersea names by promoting the adoption by national authorities of uniform or closely similar policies, by the use of standard names proposal forms, and by exchange of notices of intent to name Antarctic and undersea features.
65. With reference to maritime features, it was agreed that while the International Hydrographic Bureau’s publication *Limits of Oceans and Seas* had for a long time fulfilled a useful function in providing a common demarcation for ships to use in reporting positions, there might be need for other divisions of the oceans or of other names for them. The Group of Experts would be asked to consider this question further.

66. At the invitation of the Committee, the representative of the International Astronomical Union gave a summary of his paper entitled “On the naming of extraterrestrial features” (E/CONF.61/L.55). Concerning co-operation by the International Astronomical Union with other such interested bodies as the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, it was his opinion that while the International Astronomical Union would be willing to take advice, it would reserve to itself the right to standardize the names of extraterrestrial features.

67. It was the consensus in the Committee that the naming of features on the moon was no longer the exclusive province of the astronomers, and that other disciplines had an increasing interest in the matter. Toponomists, as specialists in naming, should make their contribution to naming policy. It was suggested that historical and classical names for application to extraterrestrial features might well be drawn from a wider range of countries than had hitherto been the case. Some representatives expressed their willingness to provide names from their countries’ history.

68. The Working Group on Extraterrestrial Names in its report expressed the opinion that the right of standardizing “cosmonyms” should not be the province of non-governmental organizations, such as the International Astronomical Union, and suggested that an international legal statement should be drawn up under United Nations auspices as a juridical basis for the adoption of rules and procedures for naming features beyond a single sovereignty. It was agreed to investigate the feasibility and acceptability of that approach.

**International co-operation (item 15)**

69. The Chairman reported that the critical financial situation of the United Nations had not permitted a permanent committee on geographical names to be established. The Economic and Social Council had, however, requested the *Ad hoc* Group of Experts on Geographical Names, set up at Geneva in 1967, to carry on the tasks planned for the permanent committee. The *Ad hoc* Group at its third session had, therefore, recommended to the Conference that its name be changed to “United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names”. That recommendation was unanimously approved by the Committee and a draft resolution was approved for adoption by the Conference.

70. The membership of the Group of Experts was discussed. The Committee was informed that the Group would meet at United Nations Headquarters where interpretation and other conference facilities could be made available. The meetings would be open to all who wished to participate, as experts and not as representatives of Governments, and travel and subsistence costs would be borne by their Governments. Invitations were being sent to States Members of the United Nations to make the services of experts available, by naming those individuals who had indicated their interest in participating. All the linguistic/geographical divisions of the world should, as far as possible, be represented, but the number of participants should not exceed 25. The Committee unanimously accepted the aims, functions and *modus operandi* of the Group of Experts, as proposed in the report of the Group on its second session, but recommended that the Group of Experts should keep these under review.

71. The Group of Experts and the United Nations Secretariat were requested to obtain the name and address of any individual or body directly concerned with geographical names in each country and capable of serving as a focal point for the reception of informal communications from the Chairman of the Group of Experts concerning United Nations work on the standardization of geographical names, as well as any other useful information that might become available on the subject. The United Nations Secretariat should also be informed of the name, address and composition of the names authorities of countries. The documents produced by those authorities should be sent to the United Nations Secretariat and/or directly to all interested countries.

72. The Group of Experts had discussed the possibility of the United Nations publishing a bulletin or newsletter on names standardization. The Committee agreed that some such communication should be circulated before the next meeting of the Group of Experts.

73. The Chairman stated that international acceptance of nationally standardized names required that the features named be adequately identified, preferably by latitude and longitude.

74. The representative of Nigeria said that before one country produced a gazetteer of another country, there should be comprehensive consultations between the countries concerned. The Chairman informed the Committee that the United States of America was increasingly arranging for active collaboration in the production of such gazetteers.

75. The Group of Experts had recommended that all countries should decide which linguistic/geographical division they wished to join, and that some participation in the activities of more than one division was acceptable within reasonable limits.

76. In view of the difficulties encountered by the less developed countries in meeting the cost of travel by their representatives to meetings in New York or to divisional meetings, and since financial assistance would be desirable for that purpose, it was suggested that countries should specify their wishes in regard to technical assistance, preferably on such broad questions as the establishment of national names authorities, on which some countries had indicated that they would like to have the assistance of visiting experts.
77. The representative of the Netherlands said that the International Institute of Aerial Survey and Earth Sciences at Enschede was willing to organize a pilot training course in toponymy in English for 20-25 students from developing countries during the summer of 1974. The representative of Finland said that it might be possible to organize a similar course by the Norden linguistic/geographical division. The representative of Spain said that his country offered regular university courses on the topic in Spanish.

78. The representative of the Federal Republic of Germany presented a report on a bibliography of gazetteers, dictionaries and glossaries of geographical terms which he was preparing in accordance with an assignment he had received from the Group of Experts in February 1971. The bibliography would cover the period 1945-1972. More than 1,200 entries had already been listed. The representative of Canada said it would also be desirable to carry out and publish a survey of gazetteers and glossaries not yet completed.

79. The Committee submitted draft resolutions for adoption by the Conference.

III. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE

1. Third United Nations conference on the standardization of geographical names

The Conference,

Noting the results of the work accomplished in the standardization of geographical names by the States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies as well as by the interested international organizations,

Further noting that these results were for the greater part due to the impetus given by the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names,

Recognizing the important contributions to this work made by the Second Conference, as reflected in the resolutions that have been adopted,

Further recognizing the necessity of continuing this important work,

Recommends to the Economic and Social Council that a third United Nations conference on the standardization of geographical names be held not later than the first half of 1977.

2. Work of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

The Conference,

Noting the excellent work performed by the Group of Experts on Geographical Names in the period since the First Conference held at Geneva in 1967, including the organization of this Second Conference,

1. Recommends that the Group of Experts continue to be guided by the statement of aims, functions and modus operandi contained in the report on its second session held in March 1970; 11

2. Further recommends that the Group of Experts undertake the preparatory work for a third conference at a date to be determined in the near future.

3. Name of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

The Conference,

Having considered the report of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Geographical Names on its third session, 12

Noting that the Group is now a continuing body and that the term “ad hoc” is no longer appropriate,

Recommends that the Group of Experts should be officially named the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.

4. Linguistic/geographical divisions

The Conference,

Noting the listing of the linguistic/geographical divisions in the report of the First Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, 13

Recognizing some of the preferences as stated in the present Conference,

12 Ibid.
5. Bulgarian Cyrillic alphabet

The Conference,

Noting that Bulgaria has officially adopted and used for a number of years a system for romanizing Bulgarian geographical names from the Bulgarian Cyrillic alphabet,

Noting also that a substantial body of Bulgarian geographical names currently exists in terms of the BGN/PCGN 1952 transliteration system for Bulgarian Cyrillic,

Recommends that the system set forth by the Council on Orthography and Transcription of Geographical Names in its English version, *System of Transliteration and Transcription of Bulgarian Geographical Names in Roman Letters* (Sofia, 1972), with the addition of certain alternative romanizations for particular Bulgarian Cyrillic characters to be used only as a group, be adopted as the international system for the romanization of Bulgarian geographical names from the Bulgarian Cyrillic alphabet.

ANNEX

| 1. А а a | 12. Л л l | 23. Ц ц c |
| 2. Б б b | 13. М м m | 24. Ч ч c |
| 3. В в v | 14. Н н n | 25. Ш ш щ |
| 4. Г г g | 15. О о o | 26. Ш ш щ |
| 5. Д д d | 16. П п p | 27. Б б b |
| 6. Е е e | 17. Р р r | 28. Ъ ъ y |
| 7. Ж ж z | 18. С с s | 29. Ю ю y |
| 8. Э э э | 19. Т т t | 30. Я я j |
| 9. И и i | 20. У у u | 31. Ь Ь y |
| 10. Й й j | 21. Ф ф f | 32. Ъ ъ y |
| 11. К к k | 22. Х х h | 33. Ж ж j |

The following alternatives are permitted, but only as a group:

7. Ж ж z 25. Ш ш щ 29. Ю ю yu
10. Й й j 26. Ш ш щ 30. Я я ja
22. Х х h 27. Ъ ъ y 31. Ь Ь y
23. Ц ц c 28. Б б b 32. Б б b ya or e
24. Ч ч c

* If pronunciation is known, otherwise ye.

6. Cyrillic alphabets of Yugoslavia

The Conference,

Recognizing that two scripts have long been in official use in Yugoslavia, i.e., the Roman and the Cyrillic scripts,

Recognizing further that in Yugoslavia romanization is carried out in official gazetteers and maps in accordance with a uniform system,

Recommends that the system as used in the official publication *Imenik Mesta* (Gazetteer of inhabited places) published by the Federal Statistical Office, Belgrade, latest edition 1971, be adopted as the international system for the romanization of the Cyrillic alphabets officially used in Yugoslavia for Yugoslav geographical names.

7. Romanization of the Amharic alphabet

The Conference,

Recognizing the need to adopt a single system for the transliteration of Amharic into the Roman alphabet,

Recommends that the *Amharic to English Transliteration System* (2nd revised edition, August 1962) adopted by the Imperial Ethiopian Mapping and Geography Institute be accepted as the standard international system for the writing of Ethiopian geographical names in the Roman alphabets.

8. Romanization of Arabic geographical names

The Conference,

Considering resolutions 11 and 12 of the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names,\(^\text{14}\)

Noting the system adopted by the Arabic experts at the conference held at Beirut in 1971, which is reproduced in the annex to document E/CONF.61/L.77,\(^\text{15}\)

Further noting the practical amendments carried out and agreed upon by the representatives of the Arabic-speaking countries at their conference,

Recommends the adoption of the amended Beirut system, as shown in the annex to E/CONF.61/L.77, for the romanization of the geographical names within those Arabic-speaking countries where this system is officially acknowledged.


9. Romanization of Hebrew geographical names

The Conference,

Noting that the romanization system described in
foot-notes 1 and 2 to document E/CONF.61/L.15, has
been accepted and legalized by the Government
of Israel,

Noting further that a substantial body of toponymy
exists in terms of this system,

Recommends the adoption of this system for the
romanization of geographical names in Israel for in-
ternational use.

10. Romanization of Khmer geographical names

The Conference,

Recognizing the need to adopt a single system for the
romanization of the Khmer writing system,

Recommends that the system set out in document
E/CONF.61/L.5/Add. be accepted as the standard
international system for the writing of Khmer geograp-
ical names in the Roman alphabet.

11. Transliteration into Roman and Devanagari
of the languages of the Indian group

The Conference,

Referring to paragraph (c) of recommendation D,
Multilingual areas, contained in resolution 4 adopted
by the First United Nations Conference on the Standard-
dization of Geographical Names,

Considering the need to romanize the geographi-
cal names of the official languages of the Indian group for
use in international cartography,

Recommends that the tables of Transliteration into
Roman and Devanagari of the Languages of the Indian Group,
with the exception of Sinhala and the note
regarding Tamil, be adopted for the romanization of the
alphabets of the languages of the Indian group.

12. Sixth Congress of Academies of the Spanish Language

The Conference,

Noting that there is a multilateral understanding
among the great majority of Spanish-speaking countries
that their linguistic problems should be solved by joint
agreement,

Considering further that the Sixth Congress of Academies of the Spanish Language is to be held at Caracas
in November 1972 under the auspices of the Government
of Venezuela,

Recommends that the decisions of the Congress of Caracas be brought to the attention of the United
Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.

13. Publication of romanization systems

The Conference,

Having adopted a number of systems for the romaniza-
tion of various alphabets for international cartography,
Recommends that these be published by the United
Nations in a booklet for wide dissemination to its
Members.

14. Technical terminology

The Conference,

Noting the good progress made since the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geogra-
phical Names in listing and defining in various languages
the technical terms used in the standardization process,
as illustrated in several documents of the Conference,

1. Recommends that the work be continued by the
Group of Experts and its Working Group on Definitions;

2. Further recommends that the Experts or other
representatives of Member States should send to the
Working Group for consideration any additions or
amendments which at any time they consider desirable
to the list of terms set out in document E/CONF.61/
L.1/Rev.

15. Bibliography

The Conference,

Noting that a bibliography of gazetteers and glossaries
has been requested by the Group of Experts,

Noting further that such a bibliography has been
brought near to completion by E. Meynen, the Expert
from the Federal Republic of Germany,

Recommends that the bibliography upon completion
be published in World Cartography.

Ibid., agenda item 7.
15 Ibid., agenda item 11.
14 United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geo-
graphical Names: Vol. I. Report of the Conference (United
Nations publication, Sales No. E.68.I.9), p. 11.
Haranal, Survey of India.

20 The original photocopies will be provided by the experts
concerned.
21 Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization
of Geographical Names: Vol. II. Technical Papers (United Nations
publication, to be issued), agenda item 8.
16. Uniformity of presentation of glossaries

The Conference,

Recognizing the need for uniformity in the presentation of glossaries in gazetteers,

Further recognizing that such uniformity is difficult to pursue in detail,

Recommends that:

(a) Each gazetteer or geographical dictionary should include:

(i) An exhaustive alphabetized glossary of the designatory terms used in it, with a brief explanation of their meanings;

(ii) An exhaustive alphabetized glossary of the generic terms occurring in it, with a brief explanation as to their meanings and their regional distributions, and with reference to the designatory terms under which they are headed;

(iii) An exhaustive glossary of abbreviations of designations or of other codes used for them;

(iv) An exhaustive alphabetized glossary of abbreviations used in maps on which the gazetteer is based;

(b) Each gazetteer and geographical dictionary may include, where useful, a glossary of frequently recurring name elements other than generic terms;

(c) The designatory terms and the brief explanations referred to in subparagraphs (a) (i) and (ii) above should be translated into one or more of the official languages of the United Nations, where the original document itself is not in one of those languages.

19. Regional meetings

The Conference,

Having considered resolution 7 on regional meetings adopted by the First Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names,\(^2\)

Considering also the success achieved at the regional meetings held in Latin America, as also in the Norden division, the Europe east central and south-east division, the Dutch-speaking and German-speaking division and the Arabic division,

Recommends that each division prepare and forward to the United Nations a proposed programme of meetings within the division.

20. Exchange of experience

The Conference,

Considering the advisability of exchange of experience among those responsible for the standardization of geographical names within a given division and/or region,

Recommends that exchanges of visits between members of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names should be encouraged.

21. Standardization of names of extraterrestrial topographic features

The Conference,

Having discussed the current situation with regard to the naming of extraterrestrial topographic features,

Recognizing that greatly increased lunar and planetary exploration, study and associated detailed large-scale mapping require a new perspective on the naming of extraterrestrial features and a wider base for international agreement,

Recommends that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names study the question of drafting an international convention on the standardization of extraterrestrial nomenclature, in co-operation with other competent international bodies.

22. Standardization of maritime nomenclature

The Conference,

Recognizing that the increased interest and activities of countries in the marine environment require an improvement in international nomenclatural standardization,

Recommends that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names study existing national and international practices concerning the delimitation and naming of oceans and seas, including their integral subdivisions, beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, with a view to recommending improvements in current nomenclatural practices and procedures.

23. Names of Antarctic and undersea features

The Conference,

Noting that the high degree of agreement on Antarctic names reached by the nations actively interested in that area has been achieved through informal co-operation, including the adoption of similar naming policies and the exchange of information supporting new name proposals and counter-proposals, if any,

Recognizing that these procedures come within the established framework of national standardization bodies,

Considering that these procedures are also applicable to co-operation on the naming of undersea features,

1. Recommends that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names work on a model statement or statements on the treatment of undersea feature names that can be suggested for adoption by interested countries;

2. Recommends further that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names develop model forms for proposing names of undersea features and Antarctic geographical entities for consideration by national names authorities, patterned after those used by the United States Board on Geographical Names and by similar organizations in other countries, and a form or forms for use by a national names authority in notifying any interested countries or institutions of its intention to name an undersea or Antarctic feature.

24. Standardization of names beyond a single sovereignty

The Conference,

Recognizing the increased tempo and volume of research and investigations of the world, the ocean, Antarctica and space, including the moon and the solar planets,

Recognizing further that the absence of an international convention or any other international document determining the rules and procedures of naming and designating features beyond a single sovereignty presents an obstacle to production and application of maps and other documents for international use,

Considering that a special document elaborated under the auspices of the United Nations might provide a general base for adopting technical rules and procedures for the naming and renaming of various kinds of extraterrestrial topographic features and geographical features beyond a single sovereignty,

Recommends that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names give consideration to the elaboration of such a document in collaboration with the corresponding United Nations bodies and other international organizations competent in this problem.

25. Names of features beyond a single sovereignty

The Conference,

Considering the necessity of an international standardization of names of geographical features which are under the sovereignty of more than one country or are divided among two or more countries,

1. Recommends that countries sharing a given geographical feature under a different name form should endeavour to reach agreement on fixing a single name for the feature concerned;

2. Further recommends that when countries sharing a given geographical feature and having different official languages do not succeed in agreeing on a common name form, it should be a general rule of international cartography that the name forms of each of the languages in question should be accepted. A policy of accepting only one or some of such name forms while excluding the rest on principle would be inconsistent as well as inexpedient in practice. Only technical reasons may sometimes make it necessary, especially in the case of small-scale maps, to dispense with the use of certain name forms belonging to one language or another.

26. Standardization of names of undersea features beyond a single sovereignty

The Conference,

Considering the importance of the international standardization of names of undersea features beyond a single sovereignty,

Recognizing further the absence nowadays of a definite system and procedure for naming such features,

Recommends that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, in co-operation with the appropriate national and international organizations and, in particular, with the International Hydrographic Organization, draw up a system for naming undersea features beyond a single sovereignty and propose it as a basis for preparing an international convention on the subject.
II

The Conference,

Noting that problems of terminology of undersea features inhibit international standardization of geographical names employing these terms,

Noting further the discussions on terminology of undersea features that are in progress among various countries and with the oceanography profession,

Recommends that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, in co-operation with interested national names authorities and international organizations, attempt to standardize the definitions of undersea feature terms and definitions and to promote their acceptance and use by names authorities.

27. Assistance for programmes of field collection of names and of office treatment of names

The Conference,

Noting the importance of field collection and office treatment of names for all countries of the world,

Noting also the need, particularly for the developing countries, to draw up a systematic programme for the field collection of names and their office treatment,

Considering that many countries lack qualified personnel and financial means,

Recommends that the authorities and countries that are in a position to do so should give their full support to the establishment of such a programme.

28. Lists of exonyms (conventional names, traditional names)

The Conference,

Desiring to facilitate the international standardization of geographical names,

Recognizing that certain exonyms (conventional names, traditional names) form living and vital parts of languages,

Recognizing further that certain exonyms (conventional names, traditional names) remain in the language after the need for them has diminished,

Recommends that national geographical names authorities prepare lists of exonyms currently employed, review them for possible deletions, and publish the results.

29. Exonyms

I

The Conference,

Recognizing the desirability of limiting the use of exonyms,
the achievement of equivalences between different writing systems};

2. Further recommends that, as far as possible, the standardized local names should be used in maps and charts which are intended for international use and also in all international publications in which geographical names do not appear in the running text, such as international time-tables or tables of international statistics. Where geographical names appear in the running text in international publications in a given language, exonyms may be used, but in such cases it is desirable that the standardized local geographical names should also appear in brackets.

32. Dissemination of decisions by national authorities

The Conference,

Having considered the problems connected with the standardization carried out by national geographical names authorities,

Noting that many of the problems have arisen because of insufficient dissemination,

1. Recommends the relevant recommendations contained in resolution 4 on national standardization adopted by the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, namely, that each national geographical names authority should disseminate as widely as possible, particularly to other national authorities concerned and to the United Nations Secretariat, not only the latest decisions on national geographical names but also the names included in their geographical dictionaries, gazetteers etc.;

2. Recommends that the United Nations Secretariat distribute such material as it receives to those international agencies and organizations known to be interested, and to the members of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.

33. International co-operation in the standardization of geographical names

The Conference,

Having discussed the problem of the international standardization of geographical names and its field of application,

Recognizing the difficulty of this problem and the necessity of establishing contact with interested international organizations, such as the Universal Postal Union and the International Telecommunication Union,

Recommends that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names continue to study this problem in co-operation with such organizations.

34. International standardization of names beyond a single sovereignty

The Conference,

Having discussed the problems of the international standardization of geographical names,

Having agreed that its field of application extends to the establishment of standardized names of geographical entities lying beyond a single sovereignty,

Recommends that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names continue to study this wider aspect.

35. Interim lists of standardized names

The Conference,

Recognizing that the final publication of full national gazetteers may not be immediately possible in some countries,

Further recognizing the necessity for having a basic stock of standardized names available for international use,

Considering the keen interest expressed by various countries in abolishing exonyms and using nationally standardized names, and in order to accelerate this process,

1. Recommends that, in the interim, countries be encouraged to publish concise lists of their names of geographical entities, including administrative divisions, within a reasonable time;

2. Recommends further that, as far as possible, where these names are officially written in a non-Roman script for which a romanization system has been agreed at the First or Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, romanized names in accordance with those systems should be included in the lists.

36. Problems of minority languages

The Conference,

Noting that in some areas, e.g., the Lappish-speaking part of northern Europe, a minority language is spoken inside the territory of more than one country,

Noting further that geographical names in the minority language are sometimes spelt according to different principles in the different countries where the minority language is spoken,

Recognizing the desirability of a uniform treatment of the names in the minority language in such areas,
Recommends that, where possible, the countries in question, in consultation with native speakers of the minority language:

(a) Adopt a common orthography for all geographical names of the minority language;
(b) Use that orthography for the standardization of the place names in the minority language in their territory;
(c) Publish the standardized names in their official maps and national gazetteers.

37. Standardization

I

The Conference,

Observing that in Spanish the term “normalización” is the equivalent of the English “standardization” and the French “normalisation”;

Recommends that in future the term “normalizar” should be used instead of “uniformar” and the term “normalización” instead of “uniformación” in all documents in Spanish.

II

The Conference,

Noting that in French and Spanish the terms “latinisation” and “latinización” are sometimes used to translate the English “romanization”;

Having regard to the fact that “latinizar” implies rather “to translate into Latin” and that the reference is to the adoption of the letters of that alphabet,

Recommends that, in future, in all documents in French and Spanish, “romanisation” and “romanización” should be used instead of “latinisation” and “latinización”.

38. Use of names on tourist maps

The Conference,

Desiring to ensure the consistent and systematic use in tourist maps of the geographical names standardized by each country,

Having regard to the increasing distribution and influence of tourist maps in the modern world,

Recommends that the Group of Experts get in touch with the International Union of Official Travel Organizations (IUOTO) and suggest that it should recommend all its members to use, in their tourist maps, geographical names standardized in accordance with the principles of national standardization endorsed by the work of the First and Second United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names.

39. Vote of thanks

The Conference,

Expresses

(a) Its heartfelt thanks to the Government of the United Kingdom for the excellent arrangements made by it for the organization of the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names and for the hospitality extended to each and every participant;
(b) Its gratitude to the President for the excellent way in which he conducted the meetings and the way and manner in which he looked after the welfare of the participants;
(c) Its appreciation to the officers and staff of the United Nations for their hard work.
ANNEXES

Annex I

AGENDA

1. Opening of the Conference
2. Adoption of the rules of procedure
3. Election of officers
4. Report on credentials
5. Adoption of the agenda
6. Organization of work
7. Reports by divisions and Governments on the situation in their regions and countries and on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names since the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names
8. Terminology of geographical names standardization:
   (a) Terms
   (b) Definitions
9. National standardization:
   (a) Field collection of names
   (b) Office of treatment of names
   (c) Treatment of names in multilingual areas
   (d) National gazetteers or other similar publications in which countries make available their standardized names
   (e) Administrative structure of national names authorities
10. Geographical terms:
    (a) Classification of geographical entities and geographical names

(a) The words “and geographical names” were subsequently deleted from this subitem. See paragraph 39 of the present report.

(b) Glossaries:
   (i) Process of compilation
   (ii) Uniformity of presentation
   (iii) Generic terms
   (iv) Designations
   (v) Coded items
   (vi) Abbreviations
   (vii) Other

11. Writing systems:
    (a) Transfer of names from one writing system into another:
       (i) Into a single romanization system
       (ii) Into other writing systems
    (b) Writing of names from unwritten languages

12. Conventional names:
    (a) Definition
    (b) Usage

13. International standardization and its field of application
14. Names of features beyond a single sovereignty:
    (a) Features common to two or more nations
    (b) Maritime features
    (c) Undersea features
    (d) Extraterrestrial features

15. International co-operation:
    (a) Composition and functions of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names
    (b) Exchange of information
    (c) Regional meetings
    (d) Technical assistance
    (e) Bibliography

16. Special attention to problems identified in papers presented by Governments
17. Automatic data processing

Annex II

LIST OF DOCUMENTS ISSUED FOR THE CONFERENCE

| E/CONF.61/1 | Provisional agenda |
| E/CONF.61/2 | Agenda |
| E/CONF.61/3 | Draft report |
| E/CONF.61/4 and Add.1 | Report of the Conference and Technical papers |
| E/CONF.61/C.1/L.1 | Draft report of Committee I |
| E/CONF.61/C.2/L.1 | Draft report of Committee II |
| E/CONF.61/C.3/L.1 | Draft report of Committee III |
| E/CONF.61/C.4/L.1 | Draft report of Committee IV |
| E/CONF.61/C.5/L.1 | Representation of tropical Africa in the Group of Experts |
| E/CONF.61/C.5/L.2 | Draft report of Committee V |
| E/CONF.61/INF.1 | Documentation for the Conference |
| E/CONF.61/INF.2 and Add.1 | Advance information for participants |
| E/CONF.61/INF.3/Rev.1 | List of documents issued for the Conference |
| E/CONF.61/INF.5 (English only) | List of participants |
| E/CONF.61/L.1/Rev.1 (English only) | A glossary of technical terminology for employment in the standard- |

* A number in parentheses following the title of a document indicates the agenda item under which the document was submitted.
ization of geographical names, prepared by the Working Group on Definitions of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Geographical Names (8)

E/CONF.61/L.2

Geographical terms, glossaries, generic terms; preparation of topographical glossaries: some problems with African toponyms, submitted by Kenya (10 (b) (iii))

E/CONF.61/L.3

Reports by divisions and Governments of the situation in their regions and countries and on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names since the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names; report of the Dutch-speaking and German-speaking group, 1967-1971 (7)

E/CONF.61/L.4

Writing systems: transfer of names from one writing system into another; report of the Working Group on a Single Romanization System, 19 February 1970 to 6 December 1971 (part I) and 7 December 1971 to 15 April 1972 (part II) (11 (a) (i)).

E/CONF.61/L.5/Add.1 (English only)

Writing systems: transfer of names from one writing system into another; transaliteration into Roman and Devanagari of the Indian group

E/CONF.61/L.5/Add.2 (English only)

Writing systems: transfer of names from one writing system into another; transaliteration into Roman and Devanagari of the Indian group

E/CONF.61/L.5/Add.3 (English only)

Writing systems: transfer of names from one writing system into another; comparative tables

E/CONF.61/L.5/Add. 4 (English only)

Writing systems: transfer of names from one writing system into another; transaliteration of Khmer writing

E/CONF.61/L.5/Add. 5 (English only)

Writing systems: transfer of names from one writing system into another; transaliteration of Thai writing

E/CONF.61/L.5/Add. 6 (English only)

Writing systems: transfer of names from one writing system into another; transaliteration of Maldivian writing

E/CONF.61/L.5/Add. 7 (English only)

Writing systems: transfer of names from one writing system into another; transaliteration of the Amharic alphabet

E/CONF.61/L.5/Add.8 (English only)

Writing systems: transfer of name from one writing system into another; transaliteration of the Arabic alphabet

E/CONF.61/L.5/Add.9 (French only)

Systèmes d’écriture: transposition des noms d’un système d’écriture dans un autre; transliteration du macédonien en caractères latins

E/CONF.61/L.5/Add.10 (English only)

Writing systems: transfer of names from one writing system to another; transaliteration of Bulgarian writing

E/CONF.61/L.5/Add.11 (English only)

Writing systems: transfer of names from one writing system into another; transaliteration of Somali writing

E/CONF.61/L.5/Add.12 (English only)

Writing systems: transfer of names from one writing system into another; transaliteration of Persian writing

E/CONF.61/L.5/Add.13 (French only)

Systèmes d’écriture: transposition des noms d’un système d’écriture dans un autre; transliteration du mongol en caractères latins

E/CONF.61/L.5/Add.14 (English only)

Writing systems: transfer of names from one writing system to another; transaliteration of modern Greek writing

E/CONF.61/L.5/Add.15 (English only)

Writing systems: transfer of names from one writing system into another; transaliteration of Serbo-Croatian writing

E/CONF.61/L.5/Add.16 (English only)

Writing systems: transfer of names from one writing system to another; transaliteration of Laotian writing

E/CONF.61/L.5/Add.17 (English only)

Writing systems: transfer of names from one writing system to another; transaliteration of Japanese writing

E/CONF.61/L.5/Add.18 (English only)

Writing systems: transfer of names from one writing system into another; transaliteration of Khmer writing (part II)

E/CONF.61/L.6

Reports by divisions and Governments on the situation in their regions and countries and on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names since the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names; report on the present state of work concerning the standardization of geographical terminology in Yugoslavia, submitted by Yugoslavia (7)

E/CONF.61/L.7

National standardization: treatment of names in multilingual areas; writing systems: transfer of names from one writing system into another; standardization of geographical terminology; transcription of geo-
graphical terms and names, submitted by Yugoslavia (9 (a)
and 11 (a))
E/CONF.61/L.8

Terminology of geographical names
standardization; Spanish terminol-
ogy for geographical names, document prepared by Spain (8)
E/CONF.61/L.9

Progress report on work relating
to geographical names in the
Republic of Viet-Nam (1967-
1972), report prepared by the
Republic of Viet-Nam (7)
E/CONF.61/L.10

Transcription of geographical names
in the Republic of Viet-Nam,
document prepared by the
Republic of Viet-Nam (9)
E/CONF.61/L.11

Work in progress in the standard-
dization of geographical names
in Poland since the First United
Nations Conference (Geneva,
1967), prepared by Poland (9)
E/CONF.61/L.12

Reports by divisions and Govern-
ments on the situation in their
regions and countries and on
the progress made in the standard-
dization of geographical names
since the First United Nations
Conference on the Standardi-
zation of Geographical Names,
paper submitted by Switzerland
(7)
E/CONF.61/L.13

National standardization, paper
prepared by Costa Rica (9)
E/CONF.61/L.14

Names of features beyond a single
sovereignty; undersea features;
undersea features gazetteer, pre-
sented by the United States of
America (14 (c))
E/CONF.61/L.15

The standardization of geographical
names in Israel; paper submitted
by Israel (7, 9 (c), 11 (a) (i),
11 (a) (ii), 12 (b), 9 (d) and 17)
E/CONF.61/L.16

Reports by divisions and Govern-
ments on the situation in their
regions and countries and on
the progress made in the standard-
dization of geographical names
since the First United Nations
Conference on the Standardi-
zation, paper submitted by Aus-
tria (7 and 9)
E/CONF.61/L.17

National standardization, paper
prepared by Guatemala (9)
E/CONF.61/L.18

Draft rules of procedure, prepared
by the Secretariat (2)

Automatic data processing, computer
processing of geographical names, presented by the Federal
Republic of Germany (7)
E/CONF.61/L.19

Maritime features; maritime fea-
tures beyond a single sover-
ereignty, presented by the Federal Republic of Germany 14 (b)
E/CONF.61/L.20

Writing systems, presented by Aus-
tria, the Federal Republic of
Germany, the Netherlands and
Switzerland (11 (a), (b))
E/CONF.61/L.21

Names of features beyond a single
sovereignty; features common to
two or more nations, presented
by Austria, the Federal Republic
of Germany, the Netherlands
and Switzerland (14 (a))
E/CONF.61/L.22

International standardization and
its field of application, presented
by Austria, the Federal Republic
of Germany, the Netherlands
and Switzerland (13)
E/CONF.61/L.23

Conventional names; definitions,
usage, presented by Austria, the
Federal Republic of Germany,
the Netherlands and Switzerland
(12 (a), (b))
E/CONF.61/L.24

Names of features beyond a single
sovereignty; maritime features,
dersea features, paper sub-
mitted by Austria, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Nether-
lands and Switzerland (14 (b), (c))
E/CONF.61/L.25

Geographical terms, presented by
Austria, the Federal Republic of
Germany, the Netherlands
and Switzerland (10)
E/CONF.61/L.26

National standardization; national
gazetteers or other similar publi-
cations in which countries make
available their standardized names
(9 (d))
E/CONF.61/L.27

Writing systems; transfer of names
from one writing system into
another; romanization of Chi-
nese, document submitted by
the joint regional conference of
the linguistic/geographical divi-
sions : Europe, east central and
south-east and the Union of
Soviet Socialist Republics (11 (a))
E/CONF.61/L.28

National standardization; field
collection of names, paper sub-
mitted by Canada (9 (a))
E/CONF.61/L.29

National standardization; office
treatment of geographical names
in Canada, presented by Canada
(9 (b))
E/CONF.61/L.30

National standardization; national
gazetteers or other similar publi-
cations in which countries make
available their standardized names,
presented by Canada (9 (d))
E/CONF.61/L.31

Names of features beyond a single
sovereignty; undersea features,
presented by Canada (14 (a))
E/CONF.61/L.32

Names of features beyond a single
sovereignty; undersea features;
international nomenclature of
ocean bottom features, paper
submitted by Canada (14 (c))
E/CONF.61/L.32/Add.1

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<td>E/CONF.61/L.33</td>
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<td>Writing systems; transfer of names from one writing system into another; into a single romanization system; Canadian policy with regard to the standardization of recently collected Eskimo toponyms according to the Lefebvre-Gagné orthography, paper submitted by Canada (11 (a) (i))</td>
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<td>E/CONF.61/L.43</td>
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- Standardization of geographical names in Japan (part I), paper submitted by Japan (9)
- Maritime features; undersea features, paper submitted by Japan (14 (b), (c))
- Progress report on the standardization of geographical names in Finland, 1967-1972, paper submitted by Finland (7)
- The application of automation to geographical names, submitted by the United States of America (17)
- Progress report on the standardization of geographical names in the United States of America, submitted by the United States of America (7)
- International aspects of geographical names standardization, submitted by the United States of America (13)
- Generic terms used in geographical names in Board on Geographic Names gazetteers of countries in the Americas south of the United States, submitted by the United States of America (10 (b) (iii))
- Generic terms used in geographical names in Board on Geographic Names gazetteers of countries in the Americas south of the United States; list of geographical terms submitted by the United States of America (10 (b) (iii))
- Conventional names; gazetteer, submitted by the United States of America (12 (b))
- Conventional names; gazetteer; former conventional names dropped by the United States Board on Geographic Names, submitted by the United States of America (12 (b))
- Coastal name lists submitted by the United States of America (9 (d))
- International geographical names standardization; the 1967 Conference, paper submitted by the United States of America (13)
- On the naming of extraterrestrial features, paper prepared by the International Astronomical Union (14 (d))
- Report on work conducted in Cyprus concerning geographical names, paper submitted by Cyprus (7)
Report on work conducted in Cyprus concerning geographical names; table of transliteration of the Greek writing system into the Roman, paper submitted by Cyprus (7)

Report of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Geographical Names on its second session from 10 to 20 March 1970 (15)

Progress made in the standardization of geographical names since the Geneva Conference. Paper submitted by Norway (7)

Terminology of geographical names standardization terms and definitions, paper submitted by Norway (8)

Names of features beyond a single sovereignty; features common to two or more nations, paper submitted by Norway (14 (a))

Conventional names, paper submitted by Norway (12)

Progress report, paper submitted by Lebanon (9)

Report by France (7)

National standardization; field collection of names, paper submitted by France (9 (a))

Normalisation nationale; recherche sur le terrain des données relatives aux noms géographiques; modèle d'état justificatif des noms; document présenté par la France (9 (a))

Geographical terms; classification of geographical entities and geographical names, paper submitted by France (10 (a))

Glossary of the terminology used in the standardization of geographical names, paper submitted by France (8)

Glossaire de la terminologie employée dans la normalisation des noms géographiques, document présenté par la France (8)

French-English glossary of terms used in the cartographic publications of the National Geographic Institute, paper submitted by France (10 (b))

Glossaire français-anglais des désignations figurant sur les publications cartographiques de l'Institut géographique national; document présenté par la France (10 (b))

Report on the progress made in Brazil in the matter of standardization of geographical names since the Geneva Conference, paper submitted by Brazil (7)

A brief statement of the position in Ireland, paper submitted by Ireland (9)

Some geographical terms and definitions used in Guatemala, paper submitted by Guatemala (8)

Algunos términos geográficos y definiciones usuales en Guatemala, documento preparado por Guatemala (9)

Progress report by Guatemala on work on standardization of geographical names since the Geneva Conference, paper submitted by Guatemala (7)

Informe de Guatemala sobre los progresos realizados en materia de uniformación de nombres geográficos desde la Conferencia de Ginebra, documento preparado por Guatemala (7)

Report by the Expert for Latin America of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (7)

Experience in the study of popular (local) geographical terms and compilation of terminological glossaries, submitted by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (10 (b))

On the romanization systems for Russian place names; comparative study of the systems of romanization of the Russian alphabet, submitted by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (11 (a))

On the names of features situated outside a single sovereignty, submitted by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (14)

Report on the standardization of geographical names, submitted by Egypt (7)

Application of names to undersea features beyond the sovereignty of maritime nations, submitted by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (14 (c))

System of transliteration and transcription of Bulgarian geographical names in Latin letters, submitted by Bulgaria (11 (a) (f))

Progress scored by Romania in the years 1967-1972 on the way of standardizing the geographical nomenclature, submitted by Romania (7)

Compilation of a list of geographical names from the zone along the
E/CONF.61/L.82 Transcription of the Cyrillic alphabet in Roman characters, submitted by Czechoslovakia (14 (a))
E/CONF.61/L.83 Names of celestial bodies as topographical objects, submitted by Czechoslovakia (14 (d))
E/CONF.61/L.84 Report of the activities of the seventh and eighth regional groups between 1967 and 1971, submitted by Czechoslovakia (15 (c))
E/CONF.61/L.85 The contemporary state of work in the field of geographical terminology in Czechoslovakia, submitted by Czechoslovakia (7)
E/CONF.61/L.86 Project of an international dictionary of geographical terms used on maps, submitted by Czechoslovakia (10)
E/CONF.61/L.87 Index of the 1:2,500,000 world map as a basis of the international list of geographical names, submitted by Czechoslovakia (14 (a))
E/CONF.61/L.88 Requirements and suggestions concerning the standardization of geographical terminology, submitted by Czechoslovakia (10 (a))
E/CONF.61/L.89 Project of the international dictionary of geographical terms used on general geographical maps, submitted by Czechoslovakia (10 (b) (i))
E/CONF.61/L.90 The Pinyin system; system of the transcription of Chinese characters in Roman letters, submitted by Czechoslovakia (11 (a) (ii))
E/CONF.61/L.91 Names of features beyond a single sovereignty; undersea features; maritime features, Submitted by Norway (14 (b), (c))
E/CONF.61/L.92 Romanization guide, submitted by the United States of America (11 (a) (i))
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E/CONF.61/L.98 Conventional names; definition and usage of exonyms, submitted by Hungary (12)
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E/CONF.61/L.100 Report by the Hungarian Committee on Geographical Names, submitted by Hungary (7)
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E/CONF.61/L.102 (English only) Reports by Governments on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names, submitted by Iran (7)
E/CONF.61/L.103 (English only) Status report of the International Hydrographic Organization, presented by the International Hydrographic Organization (15)
E/CONF.61/L.104 (English only) Reports by Governments on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names, paper submitted by Kenya (7)
E/CONF.61/L.105 (English only) Standardization of geographical names in Nigeria, paper submitted by Nigeria (7)
E/CONF.61/L.106 (English only) Romanization of geographical names for international use, paper submitted by the United States of America (11)
E/CONF.61/L.107 (English only) Contemporary problems of selennomy, paper submitted by the United States of America (14 (d))
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E/CONF.61/L.109 (English only) Reports by divisions and Governments on the situation in their regions and countries and on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names since the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, presented by Sweden (7)
E/CONF.61/L.110 (English only) Geographical names of certain bodies of water within Philippine territorial waters, paper presented by the Philippines (9)
E/CONF.61/L.111 Report presented by the Khmer Republic (7)
E/CONF.61/L.112 Account of work on toponyms in Greece (7)
E/CONF.61/L.113 Report of Cuba (7)
Annex III

RULES OF PROCEDURE

Chapter I

REPRESENTATION AND CREDENTIALS

Rule 1
Each State participating in the Conference shall be represented by an accredited representative. If more than one representative is appointed, one of them shall be designated as head of the delegation. Each delegation may also include such alternate representatives, advisers and experts as may be required.

Rule 2
The credentials of representatives, and the names of alternate representatives, advisers and experts shall be submitted to the Executive Secretary, if possible not later than 24 hours after the opening of the Conference. The credentials shall be issued either by the Head of the State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Rule 3
A Credentials Committee shall be appointed at the beginning of the Conference. It shall consist of five members who shall be appointed by the Conference on the proposal of the President. It shall examine the credentials of representatives and report without delay.

Rule 4
Pending the decision of the Conference upon the report on credentials, the representatives, alternate representatives, advisers and experts shall be entitled provisionally to be seated in the Conference.

Chapter II

AGENDA

Rule 5
The provisional agenda set forth by the Secretariat and communicated to the Governments invited to the Conference by the Secretary-General of the United Nations shall form the provisional agenda for the Conference. Any representative of States participating in the Conference may propose any item for inclusion in the provisional agenda.

Chapter III

OFFICERS

Rule 6
The Conference shall elect a President, two Vice-Presidents and a Rapporteur from among the representatives of the States participating in the Conference.

Rule 7
The President shall preside over the plenary meetings of the Conference. He shall not vote but may designate another member of his delegation to vote in his place.

Rule 8
If the President is absent from a meeting or any part thereof, a Vice-President designated by him shall preside. A Vice-President acting as President shall have the same powers and duties as the President.

Chapter IV

SECRETARIAT

Rule 9
The Executive Secretary of the Conference appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations shall act in that capacity in all meetings of the Conference. He may appoint a deputy to take his place at any meeting.

Rule 10
The Executive Secretary or his representative may at any meeting make either oral or written statements concerning any question under consideration.

Rule 11
The Executive Secretary shall provide and direct such staff as is required by the Conference. He shall be responsible for making all necessary arrangements for meetings and generally shall perform all other work which the Conference may require.

Chapter V

CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Rule 12
A majority of the representatives participating in the Conference shall constitute a quorum.

Rule 13
In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him elsewhere by these rules, the President shall declare the opening and closing of each plenary meeting of the Conference, shall direct the discussion at such meetings, accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote and announce decisions. He shall rule on points of order and, subject to these rules of procedure, shall have complete control over the proceedings.

Rule 14
The President may, in the course of the discussions, propose to the Conference the closure of the list of speakers or the closure of the debate. He may also propose the suspension or the adjournment of the meeting or the adjournment of the debate on the item under discussion. He may also call a speaker to order if his remarks are not relevant to the matter under discussion.

Rule 15
The President, in the exercise of his functions, remains under the authority of the Conference.
Rule 16

During the discussion on any matter, a representative may at any time raise a point of order, and the point of order shall be immediately decided by the President in accordance with the rules of procedure. A representative may appeal against the ruling of the President. The appeal shall be immediately put to the vote and the President's ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of representatives present and voting. A representative raising a point of order may not speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

Rule 17

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move the adjournment of the debate on the item under discussion. Any such motion shall have priority. In addition to the proposer of the motion, one representative shall be allowed to speak in favour of, and one representative against, the motion.

Rule 18

During the course of the debate, the President may announce the list of speakers and with the consent of the Conference declare the list closed. The President may, however, accord the right of reply to any representative if, in his opinion, a speech delivered after he has declared the list closed makes it desirable. When the debate on an item is concluded because there are no other speakers, the President shall declare the debate closed. Such closure shall have the same effect as closure by the consent of the Conference.

Rule 19

A representative may at any time move the closure of the debate on the item under discussion, whether or not any other representative has signified his wish to speak. Permission to speak on the closure of debate shall be accorded only to two speakers opposing the closure, after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote.

Rule 20

The Conference may limit the time allowed for each speaker.

Rule 21

Proposals and amendments shall normally be introduced in writing and handed to the Executive Secretary of the Conference, who shall circulate copies to the delegations. As a general rule, no proposal shall be discussed or put to the vote at any meeting of the Conference unless copies of it have been circulated to all delegations not later than the day preceding the meeting. The President may, however, permit the discussion and consideration of amendments or motions as to procedure even though these amendments or motions have not been circulated or have only been circulated the same day.

Rule 22

A motion may be withdrawn by its proposer at any time before voting on it has commenced, provided that the motion has not been amended. A motion which has thus been withdrawn may be reintroduced by any representative.

Rule 23

When a proposal has been adopted or rejected, it may not be considered unless the Conference, by a two-thirds majority of the representatives present and voting, so decides. Permission to speak on the motion to reconsider shall be accorded only to two speakers opposing the motion, after which it shall be immediately put to the vote.

Chapter VI

Voting

Rule 24

Each State represented at the Conference shall have one vote, and the decisions of the Conference shall be made by a majority of the representatives of States participating in the Conference present and voting.

Rule 25

For the purpose of these rules, the phrase "representatives present and voting" means representatives present and casting an affirmative or negative vote. Representatives who abstain from voting shall be considered as not voting.

Rule 26

The Conference shall normally vote by show of hands, but any representative may request a roll-call. A roll-call shall be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the delegations at the Conference, beginning with the delegation whose name is drawn by lot by the President.

Rule 27

After the President has announced the beginning of the vote, no representative shall interrupt the vote except on a point of order in connexion with the actual conduct of voting. Explanations of their votes by representatives may, however, be permitted by the President either before or after the voting. The President may limit the time to be allowed for such explanation.

Rule 28

Parts of a proposal shall be voted on separately if a representative requests that the proposal be divided. Those parts of the proposal which have been approved shall then be put to the vote as a whole; if all the operative parts of a proposal have been rejected, the proposal shall be considered rejected as a whole.

Rule 29

When an amendment is moved to a proposal, the amendment shall be voted on first. When two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the Conference shall first vote on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal and then on the amendment next furthest removed therefrom, and so on, until all the amendments have been put to the vote. When, however, the adoption of one amendment necessarily implies the rejection of another amendment, the latter amendment shall not be put to the vote. If one or more amendments are adopted, the proposal shall then be voted upon. A motion is considered an amendment to a proposal if it merely adds to, deletes from or revises part of that proposal.

Rule 30

If two or more proposals relate to the same question, the Conference shall, unless it decides otherwise, vote on the proposals in the order in which they have been submitted. The Conference may, after each vote on a proposal, decide whether to vote on the next proposal.

Rule 31

All elections shall be decided by secret ballot unless otherwise decided by the Conference.

Rule 32

If, when one person or one delegation is to be elected, no candidate obtains the required majority in the first ballot, a second ballot shall be taken, which shall be restricted to the two candidates obtaining the largest number of votes. If, in the second ballot, the votes are equally divided, the President shall decide between the candidates by drawing lots.
In the case of a tie in the first ballot among the candidates obtaining the second largest number of votes, a special ballot shall be held for the purpose of reducing the number of candidates to two. In the case of a tie among three or more candidates obtaining the largest number of votes, a second ballot shall be held; if a tie results among more than two candidates, the number shall be reduced to two by lot.

Rule 33

If a vote is equally divided upon matters other than elections, a second vote shall be taken after an adjournment of the meeting for 15 minutes. If this vote also results in equality, the proposal shall be regarded as rejected.

Chapter VII

LANGUAGES

Rule 34

English, French and Spanish shall be the working languages of the Conference.

Rule 35

Speeches made in any one of the official languages of the United Nations shall be interpreted into the other four official languages.

Rule 36

Any representative may make a speech in a language other than the official language of the United Nations. In this case, he shall himself provide for interpretation into one of the working languages of the Conference. Interpretation into the other working languages of the Conference by the interpreters of the Secretariat may be based on the interpretation given in the first working language.

Chapter VIII

RECORDS

Rule 37

Minutes of the plenary meetings of the Conference shall be kept by the Secretariat in English only.

Chapter IX

PUBLICITY OF MEETINGS

Rule 38

The plenary meetings of the Conference and the meetings of its committees shall be held in public unless the body concerned decides that exceptional circumstances require that a particular meeting be held in private.

Chapter X

COMMITTEES

Rule 39

The Conference may establish such committees as may be necessary for the performance of its functions. Items relating to the same category of subjects may be referred to the committee dealing with that category of subjects. Committees shall not introduce any item on their own initiative.

Rule 40

Each committee shall elect its own Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur.

Rule 41

So far as they are applicable, the rules of procedures of the Conference shall apply to the proceedings of the committees. A committee may dispense with certain language interpretations.

Chapter XI

SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, OTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Rule 42

Observers of specialized agencies invited to the Conference may participate, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference and its committees, upon the invitation of the President or the Chairman, as the case may be, on questions within the scope of their activities.

Written statements of such specialized agencies shall be distributed by the Secretariat to the delegations at the Conference.

Rule 43

Other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations attending the Conference may, upon the invitation of the President or the Chairman of a committee of the Conference, as the case may be, submit written or oral statements to the Conference on subjects for which these organizations have a special competence.

Chapter XII

AMENDMENTS

Rule 44

These rules of procedure may be amended by a decision of the Conference.
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