

**Resolutions Adopted at the Ten United Nations Conferences on  
the Standardization of Geographical Names  
1967, 1972, 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992, 1998, 2002, 2007, 2012\***

\*Prepared for the United Nations by Natural Resources Canada

**RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE  
TEN UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCES  
ON THE STANDARDIZATION  
OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES**

**1967, 1972, 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992, 1998,  
2002, 2007, 2012**

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- A. LISTED BY SUBJECT**
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**PREPARED FOR THE UNITED NATIONS  
BY  
NATURAL RESOURCES CANADA**

## INTRODUCTION

The ten United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names (convened in 1967, 1972, 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992, 1998, 2002, 2007 and 2012) have adopted 207 resolutions.

Under the guidance of Max de Henseler, a former Secretary of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN), the resolutions of the first four conferences were grouped under general subject headings, and documented for the Fifth Conference held in Montréal in 1987.

Following that conference, the Secretariat of the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names\* compiled a compendium to include all the resolutions of the first five conferences; subsequent editions added resolutions from the Sixth, Seventh, Eighth and Ninth Conferences. Now, this current edition includes the 12 resolutions adopted at the Tenth Conference. To make this reference volume as useful as possible, the footnotes and references have been updated to facilitate consultation, and a table has been included to indicate under which subject heading each resolution is to be found.

In 1987, the considerable variation in scope, importance, and applicability of the resolutions was noted. Therefore, following the Fifth Conference, UNGEGN created a Working Group on Evaluation. Among its tasks was the evaluation of all resolutions from the perspective of their substantive effects on the state of geographical names standardization at national and international levels. The first edition of this document proved to be a useful tool for this Working Group, and the regularly updated compendium has continued to be a basic reference work.

Between the Ninth and Tenth Conferences a searchable database of all the resolutions was created by the same Working Group (now referred to as the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation) and was made generally available through the UNGEGN web site.

It is hoped that the current edition and the database will continue to be valuable references for all those involved in the work of UNGEGN and in preparing for the Eleventh UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names.

Helen Kerfoot  
Chair, UNGEGN, 2002-2012

\* The Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names became the Geographical Names Board of Canada in March 2000.

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- \* Preparation of gazetteers (section 10)/Exonyms (section 14)
- \*\* Preparation of gazetteers (section 10)/Automated data processing (section 13)
- \*\*\* Maritime and undersea feature names (section 17)/Names of features beyond a single sovereignty (section 18)
- % UN Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names (section 1)/United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (section 2)
- %% Education and training in treatment of geographical names (section 7)/Automated data processing (section 13)
- %%% Bibliographies (section 11)/Manual of national names standardization (section 21)
- # National standardization (section 5)/Minority languages (section 23)
- ## Education and training in treatment of geographical names (section 7)/Manual of national names standardization (section 21)
- ### United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (section 2)/Regional meetings (section 6)

**A. RESOLUTIONS LISTED BY SUBJECT**

**1. UN CONFERENCES ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES**

**I/2 Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names**

The Conference,

Noting the importance of the standardization of geographical names and the great interest shown in this subject by the numerous participants in the Conference from the States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies, as well as interested international organizations,

Appreciating the work that has been accomplished by the participants in this Conference,

Recognizing the necessity of standardizing geographical names for both national and international usage,

Recommends to the Economic and Social Council that the second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names be held not later than the last quarter of 1970.

**II/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.



### **III/1 Fourth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names**

#### The Conference,

Noting the importance and necessity of continuing the work on the standardization of geographical names on both the national and international levels by States Members of the United Nations,

Further noting the important contributions of this Conference, as well as the contributions of the First and Second United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names,

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Government of Iran for its offer to act as host country for the fourth United Nations conference on the standardization of geographical names;
2. Recommends to the Economic and Social Council that the fourth United Nations conference on the standardization of geographical names be convened in Iran not later than the first half of 1982.

### **III/24 Use of the Arabic language as a working language at future United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names**

#### The Conference,

Considering that since 1975 the Arabic language has been a working language of the General Assembly of the United Nations and of some of its organs,

Noting that seven Arab States have participated in the Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names and that not less than 15 such States are expected to participate in the fourth conference,

Noting also that the Arabic language is understood by eight delegations (other than those of Islamic States) attending the Third Conference and that the number of delegations that understand the language thus constitutes almost one third of the participating delegations,

Considering that the Arab States are willing to bear in part or in full the cost of making the Arabic language a working language of the fourth conference,

Recommends that Arabic be made one of the working languages of future United Nations conferences on the standardization of geographical names and meetings of the Group of Experts.

### **IV/1 Fifth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names**

#### The Conference,

Noting the results of the work accomplished in the standardization of geographical names on both the national and international levels by the States Members of the United Nations,

Further noting the important contributions made by the Conference to this work,

Recognizing the necessity of continuing this important work,

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Government of Canada for its offer to act as host for the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names;
2. Recommends to the Economic and Social Council that a Fifth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names be held in Canada not later than the second half of 1987.

#### **V/1 Sixth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names**

The Conference,

Noting the positive results of the work accomplished on the standardization of geographical names at both the national and international levels by States Members of the United Nations,

Noting also the essential role played by the present Conference in the co-ordination of those efforts,

Recognizing the necessity of continuing this important work,

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Government of Morocco for its offer to act as host for the Sixth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names;
2. Recommends to the Economic and Social Council that the Sixth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names be convened in Morocco in the second half of 1992.

#### **V/7 National reports**

The Conference,

Recognizing that the national reports submitted by each country to the United Nations conferences on the standardization of geographical names contain much information that is useful for the consideration of the various items of the agenda of the conferences,

Bearing in mind that, in order to make an adequate evaluation of the progress made by all participating countries, it is important that the documents relating to each item of the agenda be made available to the conferences on time and, when necessary, by each participating country,

1. Recommends that the United Nations Secretariat, when sending invitations to Member States to participate in the conferences, attach a detailed plan (model) for the drafting of national

reports, providing specific guidelines for countries to follow in reporting on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names since the preceding conference;

2. Also recommends that the necessary steps be taken to ensure that all the national reports to be discussed at a conference are distributed to participating countries at least one month before the conference is due to begin.

#### **V/8 Reports of international organizations concerned with the standardization of geographical names**

The Conference,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1314 (XLIV) of 31 May 1968, by which the Council requested the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, inter alia, to collect information issued by international organizations dealing with the standardization of geographical names,

Considering that, in order to avoid duplicating the work done by various international organizations on the standardization of geographical names, the Group deems it advisable that those organizations themselves develop standardization activities, in co-ordination with the Group,

Recommends that all officers responsible for maintaining liaison with those international organizations prepare written reports on the activities of the organizations for submission to each United Nations conference on the standardization of geographical names and each meeting of the Group and that, in the absence of such liaison officers, the Secretariat request the organizations themselves to provide such reports.

#### **VI/6 Seventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names**

The Conference,

Noting the positive results of the work accomplished on the standardization of geographical names at both the national and international levels by States Members of the United Nations,

Noting also the essential role played by the present Conference in the coordination of those efforts,

Recognizing the necessity of continuing this important work;

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for its offer to act as host for the Seventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names;

2. Recommends to the Economic and Social Council that the Seventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names be convened in the Islamic Republic of Iran in the second half of 1997.

**VII/2 Eighth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names and twentieth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names**

The Conference,

Noting the positive results of the work accomplished on the standardization of geographical names at both the national and international levels by States Members of the United Nations,

Noting also the essential role played by the present Conference and by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names at its nineteenth session,

Recognizing the necessity of continuing this important work,

1. Recommends to the Economic and Social Council that the Eighth Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names be convened in the second half of 2002;
2. Also recommends to the Economic and Social Council that the twentieth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names be convened during the fourth quarter of 1999;
3. Further recommends that the Economic and Social Council continue to support the important work of the secretariat of the Group of Experts regarding the standardization of geographical names.

**VIII/16 Ninth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names and the twenty-second session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names**

The Conference,

Noting the progress made in the work of the standardization of geographical names, at both the national and international levels, by States Members of the United Nations,

Noting also the essential role played therein by the present United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names and by the sessions of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names,

Recognizing the necessity of continuing this important work,

1. Recommends to the Economic and Social Council that the Ninth Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names be convened in the second half of 2007;
2. Also recommends to the Economic and Social Council that the twenty-second session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names be convened in 2004.

**IX/1 Tenth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names and the twenty-fifth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names**

The Conference,

Noting the achievements and the progress made in the work of geographical names standardization at both the national and international levels,

Noting also the essential role played by the present Conference and by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names at its twenty-fourth session,

Recognizing the necessity of continuing this important work with the support of the Economic and Social Council,

1. Recommends to the Economic and Social Council that the Tenth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names be convened in 2012;
2. Also recommends to the Council that the twenty-fifth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names be convened in the first half of 2009.

**X/1 Eleventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names and the twenty-eighth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names**

The Conference,

Noting the achievements and the progress made in the work of standardization of geographical names at the national and international levels,

Noting also the essential role played by the present Conference and by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names at its twenty-seventh session,

Recognizing the necessity of continuing this important work with the support of the Economic and Social Council,

1. Recommends to the Economic and Social Council that the Eleventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names be convened in 2017;

2. Also recommends to the Council that the twenty-eighth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names be convened in the first half of 2014;
3. Invites the Bureau of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names to initiate a process of reflection on how to further improve the working methods of the Conference and its report for the next session.

## **2. UNITED NATIONS GROUP OF EXPERTS ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES**

### **I/1 United Nations Permanent Committee of Experts on Geographical Names**

#### The Conference,

Recognizing the importance of a continuing effort by States Members of the United Nations and members of its specialized agencies and other interested international organizations for advancing the standardization of geographical names,

Considering the United Nations to have the most appropriate means for providing the facilities for such an effort,

Recommends to the Economic and Social Council that a United Nations permanent committee on geographical names be created, consisting of experts, to provide for continuous co-ordination and liaison among nations to further the standardization of geographical names and to encourage the formation and work of regional groups,

Further recommends to the Council that the composition of the United Nations Permanent Committee of Experts on Geographical Names should reflect geographical/linguistic distribution, that it should be assisted by the services of a secretariat within the United Nations, and that the members of the Committee should meet annually, beginning in 1968, at their Governments' expense,

Requests that the Secretariat of the United Nations continue to act as the central agency to follow up the clearing-house functions for geographical names by:

- (a) Collecting information concerning technical procedures and gazetteers;
- (b) Collecting data on techniques and systems used by countries in the transliteration and transcription of geographical names;
- (c) Disseminating to all States Members of the United Nations and members of its specialized agencies all information on the work of the Permanent Committee of Experts on Geographical Names as well as on the work of Member States as reported to the United Nations, utilizing where feasible existing United Nations periodicals and other means of communication available.

## **II/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;<sup>1</sup>
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.

## **II/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,

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.

## **II/4 Linguistic/geographical divisions**

### The Conference,

Noting the listing of the linguistic/geographical divisions in the report (Vol. 1, 1967, p. 7) of the First Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names,

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

Recommends that, for the time being, the titles of the linguistic/geographical divisions be the following:

1. United States of America - Canada
2. Latin America
3. United Kingdom group
4. Dutch-speaking and German-speaking group
5. Norden

6. Romance languages, other than Latin America
7. Europe, east central and south-east
8. Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
9. Arabic
10. Asia, south-west, other than Arabic
11. Indian group
12. Asia, south-east
13. Asia, east
14. Africa south of the Sahara

### **III/5 Divisional activities and meetings**

The Conference,

Having considered resolution 7 of the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names and resolution 19 of the second Conference,

Considering also the growing productiveness of divisional and interdivisional meetings and co-operative undertakings as reported to this Conference,

Recommends that the divisions continue and expand such activities and forward to the Cartography Section of the Centre for Natural Resources, Energy and Transport, Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, United Nations Secretariat reports of meetings as they are held, of agreements as they are reached and of co-operative programmes as they are initiated.

### **III/26 African linguistic/geographic divisions**

The Conference,

Noting that resolution 4 of the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names designated Africa South of the Sahara as one linguistic/geographic division,

Recognizing that this division is now divided into divisions designated Africa, East and Africa, West,

Further recognizing that the objectives of the Conference will be better achieved by making the divisions more realistically representative,

Recommends that the number of the African linguistic/geographic divisions in the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names be increased to three, under the following titles;

- (a) Africa, West
- (b) Africa, Central
- (c) Africa, East



**IV/21 Commendation of the work of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names**

The Conference,

Recognizing the positive results of the efforts and work carried out by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names,

Considering also the growing influence of the documents prepared by the Group of Experts on Geographical Names on the national and international development of standardization of geographical names,

1. Recommends that the Group of Experts should continue its efforts to standardize geographical names at the national and international level;
2. Also recommends that the Economic and Social Council should express its appreciation of the efforts of the experts of the various countries which have made it possible to achieve the existing level of standardization of geographical names.

**IV/22 Principles of activities and structure of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names**

The Conference,

Noting the usefulness of the activities of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names,

Noting also that in order to improve the effectiveness of its future activities, it may be necessary to review the form of the basic documents, which are United Nations decisions, modus operandi, aims and functions and rules of procedure, defining the activities of the Group of Experts,

Acknowledging that the available documents should identify precisely the essential principles of the activities and structure of the Group of Experts,

Noting further that there are several relevant documents which have been prepared separately,

Recommends that the Group of Experts should examine the possibility of preparing a document combining and modifying, where appropriate, the separate documents referred to above.

**IV/23 Statement of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names of aims and functions and its effect on Working Groups**

The Conference,

Noting that the Group of Experts on Geographical Names adopted a statement of aims and functions at its ninth session,<sup>2</sup>

Taking note of function 11 of the statement, which read as follows:

"Take steps to make the working groups of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names more effective:

"(a) Working Groups will be established only where the tasks assigned to them have a direct bearing on the aims of the Group of Experts.

"(b) The need for the existence of working groups will be reviewed at successive sessions of the Group of Experts for the purposes of continuing or terminating their mandates.

"(c) Immediately after conferences, the Group of Experts will discuss and evaluate conference proceedings. Working Groups and their mandates will be evaluated. New working groups will be formed as required",

Considering that this statement provides a means whereby the Group of Experts can operate more effectively,

Recommends that the activities of the Working Groups should be governed accordingly.

#### **IV/24 Divisional activities**

The Conference,

Considering that the Geographical/Linguistic Divisions are a fundamental element in the structure of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names,

Considering further that the Divisions are particularly well qualified to recognize problems of standardization of geographical names common to their geographical/linguistic areas,

Noting that certain divisions have made outstanding progress in the development of solutions concerning name standardization,

Recognizing the necessity of extending the exchange of experience and information among different divisions,

1. Recommends that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names should continue to encourage the Geographical/Linguistic Divisions to be more active in implementing the decisions of the United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names, as applicable, in working out reporting schedules on their activities to all States within their Divisions and to the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names;

2. Recommends further that the Divisions should promote the exchange of information among them and, for this purpose, should make available to the other divisions, as frequently as possible, the results of their work in the way deemed appropriate.

#### **IV/25 Funding support of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names**

The Conference,

Confirming the requirement for the continued operations of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names,

Recommends that the Cartography Section of the Natural Resources and Energy Division of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development of the United Nations Secretariat, on behalf of the Conference, should investigate the possibility of the provision of funds by the appropriate United Nations agency for the financing of the meetings of the Group of Experts.

#### **V/2 Statute of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names**

The Conference,

Noting that, by resolution 22, the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names recommended that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names examine the possibility of preparing a single document defining the structure and activities of the Group,

Noting also that, at its twelfth and thirteenth sessions, the Group adopted the statute of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names,<sup>3</sup>

Considering that the statute was prepared in accordance with the recommendation made by the Fourth Conference in its resolution 22,

Recommends that the statute of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names should henceforth be the basic document governing the work of the Group.

#### **V/3 Creation of a Celtic Division and an East Mediterranean Division (other than Arabic)**

The Conference,

Considering that the composition of the linguistic/geographical divisions should enhance the work of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names,

Noting the preferences expressed by the Group at its eleventh and twelfth sessions,<sup>4</sup>

Noting also the proposals made by the Group to establish a Celtic Division and to divide the present Asia South-West Division (other than Arabic) into two divisions, namely, an Asia South-West Division (other than Arabic) and an East Mediterranean Division (other than Arabic),

Recommends that the number of linguistic/geographical divisions in the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names be increased by two, as follows:

Celtic Division;  
East Mediterranean Division (other than Arabic).

#### **V/4 Work performed by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names and its future activities**

The Conference,

Recognizing the positive results achieved by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names,

Considering that during the period between United Nations conferences on the standardization of geographical names the Group is the only body within the United Nations system dealing with problems relating to geographical names at the international level,

Wishing to ensure that the activities of the Group are maximized at all times, and to consolidate those programmes that most effectively promote national and international standardization,

1. Recommends that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names continue to pursue actively its responsibilities as defined in its statute and in accordance with the resolutions adopted by the present Conference;
2. Recommends also that a working group be established within the Group to:
  - (a) evaluate the activities of the Group and investigate fresh approaches and new avenues to achieve its goals and objectives in the most efficient manner;
  - (b) review the resolutions adopted by the United Nations conferences on the standardization of geographical names and report on their implementation; and
  - (c) report on its findings to the Group at its fourteenth session.

#### **V/10 Co-operation with the Pan American Institute of Geography and History**

The Conference,

Recognizing that other international organizations have an interest in programmes concerning the standardization of geographical names,

Aware that the programmes of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names concerning undersea features and extra-terrestrial features have been effectively transferred to the International Hydrographic Organization and the International Astronomical Union, respectively, and that the interests of the Group are represented by a liaison officer with both organizations,

Aware also that the Pan American Institute of Geography and History has formally expressed support for the programme of the Working Group on Gazetteers and Geographical Names of its Cartography Commission,

Recommends that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names:

- (a) Recognize the potential of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History for accomplishing worthwhile objectives in its areas of operation;
- (b) Establish liaison with the Institute to ensure optimal collaboration between the two bodies.

**VI/1 Creation of an Africa South Division, a Baltic Division and an Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia Division**

The Conference,

Considering that the composition of the linguistic/geographical divisions should enhance the work of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names,

Recommends the creation of the following new linguistic/geographical divisions, to be called:

Africa South Division;  
Baltic Division;  
Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia Division.

**VI/2 Reactivation of the Latin America Division**

The Conference,

Considering that the linguistic/geographical division of Latin America was not represented at the Sixth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names,

Recommends that the countries of Brazil, El Salvador, Mexico, Portugal, Spain and Venezuela reactivate this division, initially composed of those six countries, but later strengthened by the participation of all the countries of Latin America.

### **VI/3 Statement of the aims and functions of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names**

The Conference,

Noting that in resolution 4, the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names recommended that a Working Group be established to evaluate the activities of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names,

Recalling the statute of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names,<sup>5</sup> which contained the aims and functions of the Group,

Noting that the Working Group has prepared a revised version<sup>6</sup> of the aims and functions of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names designed to give the Group of Experts a more active role,

Considering that the revision of the statute of the Group of Experts proposed by the Working Group is an initial step towards improving the functioning of the Group of Experts,

Recommends the adoption of the aims and functions of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, as revised by the Working Group.

### **VI/4 Working group on evaluation**

The Conference,

Noting that the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names established a Working Group to evaluate the activities of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, including a review of resolutions adopted at the five United Nations conferences on the standardization of geographical names,

1. Compliments the Working Group on Evaluation on the completion of its task and acknowledges its disbandment;
2. Endorses the recommendations of the Working Group on Evaluation regarding:
  - (a) The actions covered by the revised aims and functions of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (resolution 3 of the Sixth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names);

- (b) The classification of conference resolutions according to their relevance to the work of the Group of Experts;
- (c) The need for the Secretariat to maintain a list of national geographical names authorities;
- (d) The need to request oral presentation of only the summaries of written reports of countries and divisions, at United Nations conferences on the standardization of geographical names;
- (e) The need to promote national and divisional activities.

#### **VI/5 Working group on publicity and funding**

##### The Conference,

Noting the need to increase the interest of the international community in the standardization of geographical names,

Noting also that there is a lack of dissemination of information, of both a popular and a professional nature, on current work, past achievements and benefits derived from standardization,

Noting further that this lack of publicity material stems from, among other reasons, a lack of funds,

Noting the need for funding for the activities of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names,

1. Recommends the establishment of a Working Group on Publicity and Funding within the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, to work in close cooperation with the United Nations Secretariat;
2. Also recommends that the Working Group investigate methods and means of ensuring that adequate funds be allocated to the activities of the Group of Experts.

#### **VI/12 Liaison with the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research**

##### The Conference,

Recalling the existing statute (1987, revised 1992) parts I (b), and III (h), of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, by which information on the work of national and international bodies on the standardization of geographical names is to be collected, and by

which liaison with other international organizations dealing with related subjects is to be maintained,

Aware that the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research, as a scientific advisory body to the Antarctic Treaty System, has a Working Group on Geodesy and Geographic Information, which is responsible for collating geographical names in the Antarctic,

Noting that the Group of Experts needs to be adequately informed of the naming activity taking place in the Antarctic,

Recommends that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names:

- (a) Recognize the working procedures on Antarctic place-names being established by the Working Group on Geodesy and Geographic Information of the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research;
- (b) Establish liaison with the Committee for the purpose of promoting communication between the two bodies and providing the Group of Experts periodically with a written report on relevant activities of the Committee.

#### **VII/1 Creation of a French-speaking division<sup>7</sup>**

The Conference,

Considering that French-speaking countries face a common set of issues from both a toponymic and a cultural point of view, and that for those countries, a chance to be in the same division would be likely to facilitate their participation in the work of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN),

Recommends that the following division be added to the divisions of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names:

French-speaking Division.

#### **VII/2 Eighth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names and twentieth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names**

The Conference,

Noting the positive results of the work accomplished on the standardization of geographical names at both the national and international levels by States Members of the United Nations,



Noting also the essential role played by the present Conference and by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names at its nineteenth session,

Recognizing the necessity of continuing this important work,

1. Recommends to the Economic and Social Council that the Eighth Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names be convened in the second half of 2002;
2. Also recommends to the Economic and Social Council that the twentieth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names be convened during the fourth quarter of 1999;
3. Further recommends that the Economic and Social Council continue to support the important work of the secretariat of the Group of Experts regarding the standardization of geographical names.

#### **VII/7 Cooperation and agreements with consumer enterprises**

The Conference,

Recalling resolution 5 of the Sixth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names by which the Working Group on Publicity and Funding was created,

Noting the continuing difficulty of securing the funds necessary to conduct the much needed activities of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, including publication, outreach, and training,

Recognizing the substantive need for wide dissemination of standardized place names in the global marketplace for use by commercial ventures, communications firms, international software developers and others,

Recognizing that the private sector is prepared to enter into various funding and sponsorship arrangements with Governments,

1. Recommends that the United Nations Secretariat, as soon as possible after the Seventh Conference and well before the twentieth session of the Group of Experts, promulgate the existing guidelines or otherwise recommend guidelines covering the engagement of the Group of Experts in cooperative agreements and sponsorships with elements of the private sector;
2. Further recommends that the Group of Experts actively pursue the underwriting of the activities proposed by interested parties in the private sector;
3. Requests that the Secretariat report progress in this area at the next and future meetings of the Group of Experts.

## **VII/10 Support**

### The Conference,

Recognizing the importance of the work of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names and of the Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names,

Noting that, in the framework of restructuring the Secretariat of the United Nations, the reduction of staff is being achieved by not filling the positions of personnel who retire or separate otherwise from the service of the United Nations,

Noting also that the number of officials serving the United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names has decreased from five to one, and that the only one still in service will also shortly be retiring from the United Nations,

Considering that the continuity of the secretarial work of the United Nations Group of Experts and of the United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names is essential,

Requests the Secretary-General to ensure the continued availability of officials with the necessary expertise and experience in cartography and/or the standardization of geographical names to provide the relevant support to the United Nations Group of Experts and to the Conferences.

## **VII/13 Liaison with the International Organization for Standardization**

### The Conference,

Noting that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names and the International Organization for Standardization share an interest in several subject areas,

Recognizing that an exchange of information between the two could promote standardization of geographical names,

1. Recommends that the Secretariat liaise with ISO in order to encourage ISO to take note of relevant Conference resolutions on romanization, and suggests that ISO, through the Secretariat, liaise with the Working Groups on Country Names, Romanization Systems and Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers;
2. Recommends further that the United Nations Secretariat investigate the feasibility and desirability of establishing stronger links between the Group of Experts and ISO;
3. Requests that the Secretariat report the conclusions of its investigation, with recommendations, to the Group of Experts at its twentieth session.

#### **VII/14 Access to and archiving of technical papers**

##### The Conference,

Recalling resolutions 1 and 5 of the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in which it was recommended that the UNGEGN secretariat serve as a documentation centre and clearing house,

Recognizing the amount of information that has been presented at past Conferences and meetings of UNGEGN and its working groups,

Recognizing further that the collection of technical papers held by the UNGEGN secretariat is incomplete and that accessing and making available the information in them efficiently and effectively is therefore difficult,

1. Urges countries to ensure that the UNGEGN secretariat is supplied with the material necessary to fulfil its functions in this regard;
2. Recommends seeking the support and assistance of countries to catalogue and index the information in the technical papers they hold, in coordination with the UNGEGN secretariat;
3. Recommends further that assistance and support be sought from a country or countries to reproduce the documentation in a form that makes it more accessible to all;
4. Recommends also that, from now on, the secretariat collect and maintain all technical materials and papers.

#### **VIII/5 Joint meetings of the linguistic/geographical divisions and working groups of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names**

##### The Conference,

Considering resolution 7 of the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names,

Considering also the success achieved at the joint meeting of the East Central and South-East Europe Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names and the Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers of the Group of Experts,

Noting that the exchange of ideas, experience and materials at such a joint meeting would further the accomplishment of the recommendations and resolutions of the present Conference,

Recommends the continued organization of joint meetings of the linguistic/geographical divisions and the working groups of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names to address substantively regional needs in the areas of toponymic training, data files and gazetteers, romanization systems, publicity and funding, and terminology.

### **VIII/8 Assistance to the United Nations Geographic Information Working Group**

#### The Conference.

Noting that the United Nations Geographic Information Working Group endeavours to establish a spatial data infrastructure for the United Nations,

Noting also that the Working Group has identified standardized geographical names information as a crucial and fundamental component of this infrastructure,

Recognizing the role of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names in assisting the United Nations in matters pertaining to geographical names,

Recommends that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names collaborate with the United Nations Geographic Information Working Group in the design and construction of the toponymic component of the United Nations spatial data infrastructure,

Also recommends that the Group of Experts, through its structure of working groups and divisions, actively facilitate the provision of standardized geographical names information from appropriate national authorities to the United Nations Geographic Information Working Group.

### **VIII/16 Ninth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names and the twenty-second session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names**

#### The Conference.

Noting the progress made in the work of the standardization of geographical names, at both the national and international levels, by States Members of the United Nations,

Noting also the essential role played therein by the present United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names and by the sessions of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names,

Recognizing the necessity of continuing this important work,

1. Recommends to the Economic and Social Council that the Ninth Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names be convened in the second half of 2007;
2. Also recommends to the Economic and Social Council that the twenty-second session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names be convened in 2004.

**IX/1 Tenth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names and the twenty-fifth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names**

The Conference,

Noting the achievements and the progress made in the work of geographical names standardization at both the national and international levels,

Noting also the essential role played by the present Conference and by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names at its twenty-fourth session,

Recognizing the necessity of continuing this important work with the support of the Economic and Social Council,

1. Recommends to the Economic and Social Council that the Tenth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names be convened in 2012;
2. Also recommends to the Council that the twenty-fifth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names be convened in the first half of 2009.

**IX/2 Organization of the twenty-fifth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names on the African continent**

The Conference,

Noting that thus far all sessions of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names have been held in Europe or Northern America,

Noting also the little progress made for the most part by African countries in the field of geographical names standardization,

Recognizing that the majority of African countries experience difficulties in participating at the sessions of the Group of Experts in Europe and Northern America,

Affirming the important role of geographical names in economic, social and cultural development, particularly in the developing countries,

Recalling the resolution adopted by the Committee on Development Information in Africa at its fifth session, held in Addis Ababa from 29 April to 4 May 2007, concerning the organization of a session of the Group of Experts in Africa,

Recommends that the twenty-fifth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names be held on the African continent, in cooperation with the Economic Commission for Africa, at a United Nations duty station, provided that the necessary support facilities (including interpretation in the six official languages of the United Nations) are made available.

### **IX/3 Creation of a Portuguese-speaking Division**

#### The Conference,

Considering that Portuguese-speaking countries face a common set of issues from both a toponymic and a cultural point of view and that, for those countries, the opportunity to be in a common division would be likely to facilitate their participation in the work of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names,

Noting that, at its twenty-fourth session, the Group of Experts agreed to the establishment of a Portuguese-speaking Division,

Recommends that the Portuguese-speaking Division be granted full recognition as a linguistic/geographical division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.

### **X/1 Eleventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names and the twenty-eighth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names**

#### The Conference,

Noting the achievements and the progress made in the work of standardization of geographical names at the national and international levels,

Noting also the essential role played by the present Conference and by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names at its twenty-seventh session,

Recognizing the necessity of continuing this important work with the support of the Economic and Social Council,

1. Recommends to the Economic and Social Council that the Eleventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names be convened in 2017;
2. Also recommends to the Council that the twenty-eighth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names be convened in the first half of 2014;
3. Invites the Bureau of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names to initiate a process of reflection on how to further improve the working methods of the Conference and its report for the next session.

### **X/2 Organization of the twenty-eight session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names on the Asian Continent**

#### The Conference,

Noting that thus far the sessions of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names have been held in Europe, North America and once in Africa,

Noting also the need for greater progress for many Asian countries in the field of standardization of geographical names,

Recognizing that the majority of Asian countries experience difficulties in participating in sessions of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names in Europe or North America,

Affirming the important role of geographical names in economic, social and cultural development, particularly in the developing countries,

Recommends that the twenty-eighth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names be held on the Asian continent, in cooperation with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, at a United Nations duty station, provided that the necessary support facilities, including for interpretation in the six official languages of the United Nations, are made available.

**X/5      Split of the Asia South-East and Pacific South-West Division into the Asia South-East Division and the Pacific South-West Division**

The Conference,

Considering that the Asia South-East and Pacific South-West Division is, with twenty-two members, the largest Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, and noting that the high number of members has significantly impeded decision-making and the implementation of geographic naming activities,

Noting that, at its twenty-seventh session, the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names agreed to split the Asia South-East and Pacific South-West Division into the Asia South-East Division and the Pacific South-West Division,

Recommends that the Asia South-East Division and the Pacific South-West Division be granted full recognition as linguistic/geographical divisions of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.

**X/10      Support for the work on the standardization of geographical names**

The Conference,

Recognizing the positive results achieved by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names,

Considering that, during the period between United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names, the Group of Experts is the only body within the United Nations system dealing with problems relating to geographical names at the international level,

Wishing to ensure that the activities of the Group of Experts are maximized at all times and to consolidate those programmes that most effectively promote national and international standardization,

Recommends that, with the continued support of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names continue to pursue actively its responsibilities as defined in its statute and in accordance with the resolutions adopted by the present and past Conferences.

### **3. INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES**

#### **II/31 A common understanding of the aims and objects of the international standardization of geographical names**

The Conference,

Recognizing the desirability of attaining a common understanding of the aims and objects of the international standardization of geographical names,

1. Recommends the following general definition in connexion with the continuing study by the Group of Experts of the field of application of international standardization:

"International standardization of geographical names is that activity aiming at the maximum possible uniformity in the form of every geographical name on the earth and of topographical names on other bodies of the solar system by means of national standardization and/or international agreement, including 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.

#### **II/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.

#### **IV/2 Acceleration of work on standardization of geographical names**

The Conference,

Noting that, during the period since the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names there has been a change in emphasis from the execution of large special projects to a more general need for development of land use and natural resources, land redistribution, conservation of the environment and the preservation of natural resources, all of which necessitates unambiguous reference in the naming of physical entities,

Noting further that international organizations, aid authorities, government departments, engineering and mining contractors, and agencies concerned with land use, water resources, agriculture, mineral exploration and development require detailed general planning documentation and that geographical names constitute a major element in such documentation and in the identification of administrative elements, land title and a wide range of other legal documents,

Recognizing that discrepancies occurring in geographical names on maps have been experienced by all concerned with such subjects and that this confusion is compounded by similar disparities in the names to be found in material and documents issued for purposes such as transportation and tourism, economic studies and telecommunications, and that variant names result inevitably in doubt and sometimes total confusion causing unnecessary expenditure of time and money,

Recognizing further the cultural and social importance of geographical names,

Recommends that the standardization of geographical names should be accelerated by all possible means.

#### **V/6 Promotion of national and international geographical names standardization programmes**

The Conference,

Recognizing the importance of geographical names as significant elements of the cultural heritage of nations, and the economic advantage of standardizing national geographical names,

Recommends that State authorities be encouraged to provide appropriate support to standardization activities and that the standardization of geographical names be recognized as an important part of their programmes of international co-operation and technical assistance.

#### **VI/8 Information from countries regarding changes in geographical names**

The Conference,

Bearing in mind the political changes which have occurred in the world during recent years and which have a direct bearing on geographical names,

Recommends that wherever possible, every six months countries transmit information regarding changes in geographical names to the Secretary of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names in order to enable the Secretariat to disseminate that information through the *UNGEGN Newsletter* or any other relevant publication, at its convenience.

#### **4. TOPONYMIC GUIDELINES FOR MAP AND OTHER EDITORS**

##### **IV/4 Publication of toponymic guidelines for map and other editors**

The Conference,

Recognizing the desirability of international exchange of information concerning the main facts, measures and achievements in the field of national name standardization,

Noting that within the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names progress has been made in this respect since its eighth session,<sup>8</sup>

1. Recommends that countries should be encouraged to publish and keep up-to-date toponymic guidelines for map and other editors which may enable cartographers of other countries to treat correctly all problems of cartographic toponymy of the countries that produced such guidelines, and which may be of help to all users in interpreting maps;
2. Further recommends that those guidelines contain, inter alia and as appropriate, the following items:
  - (a) Legal status of geographical names in the respective languages of multilingual countries;

- (b) Alphabets of the language or languages and furthermore, in the case of non-Roman alphabets and scripts, the officially introduced romanization keys;
  - (c) Spelling rules for geographical names;
  - (d) Aids to pronunciation of geographical names;
  - (e) Linguistic substrata recognizable in the existing place names, but only as far as their knowledge may be of benefit to the cartographer;
  - (f) Relationship between dialect(s) and standard language(s);
  - (g) Peculiarities of dialect and areal distribution of the main dialects;
  - (h) Areal distribution of languages within multilingual countries;
  - (i) Names authorities and measures taken in names standardization;
  - (j) Source material;
  - (k) Glossary of words necessary for the understanding of maps;
  - (l) Abbreviations in official maps;
  - (m) Administrative division;
3. Recommends also that the toponymic guidelines submitted by Austria<sup>9</sup> should serve as a sample of format and contents;
4. Further recommends that a correspondent should be appointed by the United Nations Group of Experts on the Standardization of Geographical Names to co-ordinate the work of developing national toponymic guidelines and to maintain communication with national experts involved in the development of such guidelines.

#### **V/11 Differentiation of toponyms from other map text**

The Conference,

Noting the difficulties and misunderstandings that may arise in distinguishing toponyms from non-toponymic text on maps,

Recognizing that users whose native language is different from that used on a map may have particular difficulties in this area,

Recognizing also that the automated scanning of maps by optical electronic means may facilitate the automated recording of toponyms,

1. Recommends that a clear typographical distinction be made on national topographical maps between toponyms and text that serves other purposes;
2. Also recommends that the methods of differentiation be explained in national toponymic guidelines for map and other editors.

#### **V/14 Publication of toponymic guidelines**

The Conference,

Recalling resolution 4 on the publication by countries of toponymic guidelines for map and other editors, adopted by the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names,

Noting that, while some countries have already complied with that resolution, many have not yet done so,

Considering the key role played by such publications in attaining the objectives of national standardization as the basis for international standardization,

Recommends that countries be strongly encouraged to publish and keep up to date toponymic guidelines for map and other editors dealing, inter alia, with the items listed in resolution 4 of the Fourth Conference, and that the United Nations Secretariat provide appropriate assistance for the publication and dissemination of such guidelines.

#### **VI/7 Toponymic guidelines for map and other editors**

The Conference,

Noting with appreciation the increasing number of countries preparing toponymic guidelines for map and other editors,

Considering that wider dissemination of these toponymic guidelines is essential to maximize their usefulness,

Recommends:

- (a) That toponymic guidelines be issued in combined volumes, in at least one of the working languages of the United Nations,
- (b) that provision be made to issue the guidelines, in the *World Cartography* bulletin.

## 5. NATIONAL STANDARDIZATION

### I/4 National standardization

#### The Conference,

Recognizing that the national standardization of geographical names provides economic and practical benefits to individual nations,

Further recognizing that national standardization of geographical names by all nations is an essential preliminary to international standardization,

1. Requests that the following recommendations on the national standardization of geographical names be reviewed by the proper United Nations authorities;
2. Urges that these recommendations be conveyed to all Member States and interested international organizations for favourable consideration.

#### RECOMMENDATION A. NATIONAL NAMES AUTHORITIES

It is recommended that, as a first step in international standardization of geographical names, each country should have a national geographical names authority:

- (a) Consisting of a continuing body, or co-ordinated group of bodies, having clearly stated authority and instructions for the standardization of geographical names and the determination of names standardization policy within the country;
- (b) Having such status, composition, function and procedures as will:
  - (i) Be consistent with the governmental structure of the country;
  - (ii) Give the greatest chance of success in the national names standardization programme;
  - (iii) As appropriate, provide within its framework for the establishment of regional or local committees according to area or language;
  - (iv) Provide for consideration of the effects of its actions on government agencies, private organizations and other groups and for the reconciliation of these interests, as far as possible, with the long-range interests of the country as a whole;
  - (v) Make full use of the services of surveyors, cartographers, geographers, linguists and any other experts who may help the authority to carry out its operations efficiently;
  - (vi) Permit record keeping and publication procedures that will facilitate the prompt and wide distribution of information on its standardized names, both nationally and internationally.

It is recommended that those countries which have not yet begun to exercise their prerogative of standardizing their geographical names on a national basis should now proceed to do so.

It is further recommended that the appropriate United Nations office be kept informed by each national names authority of its composition and functions, and of the address of its secretary.

#### RECOMMENDATION B. COLLECTION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

For each geographical name which is to be standardized, it is recommended that:

- (a) The field and office research be as complete as possible in order to provide information on the following points:
  - (i) Written and spoken form of the name and its meaning according to local inhabitants;
  - (ii) Spelling in cadastral documents and land registers;
  - (iii) Spelling on modern and old maps and in other historical sources;
  - (iv) Spelling in census reports, gazetteers and other relevant documents of value;
  - (v) Spelling used by other local administrative and technical services;
- (b) The local spoken form of the name be recorded on tape and written in the phonetic notation approved by the national names authority;
- (c) The character, extent and position of the feature named be determined -- in this regard it should be noted that aerial photographs can provide useful supplementary information -- and recorded as accurately as possible, and that the meaning of the generic terms used locally be clearly defined;
- (d) If possible, at least two local independent sources be consulted for each inquiry.

It is further recommended that personnel responsible for the collection of names should have training adequate to recognize and deal with the linguistic problems (phonetic system, grammatical structure and orthography), geographic phenomena and terminology that they are likely to encounter.

#### RECOMMENDATION C. PRINCIPLES OF OFFICE TREATMENT OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

It is recommended that each names authority formulate, adopt and define the guiding principles and practices that it will normally apply in the course of operation.

These principles and practices should cover:

- (a) Formal procedures to be followed in the submission to the authority of proposals for new names or changes in names;
- (b) Factors that the authority will take into account when considering name proposals, such as:
  - (i) Current usage;
  - (ii) Historical background;

- (iii) Treatment in multilingual areas and in unwritten languages;
  - (iv) The extent to which hybrid names should be avoided;
  - (v) Avoidance of repetition of names;
  - (vi) Avoidance of more than one name for one feature;
  - (vii) Clarification of the precise extent of application of each individual geographical name, including the naming of the whole and the parts of major features;
  - (viii) Elimination of objectionable names;
- (c) Rules of writing names applied by the authority;
  - (d) Procedures whereby all interested parties may express their views on a name proposal prior to decision by the authority;
  - (e) Formal procedures for promulgation of the authority's decisions and for ensuring that standardized names shall appear on the national maps.

In the elaboration of these principles it is recommended that:

- (1) Unnecessary changing of names be avoided;
- (2) The spelling of geographical names be as much as possible in accordance with the current orthographic practice of the country concerned, with due regard to dialect forms;
- (3) Systematic treatment of names should not operate to suppress significant elements;
- (4) Where some names occur in varying or grammatical forms, the national names authority should consider making one of these forms the standard name (for nouns that can be declined, it will normally be the nominative case);
- (5) In all countries in whose languages the definite article can enter into geographical names, the national names authority should determine which names contain the definite article and standardize them accordingly. For languages in which both definite and indefinite forms exist for all or most names, it is recommended that standardization be based on one or the other form;
- (6) All countries set up standards for the use of abbreviations of elements in their geographical names;
- (7) A system be devised in each country for the treatment of compound names.

It is further recommended that the names authority give adequate publicity to these principles and practices.

#### RECOMMENDATION D. MULTILINGUAL AREAS

It is recommended that, in countries in which there exist more than one language, the national authority as appropriate:

- (a) Determine the geographical names in each of the official languages, and other languages as appropriate;
- (b) Give a clear indication of equality or precedence of officially acknowledged names;
- (c) Publish these officially acknowledged names in maps and gazetteers.

#### RECOMMENDATION E. NATIONAL GAZETTEERS

It is recommended that each names authority produce, and continually revise, appropriate gazetteers of all its standardized geographical names.

It is further recommended that, in addition to the standardized names, each gazetteer include, as a minimum, such information as is necessary for the proper location and identification of the named features.

In particular, it is recommended that the following be included:

- (a) The kind of feature to which the name applies;
- (b) Precise description of the location and the extent, including a point position reference if possible, of each named feature;
- (c) Provision for the parts of natural features to be additionally defined by reference to the whole and for the names of extended features to be defined as necessary by reference to their constituent parts;
- (d) Such information on administrative or regional areas as is considered necessary and, if possible, reference to a map or chart within which the features lie;
- (e) All officially standardized names for a feature, if there are more than one; and provision for cross-reference to be made to names previously used for the same feature.

When national authorities determine it possible, both technically and economically, they may include such information on geographical names as gender, number, definite and indefinite forms, position of stress, tone and pronunciation in the system of the International Phonetic Association and such other linguistic information as may lead to the better understanding and use of names both nationally and internationally.

#### **II/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.

## **II/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. Reiterates 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.

## **III/4 Reliability statement on geographical names in documents**

The Conference,

Recognizing the desirability of providing information on the basis of which users may judge the accuracy of names contained in a particular names source document,

1. Recommends that in such documents information be provided on whether the names concerned have been approved by the national names authority or are in a provisional form. In either event the maximum possible information should be provided as to the source of the names - for example, whether field-collected, gathered from documentary sources or specially bestowed;
2. Further recommends that an assessment also be given of the degree of accuracy of the names, together with an indication of their completeness and currency and, if appropriate, a citation of previous documents that are now superseded as to names.

### **III/16 National standardization**

#### The Conference,

Recalling that the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names adopted resolution 4, regarding national standardization,

Considering that many countries have their own national geographical names authorities with status, composition, functions and procedures clearly outlined regarding officially standardized geographical names,

Recognizing that those national geographical names authorities have set up rules pertaining to official standardization procedures,

Also recognizing that according to the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (see Vol. II, 1972, p. 52) a standardized name is a name that has the official sanction of a legally constituted entity,

Recommends that to recommendation A of resolution 4 of the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names should be added the following:

"It is recommended that any changes made by other authorities in the names standardized by the competent national geographical names authority should not be recognized by the United Nations".

### **V/12 Collection of basic information on the national standardization of geographical names**

#### The Conference,

Recognizing that basic information on the structure of authorities responsible for standardizing geographical names is both necessary and useful,

Also recognizing that the United Nations Secretariat ensures liaison and plays a key role in the area of information and documentation,

Recommends that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names prepare and the United Nations Secretariat distribute a questionnaire to be completed by national names authorities and make the results available to Member States; the questionnaire would deal with:

- (a) The structure and functions of national names authorities;
- (b) Toponymic data banks;
- (c) The content and presentation of gazetteers.

**V/15 Establishment of national geographical names authorities**

The Conference,

Recalling resolution 4, recommendation A, of the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names,

Noting that a number of countries do not yet have national geographical names authorities,

Urges those countries that do not yet have national geographical names authorities to proceed without delay to establish them, with the status, composition, function and procedures specified in resolution 4, recommendation A, of the first United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, using, where appropriate, the information collected in pursuance of resolution 12 of the present Conference and seeking, whenever necessary, technical assistance from countries of the region and from the United Nations.

**VI/9 Recognition of national standardization**

The Conference,

Recognizing the cultural and historical significance of geographical names,

Aware of the sensitivity to deliberate changing of geographical names, which could lead to the loss of cultural and historical heritage,

1. Discourages the unauthorized changing of geographical names that have already been established by a legally constituted entity and are nationally recognized,
2. Endorses and reaffirms resolution 16 of the Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, in which it was emphasized that geographical names given and/or standardized by a body other than that nationally authorized, should not be recognized by the United Nations.

**VII/5 National standardization based on local usage**

The Conference,

Recalling its guidelines on the collection and official treatment of geographical names in recommendations B and C of resolution 4 of the first United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names,

Recognizing the positive effect those guidelines have had on national standardization in many countries,

Observing that national standardization programmes are often based on national map series without benefit of investigation into current local usage,

Noting that the names of many features which do not appear on maps have yet to be collected, and may therefore be lost,

1. Recommends that measures be taken nationally to ensure that names yet to be collected are recorded, using the methods described in the above-mentioned recommendations;
2. Further recommends that, whenever possible, national standardization be based on current local usage of name forms, collected through field work.

### **VIII/1 Promotion of minority group and indigenous geographical names**

#### The Conference.

Considering that the preservation of minority and indigenous group culture is recognized as being an important aspect of the work of the standardization of geographical names,

Recalling the intent of the resolutions of earlier Conferences, namely, resolution 36 of the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names relating to multilingual geographical names and resolution 22 of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names relating to the recording and use of aboriginal/native geographical names,

Recognizing that there are many agencies throughout the world actively pursuing the retention/revitalization of minority and indigenous group culture through the recording, recognition and promotion of the toponyms representing such groups,

Recognizing also that the promotion of this work will benefit the geographical names authorities and the United Nations, as well as provide valuable information for the community in general,

Noting that Australia has offered to assist the United Nations Secretariat in the compilation and presentation of a report on this work,

Recommends that geographical names authorities throughout the world be invited to present a summary of such activities for inclusion in a general report, scheduled to appear in 2007, on these activities to be prepared by the United Nations for subsequent dissemination to all interested parties.

### **VIII/2 Commemorative naming practices for geographical features**

#### The Conference.

Noting that the use of names of persons or events to designate features for commemorative purposes or as geographical reminders constitutes an active practice,

Recognizing that the attribution of a personal name to a geographical feature during the lifetime or shortly after the death of a person is a widespread practice,

Recalling that, during a meeting of 1960, the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names acknowledged that naming or renaming of a geographical feature to include the name of a living person could be a source of problems,

Recognizing that this practice is generally disadvantageous, as this type of designation is subject to subsequent changes not recommended by the Conference,

Noting that little guidance exists on the practice of adopting a personal name during the lifetime or shortly after the death of a person,

1. Recommends that the appropriate national authorities discourage the use of personal names to designate a geographical feature during the lifetime of the person in question;
2. Also recommends that the appropriate national authorities include in their guidelines clear statements on the length of the waiting period they wish to establish before using a commemorative name.

## **VIII/9 Geographical names as cultural heritage**

### The Conference.

Recognizing the emphasis placed by delegates to the Eighth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names on the importance of geographical names as part of a nation's historical and cultural heritage,

Noting that the collection of geographical names in many countries of the world is made increasingly difficult as a result of the rapid pace of socio-economic change impacting on society and landscape,

Recalling the recommendation made by the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in its resolution 27, as well as the recommendations made by the Seventh Conference in its resolution VII/5, that measures be taken nationally to ensure that names that are yet to be collected are recorded through fieldwork according to local usage of name forms,

Urges countries that have not already done so, to undertake both the systematic collection of geographical names and the promotion of a greater understanding among the wider public of the significance of inherited geographical names with respect to local, regional and national heritage and identity.

#### **IX/4 Geographical names as intangible cultural heritage**

The Conference,

Recalling its resolutions II/27, II/36, V122, VII/5, VIII/1 and VIII/9,

Considering the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage adopted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on 17 October 2003,

Recognizing that toponyms are indeed part of the intangible cultural heritage,

Noting that the use of certain toponyms which provide a sense of identity and of continuity is under a variety of threats,

1. Encourages the official bodies responsible for toponymy to:
  - (a) Identify toponyms that meet the criteria for application of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage;
  - (b) Submit them to the Committee set up by the Convention, for approval;
  - (c) Prepare a programme to safeguard and develop that heritage in accordance with article 2, paragraph 3, and article 18 of the Convention;
  - (d) Start implementing it.
2. Calls upon the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to give sympathetic consideration to requests for support that the High Contracting Parties submit to it for such activities.

#### **IX/5 Promotion of the recording and use of indigenous, minority and regional language group geographical names**

The Conference,

Recognizing that the task set by resolution VIII/1 adopted by the Eighth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names has been completed with the publication of version 1 of a summary report of activities undertaken in various countries relating to the promotion of the recording and use of indigenous and minority group geographical names,

Noting that the promotion of the recording and use of such names is a valuable aid to the recognition retention and revitalization of indigenous, minority and regional language group heritage,

Recommends:

- (a) That version 1 of the report as published in 2007 continues to be maintained and updated;
- (b) That a set of guidelines be compiled for field collection of indigenous, minority and regional language group geographical names;
- (c) That, utilizing the various experiences from different countries, a range of models (particularly with regard to legislation, policies and research procedures) for the promotion of the recording and use of indigenous, minority and regional language group geographical names be gathered;
- (d) That a dialogue between the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names and other national and international groups and academic bodies involved with indigenous, minority and regional language group geographical names be initiated, to further the work on geographical names standardization.

**X/3 Criteria for establishing and evaluating the nature of geographical names as cultural heritage**

The Conference,

Noting the existence of a number of resolutions that address toponymy as part of a nation's cultural heritage and the necessity to preserve toponymic heritage,

Recalling recommendation C of its resolution I/4 on the principles of office treatment of geographical names,

Considering that, to develop these principles, it is recommended that unnecessary changes to geographical names should be avoided and that the treatment of names should not result in the suppression of significant toponymic elements,

Considering also that none of these principles describe how to recognize a name that should be protected for its cultural heritage qualities,

Recommends that, to recognize and protect such a geographical name or a corpus of geographical names, the following criteria be used:

- (a) The age of a name, as indicated by the date of the oldest possible record of the name;
- (b) The resilience of a name, as indicated by the duration of its continued use up to the present or by its notable capacity to transcend history;
- (c) The rarity of a name or of a toponymic phenomenon pointed out by the name;

- (d) The “testimoniality” of a name, or its capacity to clearly embody a cultural, geographical, historical, social or other reality that is specific to the place and an essential component of local, regional or national identity;
- (e) The appeal of a name, which corresponds to a feeling of belonging associated with the name and the place it designates;
- (f) The imageability of a name, or its capacity to inspire ideas or strong, rich images within users, without these images or ideas necessarily referring to history or local trivia.

#### **X/4 Discouraging the commercialization of geographical names**

The Conference,

Recognizing that the use of geographical names that seek a commercial purpose and the buying and selling of geographical names are practices that exist, especially in urban areas,

Considering that these practices transform the places and names they affect into commodities that will likely promote the replacement of geographical names with long-standing local usage and threaten the integrity of geographical nomenclatures of nations,

Recalling its resolution VIII/9, in which it recognized the importance of geographical names as part of a nation’s historical and cultural heritage, and its resolution IX/4, in which it recognized that geographical names were part of the intangible cultural heritage, within the meaning of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, adopted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on 17 October 2003,

Noting that, in the Operational Directives for the Implementation of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, it is stated that commercial activities should not threaten the viability of the intangible cultural heritage and that particular attention should be paid to avoiding commercial misappropriation and to ensuring that the commercial use does not distort the meaning and purpose of the intangible cultural heritage for the community concerned,

Considering that the use of geographical names that seek a commercial purpose and the buying and selling of geographical names are practices that harm the stability of geographical names with long-standing local usage and threaten the quality of the names as useful geographical references,

Noting that, on the one hand, a number of geographical names generated from commercial practices also have a long-standing local usage and serve as effective reference points and that, on the other hand, a number of geographical names with long-standing local usage were named spontaneously by users of the territory owing to a company’s presence in the area,

Noting also that some toponymic authorities around the world have already adopted standards to limit or prohibit such commercial toponymic practices,



Recommends that national toponymic authorities discourage the designation of geographical names that seek a commercial purpose, as well as various practices involving the commercialization of geographical names, by adopting standards that address these issues.

## **6. REGIONAL MEETINGS**

### **I/7 Regional meetings**

The Conference,

Recognizing the success of the regional cartographic conferences held at the initiative of the United Nations and the bearing which these conferences have had on the convening of the present United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names,

Recommends that:

- (a) Regional and subregional conferences should be held at appropriate intervals to discuss common problems connected with, and to further the standardization of, geographical names;
- (b) Groups of nations having certain common interests and problems should be encouraged to meet at their own initiative and to report on progress made to the appropriate subregional or regional conferences and to the United Nations.

### **II/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.

### **II/19 Regional meetings**

The Conference,

Having considered resolution 7 on regional meetings adopted by the First Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names,

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.

#### **V/5 Bilateral and multilateral meetings**

The Conference,

Noting that between United Nations conferences on the standardization of geographical names countries are involved in intensive activities connected with the standardization of geographical names,

Noting also that the exchange of ideas and materials substantially contributes to the solution of problems regarding two or more countries belonging to the same geographical area,

Recommends the organization of bilateral and multilateral meetings in the spirit of the recommendations and resolutions of the present Conference.

#### **VII/3 Standardization of geographical names and the United Nations regional cartographic conferences**

The Conference,

Recalling that geographical names constitute a key element of the cartographic field,

Taking note of the rapid development of geographical information technology,

Noting the existence of regional cartographic conferences organized under the auspices of the United Nations,

Noting also the responsibility and the mandate, on behalf of the Economic and Social Council, of the secretariat for the organization of such conferences,

Recommends that the United Nations Secretariat, acting as liaison, inform the special working group on proposals for the reorganization of the United Nations regional cartographic conferences of the concerns, deliberations and recommendations of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names and of the United Nations Conferences on the Standardization

of Geographical Names, as proposed in resolution 2 of the Sixth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas.

**VIII/5 Joint meetings of the linguistic/geographical divisions and working groups of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names**

The Conference,

Considering resolution 7 of the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names,

Considering also the success achieved at the joint meeting of the East Central and South-East Europe Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names and the Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers of the Group of Experts,

Noting that the exchange of ideas, experience and materials at such a joint meeting would further the accomplishment of the recommendations and resolutions of the present Conference,

Recommends the continued organization of joint meetings of the linguistic/geographical divisions and the working groups of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names to address substantively regional needs in the areas of toponymic training, data files and gazetteers, romanization systems, publicity and funding, and terminology.

**7. EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN TREATMENT OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES**

**II/18 Technical training of personnel**

The Conference,

Noting the world-wide interest in field investigation and office treatment of geographical names,

Noting also the urgent need to train staff engaged in the field collection of names and in their standardization,

Further noting the proposal made by the representative of the Netherlands and the representative of the linguistic/geographical division that preparations should be made for a course of study covering a period of four to six weeks to be held in the summer of 1974 in cooperation with the United Nations technical assistance programme,

Considering that international courses in the collection and treatment of names, such as those planned to be held in Spain, are vital to the interests of all countries,

1. Recommends that pilot training courses in the collection and treatment of names should have all possible support from the authorities that are able to give it;
2. Further recommends that the programmes of such courses be submitted to the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names for its advice and that formal notification of the availability of such courses be forwarded to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

### **III/15 Training courses**

The Conference,

Noting that some countries offer or plan to offer training courses in toponymy,

Further noting that other countries have a desire to obtain expertise in the field collection, office treatment and standardization of geographical names,

1. Recommends that preference be given to candidates from countries or divisions indicating plans to offer courses of their own,
2. Further recommends that those countries having technical assistance programmes offer expertise to those countries asking for them and those planning to offer courses in toponymy consider financial assistance to candidates selected to participate in those courses.

### **IV/5 Education in cartographic toponymy**

The Conference,

Noting that there exists a need for professional personnel with education in cartographic toponymy,

Noting further that very few universities and academies have cartographic toponymy as part of the curriculum,

Recommends that each country should aim at providing training in cartographic toponymy at the university or corresponding academic level.

### **IV/6 Course in toponymy**

The Conference,

Taking account of the success of the First Pilot Course in Toponymy, held in Cisarua, Indonesia, in June 1982,<sup>10</sup>

Recommends the holding of similar courses and seminars in other geographic/linguistic divisions and further recommends that a submission should be made by the Cartography Section of the Natural Resources and Energy Division, Department of Technical Co-operation for Development of the United Nations Secretariat on behalf of the Conference for the provision of the necessary funds to provide for such courses and seminars.

## **V/21 Education and training**

The Conference,

Taking account of the success and usefulness of the courses in toponymy held at Cisarua, Indonesia, in June 1982 and Rabat, Morocco, in December 1985,

Taking account also of the needs and resources, as discussed during the present Conference,

1. Recommends that courses and seminars in toponymy be held in other geographical divisions, with appropriate financial support from the United Nations, particularly in the linguistic/geographical divisions of Africa East, Latin America and the United States of America-Canada, for English-, Spanish- and French-speaking participants, respectively;
2. Also recommends that a syllabus for toponymic training courses, adaptable to the needs of the countries concerned, be prepared by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, to be disseminated with appropriate documents relating to Conference resolutions, national toponymic guidelines, definitions of terms, indexes, data banks, the structure of names authorities and methods of preparing toponymic inventories.

## **VI/13 Training courses**

The Conference,

Considering that there is still a major lack of experience in developing countries in the field of toponymy,

Noting the great interest those countries have expressed in receiving technical assistance,

Recalling resolution 21 on education and training, adopted by the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names,

Recognizing the positive impact of the training courses held between 1987 and 1992 in Canada, four Latin American countries, Indonesia and South Africa,

Bearing in mind the substantial financial help offered by various Governments,

Recommends that seminars and training courses on applied toponymy for participants from developing countries be financially assisted by the United Nations and be organized by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names or other qualified experts.

#### **VII/9 Standardization of geographical names utilizing the Internet**

The Conference,

Recognizing the potential of the Internet to promote and realize the goals and resolutions of the United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names,

Recognizing further the importance of countries preserving their individual toponymic heritage and promoting the international use of their nationally standardized names by all available means, including the Internet,

Noting that the establishment of toponymic Web sites on the Internet is technically achievable now at low cost,

1. Recommends that country toponymic Web sites be established and used for a variety of purposes, including:

- (a) Information on the standardization of geographical names;
- (b) Toponymic guidelines;
- (c) Information on training courses in toponymy;
- (d) Nationally standardized names;
- (e) Interactive capabilities for handling geographical names enquiries;
- (f) Facilitation of the international exchange of toponymic data;

2. Recommends further that the UNGEGN secretariat establish an UNGEGN Web site;

3. Recommends further that the Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy consider the development of an Internet-based training course in toponymy;

4. Recommends further that access to data included on toponymic Web sites be provided free of charge in the interests of international standardization.

#### **VII/11 Teaching materials for training courses in toponymy**

The Conference,

Taking account of the efforts made by individual member States and experts in preparing teaching materials for courses in toponymy,

Considering that only a limited number of trainees can be reached by conventional courses in toponymy,

Also considering the need to provide potential trainees with up-to-date training materials,

Urges the organizers of courses in toponymy to make available a copy of their teaching materials to the convenor of the Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy, so that it can act as a clearing house for all those searching for additional up-to-date material to be used at courses in toponymy elsewhere.

## **VII/12 Training courses in toponymy in conjunction with sessions of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names**

The Conference,

Taking account of the large number of toponymic experts participating in the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names,

Recognizing the desirability of minimizing travel costs for members of the Group who wish to acquire additional skills,

Encourages the Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names to consider organizing short advanced training courses on the subject of the standardization of geographical names to adjoin meetings of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.

## **VIII/15 Support for training and publications**

The Conference,

1. Expresses its appreciation to Germany, the Netherlands and the United Nations through the United Nations Statistics Division for providing funding for participants from developing countries to attend the training course associated with the Eighth Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names;

2. Stresses the importance of this training and requests the Statistics Division, within existing resources, to continue to provide funding for such training for participants from developing countries;

3. Recognizes the importance, for the foreseeable future, of both electronic and print versions of documents available in all official languages of the United Nations, and in this connection;

4. Requests the Statistics Division to include in its publication programme for the biennium 2004-2005 the following:

- (a) A publication of about one hundred and sixty pages on romanization systems, and formats and standards for toponymic data exchange;
- (b) A basic manual of about one hundred and fifty pages on geographical names.

#### **IX/10 Support for training and publications**

The Conference,

Recalling resolution VIII/15, adopted by the Eighth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names on this subject,

Acknowledging the support provided by the United Nations Statistics Division for training courses on geographical names standardization,

Emphasizing the importance of such training, particularly for participants from developing countries, as an essential element of national spatial data infrastructure and as a means of safeguarding cultural heritage,

Recognizing the importance of both electronic and print versions of documents available in all official languages of the United Nations,

- (a) Continue to provide funding for participation in toponymic training courses;
- (b) Further develop the website of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names into an effective reference and communication tool, including the uploading of previous conference documentation in all official languages of the United Nations;
- (c) Include in its publication programme:
  - (i) Addendum pages containing additions made since 2002 to the *Glossary of Terms for the Standardization of Geographical Names* of the Group of Experts;
  - (ii) A press kit to assist countries in promoting the standardization of their geographical names and the work of the Group of Experts.

#### **X/11 Web-based course in toponymy**

The Conference,



Recognizing the growing need for training qualified personnel for toponymic tasks, in view of the increasingly important role of standardized toponyms in national spatial data infrastructures,

Recognizing also that only a few countries are able to provide for specialized toponymic education,

Noting that the number of participants in international toponymy courses is limited and that those trained frequently move to other jobs,

Recommends that a web-based course in toponymy, developed by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy and the International Cartographic Association with financial support from the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, be incorporated and maintained on the website of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, in order to contribute to the basic education and training of toponymic staff.

## **8. TERMINOLOGY (INCLUDING GLOSSARIES)**

### **I/19 Geographical terms**

The Conference,

Recognizing the importance of geographical terms as used in a given region,

Urges that the recommendations that follow should be given complete and due consideration by national names authorities.

#### **RECOMMENDATION A. STUDY OF THE NATURE OF GEOGRAPHICAL ENTITIES**

It is recommended that a study be made of the nature of geographical entities which in a given region have names, as well as the various meanings of the words used to designate those features.

The studies may bring to light noteworthy facts which would allow a better understanding of the geographical entities named. They may also serve to bring out the deficiencies of ordinary dictionaries in this respect.

#### **RECOMMENDATION B. GLOSSARIES**

It is recommended that national gazetteers should include a glossary, not necessarily published in the same volume.

#### **RECOMMENDATION C. DEFINITION OF "GENERIC TERM"**

The approval of the following definition of "generic term" is recommended:

Generic term: Term included in a geographical name, indicating the type of the named entity and having the same meaning in current local use.

#### RECOMMENDATION D. DEFINITION OF "GLOSSARY"

The approval of the following definition of "glossary" is recommended:

Glossary: Collection of generic terms with their meanings in geographical names.

#### II/14 Technical terminology

##### The Conference

Noting the good progress made since the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical 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.<sup>11</sup>

#### II/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.

## **II/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".

## **III/14 Glossary of technical terminology**

The Conference,

Noting that the glossary of technical terminology<sup>12</sup> has almost been completed in the English and French versions,

Further noting that the Spanish version requires additional work because various definitions contained inaccuracies,

Further noting the need to finalize the glossary in all three languages,

1. Recommends that the Spanish-speaking nations review the present Spanish text and put forward a revised version to the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names;
2. Further recommends that the term "national language" be considered by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names for restoration to the glossary,<sup>13</sup> and that the following be added to the definition of "exonym"; "conversion from one writing system to another does not, as a rule, result in 'exonyms'";
3. Further recommends that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names consider additions and amendments required in the present text.

#### **IV/8 Terminology glossary**

The Conference,

Noting that Arabic is to be introduced as an official language of the Economic and Social Council and of United Nations conferences on the standardization of geographical names,

Bearing in mind that the United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names recommended the establishment of a glossary of the terminology used in the standardization of geographical names and that the English, French and Spanish versions of that glossary are available,<sup>14</sup>

Being aware of the importance of that glossary for the harmonization of definitions, the clarification of concepts and the determination of the meanings of technical terms,

Recommends that the Documentation, Reference and Terminology Section of the Translation Division of the United Nations Department of Conference Services should, in collaboration with the Arabic Service of the Translation Division, establish the Arabic version of that glossary.

#### **VI/11 Glossary of Toponymic Terminology**

The Conference,

Noting that a new glossary has been prepared by the Working Group on Toponymic Terminology, as recommended by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names at its fifteenth session,

Noting further that, in accordance with the same recommendation, the glossary was compiled, in the first stage, in English only,

Recognizing that, to achieve maximum effect in the standardization of geographical names at national and international levels, the glossary should be available to as wide a readership as possible,

1. Recommends:
  - (a) That the Working Group on Toponymic Terminology be asked to continue to function, with the aim of producing a multilingual dictionary of toponymic terminology to include the remaining five official languages of the United Nations;
  - (b) That the United Nations Secretariat be asked to supply, within an agreed time-frame and within existing resources, a translation of the new Glossary from English into each of the other five official languages of the United Nations;
2. Recommends further that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, at its sixteenth session, appoint one or more experts to the Working Group to coordinate and be responsible for the translation into each of these languages;
3. Recommends also that the Working Group on Toponymic Terminology be asked to review the glossary periodically and update it as necessary.

### **VIII/3 Working Group on Terminology of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names**

The Conference,

Noting that the new *Glossary of Terms for the Standardization of Geographical Names*<sup>15</sup> was prepared by the Working Group on Terminology in the six official languages of the United Nations, namely, Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish,

Noting also that the *Glossary* has now been published,

Recognizing that changes in terminology will require additions and/or amendments to the definitions of terms,

1. *Wishes* to express its appreciation and thanks to the members of the Working Group on Terminology for having contributed their expertise and time on a personal and voluntary basis in compiling the *Glossary of Terms for the Standardization of Geographical Names*;
2. *Recommends* that the Working Group on Terminology continue to function, with the aim of reviewing the *Glossary* periodically and updating it as required by a procedure to be agreed upon by the members of the Working Group.

## **9. LIST OF COUNTRY NAMES**

### **III/6 List of country names**

The Conference,

Considering that a working group of the Group of Experts on Geographical Names has brought nearly to completion a multilanguage list of names of countries,<sup>16</sup>

Noting that the Terminology Service, Translation Division, Department of Conference Services of the United Nations Secretariat is also concerned with this and related matters,

1. Recommends that the Group of Experts on Geographical Names bring to completion the list of country names on which it has been working;
2. Recommends further that the Group of Experts on Geographical Names concurrently explore ways of co-ordinating its work with that of other offices or departments of the United Nations Secretariat, including the Terminology Service.

### **III/17 Names of countries**

The Conference,

Recognizing the desirability of avoiding new exonyms,

Recommends that every country use in its language(s), for newly independent countries and for countries that adopt new names, those names that correspond, as far as possible, to the official local names of the countries concerned.

### **IV/10 List of country names**

The Conference,

Considering the interest in the list of country names being prepared by the Working Group on a List of Country Names of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names,

Noting that further information is required to complete the list,

Recommends that each country should co-operate in this task with the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.

### **IV/11 Maintenance of the list of country names**

The Conference,

Noting that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names has a programme to prepare and to maintain a list of country names,

Recognizing that the United Nations Documentation, Reference and Terminology Section has a similar programme,

Recommends that the two activities should be co-ordinated and that the United Nations Documentation, Reference and Terminology Section should be approached by the Cartography Section of the Natural Resources and Energy Division, Department of Technical Co-operation for Development of the United Nations Secretariat to assume full responsibility for maintenance of the cited list after it has been published.

#### **VI/10 List of country names**

The Conference,

Recalling that the Working Group on Country Names of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names submitted to the Group of Experts at its twelfth session, in implementation of resolution 6 of the Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names and resolution 10 of the Fourth Conference, a list of country names in the official language(s) of each country.

Noting that, in the case of languages not written in the Roman alphabet, names should be accompanied by their romanized version through a romanization system recognized by the United Nations, or, in the absence of such a recognized system, through any other romanization system,

Noting also that the names of the countries in the six official languages of the United Nations were compiled with the assistance of the United Nations Documentation Reference and Terminology Section,

Noting further that the Documentation, Reference and Terminology Section issues and regularly updates a list of country names in the six official languages of the United Nations, but that the list of country names in the official language(s) of each country that is recognized by the United Nations is not disseminated or updated,

Recalling resolution 11 of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names,

Recommends that a list of country names in their official language(s) be established and regularly updated.

#### **VII/8 List of country names**

The Conference,

Recalling resolution 10 of the Sixth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names,

Noting that the UNGEGN working group on country Names had submitted to the Seventh Conference a list of country names in the official language(s) of each country,<sup>17</sup>

Noting also that the Documentation, Reference and Terminology Section of the United Nations Secretariat issues and updates on a regular basis a terminology bulletin of country names in the six official languages of the United Nations but that the bulletin does not include the names of countries in their official language(s),

Further noting that there are certain differences between the names issued by the Documentation, Reference and Terminology Section and the forms recommended by the UNGEGN Working Group,

Recommends that the UNGEGN list of country names, in their official language(s) and in their romanized form as well as in the three working languages of UNGEGN, be updated on a regular basis and regarded as a reference for all cartographic applications, both national and international, published in the Roman alphabet.

#### **VIII/12 Standardization of names of countries**

##### The Conference,

Recalling resolution VII/8 of the Seventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, in which the Conference noted certain differences between the names of countries published by the Documentation, Reference and Terminology Section of the United Nations Secretariat<sup>18</sup> and the forms recommended by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names,

Considering that it is desirable for the various entities of the United Nations to use the same names of countries in the official language(s) of each country and in the official languages of the United Nations,

Considering also that, because of the mission and competence of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, harmonization and consultation should be sought with the various entities of the United Nations involved in activities concerning geographical names,

Recommends that Terminology and Reference Section of the United Nations Secretariat and the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names should consult when updating their lists of the names of the countries of the world in the official languages of the United Nations.



## **10. PREPARATION OF GAZETTEERS**

### **I/4(E) National gazetteers (National Standardization. Recommendation E.)**

It is recommended that each names authority produce, and continually revise, appropriate gazetteers of all its standardized geographical names.

It is further recommended that, in addition to the standardized names, each gazetteer include, as a minimum, such information as is necessary for the proper location and identification of the named features.

In particular, it is recommended that the following be included:

- (a) The kind of feature to which the name applies;
- (b) Precise description of the location and the extent, including a point position reference if possible, of each named feature;
- (c) Provision for the parts of natural features to be additionally defined by reference to the whole and for the names of extended features to be defined as necessary by reference to their constituent parts;
- (d) Such information on administrative or regional areas as is considered necessary and, if possible, reference to a map or chart within which the features lie;
- (e) All officially standardized names for a feature, if there are more than one; and provision for cross-references to be made to names previously used for the same feature.

When national authorities determine it possible, both technically and economically, they may include such information on geographical names as gender, number, definite and indefinite forms, position of stress, tone and pronunciation in the system of the International Phonetic Association and such other linguistic information as may lead to the better understanding and use of names both nationally and internationally.

### **II/17 Consultation on the preparation of gazetteers**

The Conference,

Realizing the importance of international co-operation and exchange of information between countries,

Noting the use to which information supplied by one country to another can be put,

Recommends that before one country produces the gazetteer of another country there should be active consultations between the countries concerned.

### **II/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.

### **III/2 Specifications for international gazetteers of countries**

The Conference,

Recognizing that several countries have prepared or will prepare national gazetteers of their standardized geographical names,

1. Recommends that the title page and all necessary information in this type of gazetteer should be in the official language(s) of the country concerned and in one or more of the official languages of the United Nations. The title page should contain the following details (blank spaces to be filled in with the appropriate country name):

"United Nations Series of National Gazetteers

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"Published by the (formal title of the authority on geographical names) of

---

"Adopted for official use by the (authority on geographical names) of

---

"Prepared, as far as possible, in accordance with the recommendations of the United Nations concerning national gazetteers.";

2. Further recommends that in the introduction to this type of gazetteer reference should be made to recommendation E of resolution 4 of the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names.

#### **IV/18 Combined treatment of toponymic data**

The Conference,

Noting that it has become increasingly difficult to separate the subjects of automated data processing and gazetteers,

Recognizing that automated data processing is just one means of creating a names information file,

Further recognizing that gazetteers are merely one product of a names information file,

Recommends that future United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names and sessions of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names should consider both subjects under the single agenda item "Toponymic data files, (a) creation, (b) maintenance and (c) output, including gazetteer production".

#### **V/16 Publication of geographical names in their national official form**

The Conference,

Considering that a great amount of knowledge and experience has been accumulated in the field of the standardization of geographical names,

Noting that the resulting material must be collated and disseminated to all countries,

Aware that several countries may already have published comprehensive national gazetteers,

1. Recommends that each country prepare maps, as well as lists of standardized names, in accordance with resolution 35 of the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names;
2. Also recommends that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names co-ordinate national efforts along the lines recommended in resolution 35 of the Second Conference, and report on progress made at future conferences.

#### **11. BIBLIOGRAPHIES**

##### **1/5 Exchange of information and preparation of bibliographies**

The Conference,

Recognizing the enormous volume of geographical names to cover the world and the great diversity of geographic nomenclature programmes from country to country,

Considering the advantages to the States Members of the United Nations and members of its specialized agencies and exchanging information relative both to strengthening their own names programmes and to furthering international standardization of geographical names;

Recommends that the United Nations Secretariat continue to serve as a documentation centre where information can be collected and disseminated, bibliographies can be prepared and distributed, and arrangements can be made for direct exchanges among Members States.

## **II/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*.

## **V/9 United Nations publications**

The Conference,

Reaffirming the need for the international exchange of information on achievements in the field of national and international standardization of geographical names,

1. Notes with satisfaction the publication by the United Nations of volume XVIII of *World Cartography* (in 1986), devoted to the subject of geographical names, which has been distributed throughout the world and greatly acclaimed by Member States;
2. Recommends that the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development of the United Nations Secretariat be encouraged to increase its involvement in the preparation and co-ordination of United Nations publications that facilitate the exchange of information and transfer of knowledge in the field of geographical names.

## **V/24 Semi-annual information bulletin**

The Conference,

Noting the need for a world information network relating to geographical names,

1. Recommends that countries provide the United Nations Secretariat with information on their activities related to geographical names;
2. Recommends also that a semi-annual information bulletin be prepared and disseminated by the United Nations Secretariat to geographical names authorities and cartographic agencies, giving information on (a) activities, such as training courses, new publications and regional meetings, and (b) significant decisions on geographical names.

## **12. EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCE**

### **I/6 Technical assistance**

The Conference,

Noting the important role which United Nations technical assistance has had and continues to have in cartography,

Recognizing the contribution which the United Nations has made and is making in this field,

1. Recommends that in all cases where technical assistance experts in surveying and mapping are at work, due attention should be given to the standardization of geographical names;
2. Further recommends that individual countries or groups of countries within the same region or having common interests be encouraged to request, when necessary, technical assistance in the form of training for their personnel, consultants and/or technical material and information, which they consider important in fulfilling their work programmes on the standardization of geographical names.

### **II/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.

### **13. AUTOMATED DATA PROCESSING**

#### **I/3 Automatic data processing**

##### The Conference,

Recognizing the rapid advances being made in automatic data processing and the rapid developments taking place in the field of computer technology,

Considering the value of the application of these technical aids in geographical names for various purposes, for listing of geographical names to get a continuously up-to-date file of approved names, for special kinds of names, or for retrieving names according to special categories or other demands,

Noting that it is desirable for the problem of geographical names to be properly taken into account in the design of electronic equipment and in systems for its use,

1. Recommends that all Member States already engaged in programmes of automatic data processing or which have been involved in discussions on automatic name data processing be requested to exchange information, for which purpose it would be useful to submit the reports in the official languages of the United Nations;
2. Further recommends that names specialists establish and maintain working channels of communication with the equipment designers, and that the results be circulated promptly to the names authorities in the Member States;
3. Requests that the Cartography Section of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat serve as a documentation centre where information and documents with regard to automatic data processing could be collected and distributed;
4. Further requests the Secretary-General to help to develop international standards in relation to geographical coding structures and procedural guidelines.

#### **II/30 Application of data processing**

##### The Conference,

Considering the importance of resolution 3 on automatic data processing adopted by the First Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names,

Noting further the developing technical possibilities for overcoming the difficulties and risks connected with the automatic data processing of geographical names,

Recommends that the application of data processing to geographical names be done carefully with close co-operation between the countries involved and with care being taken that the names are not distorted or shortened in any way, e.g., with regard to diacritical marks or signs, upper-case and lower-case letters, and special characters.

### **III/3 Automated data processing**

The Conference,

Considering the importance of resolution 3 of the First Conference and resolution 30 of the Second Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names,

Noting the plans for publishing gazetteers under the auspices of the United Nations, including a concise gazetteer of the world based on national standard names,

Recognizing the expanding use of automated data processing for the management of geographical names information and the production of gazetteers,

1. Recommends that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names consider the problem of compatibility of systems on geographic-name information (data elements)<sup>19</sup> compiled by different nations for gazetteers and automated data processing systems;
2. Further recommends that the Group of Experts recognize the importance of the compatibility of output media generated by automated data processing (such as magnetic tapes) so that geographic-name information may be made available to international users in other than the printed form.

### **IV/18 Combined treatment of toponymic data**

The Conference,

Noting that it has become increasingly difficult to separate the subjects of automated data processing and gazetteers,

Recognizing that automated data processing is just one means of creating a names information file,

Further recognizing that gazetteers are merely one product of a names information file,

Recommends that future United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names and sessions of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names should consider both subjects under the single agenda item "Toponymic data files, (a) creation, (b) maintenance and (c) output, including gazetteer production".

### **IV/19 Exchange of information in automated data processing**

The Conference,

Noting the progress being achieved in the field of automated data processing of geographical names,

Recognizing the benefits of the exchange of information among nations in all matters concerning geographical names during the period between United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names,

Recommends that all countries should send to the Cartography Section of the Natural Resources and Energy Division of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development of the United Nations Secretariat reports concerning progress achieved in the collection, treatment, writing and publishing of geographical names, especially in the field of automated data processing, so that a compendium of information may be produced on an annual basis for dissemination by the Cartography Section as seen fit.

#### **V/17 Direct exchange of toponymic information between various computer systems**

The Conference,

Noting the progress made by several countries in the field of computer-assisted processing of geographical names,

Also noting the considerable effort invested in developing such methods, and assuming that an increasing number of countries will avail themselves of those methods,

Recommends that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, in consultation with countries that have already developed such methods, investigate the possibility of preparing guidelines for direct communication with, and exchange of toponymic information between, various computer systems.

#### **VII/6 Toponymic data exchange formats and standards**

The Conference,

Recalling that recommendation E of resolution 4 of the first United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names identifies the minimum content of gazetteers,

Noting that at its eighteenth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names established the Working Group on Toponymic Data Exchange Formats and Standards,

Noting further the report of the Working Group to the Seventh Conference,<sup>20</sup>

Recognizing the potential for countries to promote the international use of their nationally standardized names by digital means, including the Internet,

1. Recommends that countries promote the international use of nationally standardized names through publication and exchange of digital toponymic data, utilizing international text-encoding standards and a digital gazetteer format based on recommendation E of resolution 4;



2. Recommends further that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names liaise with the Unicode Consortium in order to inform that body of the text-encoding requirements found in the field of toponymy and to promote the development of computer tools to facilitate the digital exchange of geographical names information.

#### **VII/9 Standardization of geographical names utilizing the Internet**

The Conference,

Recognizing the potential of the Internet to promote and realize the goals and resolutions of the United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names,

Recognizing further the importance of countries preserving their individual toponymic heritage and promoting the international use of their nationally standardized names by all available means, including the Internet,

Noting that the establishment of toponymic Web sites on the Internet is technically achievable now at low cost,

1. Recommends that country toponymic Web sites be established and used for a variety of purposes, including:

- (a) Information on the standardization of geographical names;
- (b) Toponymic guidelines;
- (c) Information on training courses in toponymy;
- (d) Nationally standardized names;
- (e) Interactive capabilities for handling geographical names enquiries;
- (f) Facilitation of the international exchange of toponymic data;

2. Recommends further that the UNGEGN secretariat establish an UNGEGN Web site;

3. Recommends further that the Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy consider the development of an Internet-based training course in toponymy;

4. Recommends further that access to data included on toponymic Web sites be provided free of charge in the interests of international standardization.

#### **VIII/6 Integration of geographical names data into national and regional spatial data infrastructures**

The Conference,

Emphasizing that standardized geographical names information is a crucial component of the efficient development of national economies in all countries,

Noting that geographical names serve as a common means of access to geo-information and spatial data infrastructures,

Recalling that the Fifteenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific, held in Kuala Lumpur in 2000, recognized the promotion of national and regional geographical names standardization programmes,<sup>21</sup>

Recalling also that the Seventh United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas, held in New York in 2001, recognized the importance of standardized and consistent geographical names as a fundamental data set of national and regional spatial data infrastructures,<sup>22</sup>

Recommends that standardized geographical names data should be considered in the establishment of national and regional spatial data infrastructures and included in their design, development and implementation.

#### **VIII/7 Toponymic data exchange formats and standards**

The Conference,

Recalling that, in its resolution VII/6, the Seventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names recommended the digital exchange of nationally standardized geographical names, and the establishment of a liaison with the Unicode Consortium,

Recalling also that, in its resolution VII/13, the Seventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names recommended the establishment of a liaison with the International Organization for Standardization,

Noting that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names has now established a liaison with both the Unicode Consortium and the International Organization for Standardization,

Noting also that suitable international standards for digital toponymic data exchange require development,

Recommends that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, through its established liaison relationships with standards organizations, vigorously promote the development of international toponymic data exchange standards.

#### **VIII/10 Toponymic data-collection procedures**

The Conference,

Recalling the importance of field collection of geographical names as conveyed in resolution 4, recommendation B, of the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, and as noted in resolution 27 of the Second Conference,

Recognizing the rapidly developing requirement for highly accurate and complete geographical names and associated information,

Noting the increasing demand for geographical names of all categories for use in a geographic information system (GIS) environment as well as in specialized and multi-purpose automated databases,

Recommends that Governments expand their existing data-collection procedures for geographical names, and establish procedures for collecting names from all acceptable sources so as to be responsive to the needs of geographical names users.

#### **IX/6 Geographical names database of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names**

The Conference,

Recalling that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names at its twenty-second session, held in New York from 20 to 29 April 2004, recommended the development of an authoritative database on country and major city names,

Considering the ongoing efforts carried out by the secretariat of the Group of Experts, within the United Nations Statistics Division, towards the building of a database that includes country names and major city names of the world in a multilingual, multi-scriptural and geo-referenced format,

Recognizing that the availability of fundamental framework data sets on national administrative divisions, as provided by the Second Administrative Level Boundaries (SALB) data set project under the umbrella of the United Nations Geographic Information Working Group (UNGIWG), is crucial for the analysis and management of socio-economic phenomena,

Recommends that the United Nations Statistics Division, with the support of the United Nations Cartographic Section for base maps and the Second Administrative Level Boundaries project for administrative divisions data sets, work in collaboration with the United Nations Group of Experts of Geographical Names and member States to further develop, populate and maintain the geographical names database of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, initially containing names of countries, capitals and major cities.

#### **IX/7 Dissemination of information concerning the origin and meaning of geographical names**

The Conference,

Recalling recommendation B of resolution I/4, adopted by the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, which contained guidelines for research on the written and spoken forms of geographical names and of their meaning,

Recalling also resolution VII/9, adopted by the Seventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, which recognized the potential of the Internet to promote and realize the goals and resolutions of the Conferences, and recommended that countries create websites promoting their standardized names,

Noting that resolution VIII/9, adopted by the Eighth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, called for a greater understanding of the significance of geographical names with respect to local, regional and national heritage and identity,

Recognizing that the meaning of a geographical name constitutes a valued aspect of heritage information that is likely to enrich feelings of identity and at the same time promote awareness of the universality of human naming activities,

Recommends that, wherever possible, printed or web-based national gazetteers and databases should include information on the origin and meaning of geographical names, based on popular and/or scientific sources, along with the associated technical information.

#### **14. EXONYMS**

##### **II/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.

##### **II/29 Exonyms**

###### **I**

The Conference,

Recognizing the desirability of limiting the use of exonyms,

Recommends that, within the international standardization of geographical names, the use of those exonyms designating geographical entities falling wholly within one State should be reduced as far and as quickly as possible.

## II

The Conference,

Recognizing that exonyms are losing ground, even in national use,

1. Recommends that in publications intended only for national use the reduction of exonyms should be considered;
2. Further recommends that in those cases where exonyms are retained, the local official forms should be shown in addition as far as possible.

### II/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.

### III/18 Study of exonyms

The Conference,

Noting that, in accordance with resolution 28 of the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, progress has been made in the matter of exonyms in so

far as a number of countries have identified and prepared, or are preparing, lists of their own exonyms,

Recognizing, nevertheless, that progress has not been uniform in all countries,

Further recognizing that the reduction of both different types of languages and different linguistic categories of exonyms require different approaches,

Recommends that (a) The countries concerned continue to work on the preparation of provisional lists of exonyms, singling out those suitable for early deletion; (b) The Group of Experts contribute to the exchange of information among the countries concerned on the results of the studies of different categories of exonyms made by those countries.

### **III/19 Lists of exonyms**

The Conference,

Considering that resolution 28 of the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names calls for each country to prepare a list of exonyms currently employed,

Noting the definition of the word "exonym" given in the document E/CONF.69/L.1, worked out by that Conference,<sup>23</sup>

Further noting that the implementation of resolution 28 in its present form must result in enormous lists of doubtful value,

Recommends that the lists referred to in resolution 28 should not contain the following categories of exonyms: those differing from the official name only by the omission, addition or alteration of diacritics or the article; those differing from the official name by declension or derivation; those created by the translation of a generic term.

### **IV/20 Reduction of exonyms**

The Conference,

Noting that, in accordance with resolutions 18 and 19 of the Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, further progress has been made in the reduction of the number of exonyms used and a number of States have prepared lists of their own exonyms,

Realizing that the reduction of exonyms used has not been carried out with the same intensity by all States,

Realizing further that the methods and principles aimed at a reduction of the number of exonyms used should constantly be reviewed for expeditious implementation of the resolution and

understanding that not all countries can govern the content of maps and atlases published within their territories,

Recommends that exonyms giving rise to international problems should be used very sparingly and published in parenthesis with the nationally accepted standard name.

#### **V/13 Precedence of national official forms of geographical names**

The Conference,

Recalling resolution 28 of the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names and resolution 20 of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names,

Noting that progress has been made in reducing the use of exonyms in cartography and related fields,

Observing that the reduction in the use of exonyms is being carried out at different rates in different countries,

Considering that many public and private organizations other than names authorities play a significant and effective role in the dissemination of foreign place names,

1. Recommends a further reduction in the use of exonyms;
2. Recommends, more specifically, that countries intensify their efforts to persuade private and public organizations, such as educational institutions, transport companies and the media, to reduce the use of exonyms in their publications or, at least, to increase the use of geographical names in their local standardized form (that is, endonyms);
3. Also recommends that, where exonyms are used in publications, maps and other documents, precedence be given to national official names.

#### **VIII/4 Working Group on Exonyms of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names**

The Conference,

Recalling resolutions 28, 29, 31 and 38 of the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, resolutions 18 and 19 of the Third Conference, resolution 20 of the Fourth Conference and resolution 13 of the Fifth Conference, as well as resolutions 4 and 10 of the First Conference, resolution 35 of the Second Conference, resolution 7 of the Third Conference and resolution 4 of the Fourth Conference,

Noting that, notwithstanding the general goal of limiting the use of exonyms, in several countries there has been a tendency to increase their number,

Recognizing that measures such as the categorization of exonym use, the publication of pronunciation guides for endonyms, and the formulation of guidelines ensuring a politically sensitive use of exonyms would help in the reduction of the number of exonyms,

Recommends the establishment of a Working Group on Exonyms of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, with the aim of preparing such measures as mentioned above.

## **15. ROMANIZATION/GENERAL**

### **I/9 A single romanization system**

The Conference,

Considering the duplication and confusion arising from the existence of different romanization systems based on the phonetic structure of the receiver languages,

1. Recommends that efforts should be made to arrive at an agreement on a single romanization system, based on scientific principles, from each non-Roman alphabet or script, for international application;
2. Further recommends that a special working group under the responsibility of the proposed United Nations Permanent Committee of Experts on Geographical Names should concentrate on this subject with a view to making a comparative study of the various romanization systems and to analysing their advantages and disadvantages as media for standardization of geographical names;
3. Further recommends that this special working group should consider the views expressed by various international and national bodies, and seek ways to accomplish the adoption of a single romanization system from each non-Roman alphabet or script for international application as soon as may be possible.

### **I/10 Diacritical signs which accompany letters of the Roman alphabet**

The Conference,

Recognizing that the accents and diacritical signs which accompany the Roman alphabet letters of many languages are an integral part of the spelling of these languages, in which they express such essential features as the tonic accent, the length and degree of openness of vowels, and other significant aspects of pronunciation and meaning,



Recommends that in international use all geographical names officially written in these alphabets by the countries concerned should remain unmodified and keep their distinguishing marks, even, and indeed particularly, when they are written in capital letters.

### **II/13 Publication of romanization systems**

The Conference,

Having adopted a number of systems for the romanization of various alphabets for international cartography,

Recommends that these be published by the United Nations in a booklet for wide dissemination to its Members.

### **III/25 Single romanization system for each non-Roman writing system**

The Conference,

Noting that in preparing a single romanization system for a number of important languages no progress has yet been made since the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names,

Noting further that this state of affairs results mainly from the fact that countries in which those languages are spoken have not yet taken part in the sessions of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names and the United Nations conference on the standardization of geographical names,

Recognizing the desirability of preparing a romanization system for those languages,

Recommends that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names take up this matter.

### **IV/15 Guidelines for the consideration of romanization systems**

The Conference,

Recognizing the need to ensure maximum stability of romanization systems,

Noting that guidelines governing the consideration of romanization systems are desirable,

Further noting the principle that international standardization should be based on national standardization,

1. Recommends that new romanization systems for international use should be considered only on condition that the sponsoring nations implement such systems on their cartographic products (maps and charts);
2. Further recommends that States should refrain from revising systems previously adopted for international use.

#### **IV/16 Guidelines for the achievement of systems of romanization**

The Conference,

Reaffirming the validity of resolution 9, adopted by the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, on achieving a single romanization system for each non-Roman writing system,

Recognizing, however, the difficulties involved in arriving at romanization systems agreeable to all countries,

Considering that suitable consultations are desirable, particularly within the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names,

Recommends that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, at its next session should request the Working Group on a Single Romanization System for each Non-Roman Writing System to discuss any system that might be submitted to it and to report its findings to the Group of Experts at its following session.

#### **IX/8 Implementation of Romanization systems by sponsoring countries**

The Conference,

Recalling that resolution IV/15, adopted by the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, called for the consideration of romanization systems only on condition that the sponsoring nation or nations implement such systems on their own national cartographic products,

Reaffirming the general principle set out in the same resolution that systems adopted for international use should not be revised,

Recognizing, however that, subsequent to the international adoption of a romanization system, the sponsoring nation or nations may, for reasons unforeseen at the time of adoption, experience difficulty in achieving national implementation of that system,

Recommends that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names be able to reconsider the relevance of any internationally adopted romanization system that has not been officially implemented by the sponsoring nation or nations within ten years following the adoption of the relevant resolution, or that is no longer implemented by that nation or those nations after that same period of time.

## **16. ROMANIZATION BY LANGUAGES**

### **I/11 Diacritical signs which accompany letters of the Arabic alphabet**

The Conference,

Recognizing that modern practice has come to require the rendition of Arabic alphabet geographical names in terms of standard, that is, classical forms,

Recommends that Arabic-speaking countries provide as soon as possible complete documentation for all geographical names, including the provision of all vowels and the notation of unvowelled and double consonants by means of the Arabic diacritical marks such as vowel points, shaddahs, hamzehs and sukun | ns.

### **I/12 Romanization of Arabic geographical names**

The Conference,

Noting the romanization system currently being employed in the transliteration of names for official romanized maps of some Arabic-speaking countries, such as Libya and Saudi Arabia,

Noting further the different romanization system being used in the current mapping of other Arabic-speaking countries, such as Lebanon and Syria,

Recognizing the variety of systems being used in other Arabic-speaking countries,

Recommends that those Arabic-speaking countries which intend to produce romanized maps or gazetteers for official use investigate the possibility of agreeing on a single system for the romanization of Arabic geographical names for official use in all Arabic-speaking countries, or alternatively, if a single romanization system proves to be impracticable, that the use of two systems only be considered, one based on the French system of transliteration and the second on the English.

### **I/13 Romanization of Iranian geographical names**

The Conference,

Noting that Iran has officially adopted and used for many years a system for romanizing Iranian geographical names from Persian script,

Noting further that this system is in consonance with scientific linguistic principles relating to transference between writing systems,

Recommends that the system set forth by the Government of Iran in the publication entitled, in its English version, *Transliteration of Farsi Geographic Names to Latin Alphabet* (September 1966) be adopted as the international system for the romanization from Persian script of Iranian geographical names.

#### **I/14 Romanization of Thai geographical names**

The Conference,

Recognizing the modified general system currently being officially employed in the transcription of geographical names from Thai characters into Roman,

Noting the application of that system for the official bilingual map of Thailand,

Noting further that there is no competing system for the romanization of Thai,

Recommends the adoption of the modified general system of the Royal Institute of Thailand<sup>24</sup> as the international system for the romanization of Thai geographical names.

#### **I/15 Romanization of Chinese geographical names**

The Conference,

Recognizing the extremely complex nature of the problems connected with the romanization of Chinese characters,

Recognizing further the need to adopt a single system for the romanization of Chinese geographical names,

1. Recommends that the attention of the proposed United Nations Permanent Committee of Experts on Geographical Names be drawn to the romanization system at present used by the Government of China for the romanization of its official maps, books and other documents dealing with geographical names in relation to other romanization system;
2. Further recommends the proposed United Nations Permanent Committee of Experts on Geographical Names to consider the suitability of this system for acceptance as the standard system for the romanization of Chinese geographical names.

**I/17 Transliteration of Amharic into the Roman 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 to be adopted by the Ethiopian national geographical names authority be considered by the proposed United Nations Permanent Committee of Experts on Geographical Names for acceptance as the standard international system for the writing of Ethiopian geographical names in the Roman alphabet.

**II/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 Bulgarian Cyrillic alphabet.

**ANNEX to II/5**

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

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

7. Ж ж	zh	25. Ш ш	sh	29. Ю ю	yu
10. Й й	y	26. Щ щ	sht	30. Я я	ya
22. Х х	kh	27. Ъ ъ	ǎ	32. Ъ ъ	ya or e*
23. Ц ц	ts	28. Ь ѣ	'	33. Ж ж	ǎ
24. Ч ч	ch				

\* If pronunciation is known, otherwise ye.

## **II/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.

## **II/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.

## **II/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,

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,<sup>25</sup>

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.

## **II/9 Romanization of Hebrew geographical names**

The Conference,

Noting that the romanization system described in footnotes 1 and 2 to document E/CONF.61/L.15,<sup>26</sup> 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 international use.

## **II/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.18<sup>27</sup> be accepted as the standard international system for the writing of Khmer geographical names in the Roman alphabet.

## **II/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 Standardization of Geographical Names,

Considering the need to romanize the geographical 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*,<sup>28</sup> 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.

## **III/8 Romanization of Chinese geographical names**

The Conference,

Recognizing that the Scheme for a Chinese Phonetic Alphabet is China's official Roman alphabet scheme and that the Rules for the Transliteration of Chinese Place Names with the Chinese Phonetic Alphabet have been drawn up in China,

Noting that the Scheme for a Chinese Phonetic Alphabet is linguistically sound and is most suitable for the romanization of Chinese geographical names, that an Atlas of the People's Republic of China in Chinese Phonetic Spelling, a Gazetteer of Chinese Geographical Names in Chinese Phonetic Spelling (with the usual spellings in English) and other materials have been published in China and that the scheme is already in extensive use.

Considering the full possibility of adopting the Chinese Phonetic Alphabet (Pinyin) for the romanization of Chinese geographical names internationally through a suitable transitional period,

Recommends; that the Chinese Phonetic Alphabet (Pinyin) be adopted as the international system for the romanization of Chinese geographical names.

### **III/9 Romanization of Arabic characters**

The Conference,

Considering the importance attached to establishing a single system for the transliteration of Arabic into Roman,

Considering the effort achieved with respect to transliteration and the results obtained by the Beirut Conference (1971) and the modifications attached to the Beirut Systems at the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names,

Noting the technical and practical difficulties met with in the application of the amended Beirut System,<sup>29</sup>

Recommends that the Arabic division meet and discuss the Moroccan proposal to arrive at a solution to be presented at the eighth session of the United Nations Group of Experts of Geographical Names.

### **III/10 Bulgarian Cyrillic alphabet**

The Conference,

Considering that resolution 5 of the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names is no longer appropriate,

Recommends that it be replaced as follows:



"The Conference,

"Noting that in 1972 Bulgaria adopted the System of Transliteration and Transcription of Bulgarian Geographical Names into Roman Letters, produced by the Council of Orthography and Transcription of Geographical Names, Sofia, which has been in use since that time,

"Considering that a great number of Bulgarian geographical names have been transliterated in accordance with that system,

"Recognizing also that for the Bulgarian Cyrillic alphabet only one single standardized system meets the requirements of the international standardization of geographical names,

"Recommends that the System of Transliteration and Transcription of Bulgarian Geographical Names into Roman letters, as shown in the annex below, be adopted as the international system for the romanization of Bulgarian geographical names."

**"ANNEX to II/10**

1	А а	А а	11	Н н	К к	21	Ф ф	F f
2	Б б	В в	12	Л л	Л л	22	Х х	H h
3	В в	V v	13	М м	М м	23	Ц ц	C c
4	Г г	G g	14	Н н	N n	24	Ч ч	Č č
5	Д д	D d	15	О о	O o	25	Ш ш	Š š
6	Е е	E e	16	П п	P p	26	Щ щ	Št št
7	Ж ж	Ž ž	17	Р р	R r	27	Ъ ъ	Ǻ ǻ
8	З з	Z z	18	С с	S s	28	Ь ь	J j
9	И и	I i	19	Т т	T t	29	Ю ю	Ju ju
10	Й й	J j	20	У у	U u	30	Я я	Ja ja

**III/11 Serbo-Croatian and Macedonian Cyrillic alphabets of Yugoslavia**

The Conference,

Recognizing the need for elaboration of resolution 6 of the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names,

Recognizing further that in Yugoslavia the romanization of the Serbo-Croatian and Macedonian cyrillic alphabets has long been employed in official gazetteers and maps,

Recommends that the systems that are given in the annex to this resolution be adopted as the international systems for the romanization of Serbo-Croatian and Macedonian geographical names in Yugoslavia.

ANNEX to III/11

Letter numbers	Cyrillic character		Romanization form
	Serbo-Croatian	Macedonian	
1	А а	А а	A a
2	Б б	Б б	B b
3	В в	В в	V v
4	Г г	Г г	G g
5	Д д	Д д	D d
6	Ђ ђ		Đ đ
7		Ѓ ѓ	G g <i>before e and и</i> Đ đ <i>in other cases</i>
8	Е е	Е е	E e
9	Ж ж	Ж ж	Ž ž
10	З з	З з	Z z
11		С с	Dz dz
12	И и	И и	I i
13	Ј ј	Ј ј	J j
14	К к	К к	K k
15	Л л	Л л	L l
16	Љ љ	Љ љ	Lj lj
17	М м	М м	M m
18	Н н	Н н	N n
19	Њ њ	Њ њ	Nj nj
20	О о	О о	O o
21	П п	П п	P p
22	Р р	Р р	R r
23	С с	С с	S s
24	Т т	Т т	T t
25	Ђ ђ		Ć ć
26		Ќ ќ	K k <i>before e and и</i> Ć ć <i>in other cases</i>
27	У у	У у	U u
28	Ф ф	Ф ф	F f
29	Х х	Х х	H h
30	Ц ц	Ц ц	C c
31	Ч ч	Ч ч	Č č
32	Џ џ	Џ џ	Dž dž
33	Ш ш	Ш ш	Š š

### **III/12 Transliteration into Roman and Devanagari scripts of the Indian Division**

The Conference,

Referring to resolution 11 of the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names,

Noting the corrections and amendments given in document E/CONF.69/L.116,<sup>30</sup>

Further noting that the note regarding Tamil has now become applicable,

Recommends the adoption of the tables of transliteration into Roman and Devanagari of the languages of the Indian division, reproduced in the technical papers of the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, as amended by document E/CONF.69/L.116, subject to further studies being undertaken in conjunction with Pakistan and Bangladesh of Urdu and Bangla.

### **III/13 Romanization of the Hebrew alphabet**

The Conference,

Recognizing the need for elaboration of resolution 9 of the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names,

Recognizing further that in Israel romanization is carried out in all official gazetteers and maps in accordance with the system mentioned in the report of the Second Conference,

Recommends that the system given in the annex to this resolution be adopted as the international system for the romanization of geographical names in the Hebrew alphabet.

#### **ROMANIZATION OF THE HEBREW ALPHABET TRANSLITERATION AND PRONUNCIATION GUIDE**

Hebrew names in romanized editions of maps published by the Survey of Israel are transliterated according to the official rules adopted by the Knesset (Parliament) and published in the Official Gazette No. 519 of 23 January 1957. A list of these rules follows below, together with a simplified pronunciation guide for the English-speaking reader. The Sephardic pronunciation prevailing in Israel is given.

The phonetic value of letters is approximately the same as in English except where stated otherwise; stress is mostly on the last syllable. For a more complete treatise see "Transliteration of Geographical Names in the Topographic Maps of Israel" by N. Kadmon and M. Talmi, Survey of Israel, Cartographic Papers, No. 4, 1969 (Hebrew, with English abstract). Hebrew is written from right to left.

CONSONANTS

Hebrew letter	Final form	Name of letter	Romanized form	Pronunciation	Example
א		Alef	ʾ	mute *	Arbel, Be'eri ארבל, בערי
ב		Bet	b		Benaya בניה
בּ		Vet	v		Yavor יבור
ג, ג׳		Gimel	g	hard, as in 'good'	Gedera גדרה
ד, ד׳		Dalet	d		Dorot דורות
ה		He	h		Hadassim הדסים
ו		Waw	w	w, v *	Wardon ורדון
ז		Zayin	z		Zohar זהר
ח		Ĥet	ħ	as ch in Scottish 'loch', but guttural	Ĥefa חפה
ט		Tet	t		Tira טירה
י		Yod	y		Yerushalayim ירושלים
כ	ך	Kaf	k		Karkur קרקור
כּ	כ׳	Khaf	kh	as ch in Scottish 'loch'	Nofekh נפקח
ל		Lamed	l		Lod לוד
מ	ם	Mem	m		Magen מגן
נ	ן	Nun	n		Naftali נפתלי
ס		Samekh	s		Savyon סביון
ע		'Ayin	ʿ	mute; gutturalizes following vowel *	'Evron, Ma'on אפרון, מעון
פ		Pe	p		Pattish פטיש
פּ	ף	Fe	f		Nof נוף
צ	ץ	Zadi	z	as ts in 'tse-tse'	Zefat צפת
ק		Qof	q	guttural k	Qedma קדמה
ר		Resh	r	guttural	Reshef רשף
ש		Shin	sh	as in 'sheet'	Shoval שובל
ט		Sin	s		Sadot סדות
ת, ת׳		Taw	t		Tel Aviv תל-אביב

VOWELS

ֶ	Pattah	a	as a in 'bar'
ֵ	Hataf Pattah	a	as a in 'bar'
ִ	Qamatz	a	as a in 'bar'
ֶ׃	Sheva	e	as e in 'yet'
ֵ׃	Segol	e	as e in 'yet'
ֶ׃	Ĥataf Segol	e	as e in 'yet'
ֵ׃	Zere	e, é *	as e in 'yet' or ay in 'bay'
ִ׃	Hiriq	i	as i in 'hit'
ִ׃	Hiriq Male	i	as i in 'hit'
ֹ	Holam	o	as o in 'short'
ֹ׃	Holam Male	o	as o in 'short'
ֹ׃	Qamatz Qatan	o	as o in 'short'
ֹ׃	Ĥataf Qamatz	o	as o in 'short'
ׁ	Shuruq	u	as oo in 'good'
ׁ׃	Qubbuq	u	as oo in 'good'

## NOTES

1. The addition of a dot (dagesh hazaq) within a consonant, except as shown in the list, doubles its value and is represented by doubling the respective letter (with the exception of the digraph sh).
2. The sign ' (Alef) slightly separates between two consecutive vowels or between a consonant and a vowel; at the beginning of a word it is omitted in transliteration.
3. Does not occur at the beginning of a name.
4. At the beginning of a name these letters carry a dot (dagesh qal).
5. Pronounced w in Eastern and v in Western pronunciation.
6. The sign '(Ayin) slightly separates between two consecutive vowels or between a consonant and a vowel, and gutturalizes the following vowel.
7. The sheva is of two kinds: sheva na<sub>h</sub>, which is omitted in transliteration, and sheva na', represented by e, which occurs at the beginning of a word or syllable.
8. In some maps and in the following glossary the zere, if accentuated, is transliterated é.

## GLOSSARY OF GEOGRAPHICAL TERMS IN NAME COMBINATIONS

Most geographical names in the romanized editions of maps of the Survey of Israel are transliterated from Hebrew. Many of these names contain geographical terms, the transliterations of which are listed below. The suffix -t in feminine nouns ending in -a denotes the 'construct' case

(semikhut) i.e. 'of', found in most name combinations. E.g. Horba = Ruin; Horbat Be'ér = Ruin of the Well. Plural forms frequently found in maps are also listed. The article is denoted by the prefix ha- or, in special cases, by he-.

<b>Agam</b>	lake
<b>Aggan</b>	basin
<b>'Arava ('Arvat)</b>	plain
<b>Bet</b>	house
<b>Be'ér</b>	well
<b>Berekha (t)</b>	pool
<b>Biq'a (t)</b>	valley
<b>'Émeq</b>	valley
<b>'En, pl. 'Enot</b>	spring
<b>Gan</b>	garden
<b>Gay (Gé)</b>	valley
<b>Gesher</b>	bridge
<b>Giv'a (t), pl. Giv'ot</b>	hill
<b>Har, pl. Haré</b>	mountain
<b>Holot</b>	sands, dunes
<b>Horba (t), pl. Horvot (abbr. H.)</b>	ruin
<b>Horesha (t)</b>	wood
<b>Kefar</b>	village
<b>Ma'agar</b>	reservoir
<b>Ma'ale</b>	ascent
<b>Ma'avar</b>	pass, ford
<b>Makhtésh</b>	erosion cirque
<b>Mappal</b>	waterfall
<b>Ma'yan</b>	spring
<b>Mazoq, pl. Mezoqé</b>	cliff

<b>Me'ara (t) pl. Me'arot</b>	cave
<b>Mehlaf</b>	interchange
<b>Meleha (t)</b>	saltpan, mudflat
<b>Mezad</b>	fort
<b>Mezuda (t)</b>	fortress
<b>Midbar</b>	desert
<b>Mifraz</b>	bay, gulf
<b>Mishor</b>	plain
<b>Mizpe</b>	observation point
<b>Naḥal (abbr. N.)</b>	stream, water-course, valley
<b>Qeren, pl. Qarné</b>	peak
<b>Qever</b>	tomb
<b>Qiryā (t)</b>	town
<b>Rama (t), pl. Ramot</b>	plateau
<b>Rekhes</b>	mountain crest, range
<b>Rogem</b>	cairn
<b>Rosh</b>	mountain top
<b>Sade (Sedé), pl. Sedot</b>	field
<b>Sheluḥa (t)</b>	spur
<b>Tel</b>	hill, ancient mound
<b>Ya'ar, pl. Ya'arot</b>	forest
<b>Yam</b>	sea, lake
<b>Zomet</b>	junction
<b>Zuq, pl. Zuqé</b>	cliff

#### **IV/14 Conversion into non-Roman writing systems**

The Conference,

Noting the progress which has been achieved in the romanization of non-Roman writing systems,

Recognizing the need to investigate the possibilities of conversion into non-Roman writing systems,

Recommends that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names should consider the conversion of non-Arabic writing systems into Arabic script and, in particular, whether or not non-Roman writing systems should be converted into Arabic script through the medium of the Roman alphabet.

#### **IV/17 Transliteration into Roman and Devanagari scripts of the Indian Division**

The Conference,

Referring to resolution 11 of the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names and resolution 12 of the Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names,

Noting the work done in transliteration into Roman and Devanagari<sup>31</sup> and amendments thereto accepted at the Third Conference,<sup>32</sup>

Further noting progress made and work required in the Indian Division,

1. Recommends that the Indian Division should undertake further studies in Urdu and Bangla in conjunction with the experts of Pakistan and Bangladesh;
2. Further recommends association with Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka in carrying out those studies.

#### **V/18 Romanization of the Russian alphabet for geographical names**

The Conference,

Noting that the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics has officially adopted a system for romanizing geographical names of that country written in the Russian Cyrillic alphabet,

Noting also that this system has been applied on maps produced in the Soviet Union for international use,

Recommends that the GOST 1983 system of the Main Administration of Geodesy and Cartography, set out in the annex to the present resolution, be adopted as the international system for the romanization of geographical names in the Russian Cyrillic alphabet.

ANNEX to V/18  
**TRANSLITERATION TABLE**  
**FOR TRANSFERRING RUSSIAN CYRILLIC CHARACTERS (R.C.)**  
**INTO ROMAN LETTERS (R.)**

R.C.	R.	E x a m p l e s		R.C.	R.	E x a m p l e s	
а	a	Анапа	Anapa	с	s	Сасово	Sasovo
б	b	Бабушкин	Babuškin	т	t	Татта	Tatta
в	v	Вавилово	Vavilovo	у	u	Уржум	Uržum
г	g	Гагарин	Gagarin	ф	f	Фофаново	Fofanovo
д	d	Дудинка	Dudinka	х	h	Хохлома	Hohloma
е	e	Елисеевка	Eliseevka	ц	c	Цветково	Cvetkovo
ё	ë	Ёлкино	Ėlkino	ч	č	Чечельник	Čečel'nik
		Псёл	Psël	ш	š	Шишкино	Šiškino
ж	ž	Жужа	Žuža	щ	šč	Щукино	Ščukino
з	z	Звёздный	Zvězdnuj	ъ	"	Подъячево	Pod"jačevo
и	i	Идрица	Idrica	ы	y	Ыныкчанский	Ynykčanskij
й	j	Зарайск	Zarajsk	ь	'	Параньга	Paran'ga
к	k	Коканд	Kokand			Казань	Kazan'
л	l	Лалвар	Lalvar			Щучье	Ščuč'e
м	m	Маймак	Majmak	э	è	Элиста	Èlista
н	n	Нежин	Nežin	ю	ju	Юрино	Jurino
о	o	Ободовка	Obodovka			Юхнов	Juhnov
п	p	Пап	Pap			Юрюзань	Jurjuzan'
р	r	Ребриха	Rebriha	я	ja	Ямал	Jamal
						Язъяван	Jaz"javan
						Яя	Jaja
						Вязьма	Vjaz'ma

**V/19 Romanization of the Greek alphabet for geographical names**

The Conference,

Noting that the conversion of the Greek alphabet into Roman letters has been extensively discussed at earlier United Nations conferences on the standardization of geographical names and sessions of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names,

Noting also the positive opinion, expressed at the Fourth Conference, on Standard No. 743 (ELOT 743) of the Greek Standardization Organization, prepared by Greece and Cyprus,

Recognizing that this system is linguistically sound and suitable for the transcription and transliteration of Greek names,

Recognizing also that this system has been officially sanctioned by the Governments of Greece and Cyprus for cartographic and administrative purposes, and that it has been used for maps of Greece and maps and gazetteers of Cyprus,

Recognizing further that a suitable transitional period will be required before the system can be fully implemented and that donor countries should provide practical assistance to received countries for that purpose,

Recommends that the ELOT 743 conversion system set out in the annex (*see next page*) to the present resolution be adopted as the international system for the romanization of geographical names in the Greek alphabet.



CONVERSION TABLE

Greek character and combination of characters	Conversion into the latin alphabet		Remarks	Pronunciation according to the International Phonetic Alphabet <sup>(7)</sup>
	Transcription	Transliteration		
A, α	a	a		a
(Aι, αι) <sup>(8)</sup>	aí	aí		ɛ
(Aι, άι)	ái	ái		ai
(Aι, αί)	aí	aí		ai
AY, αυ <sup>(9)</sup>	(av,	av	(1)	av
	af	aí	(2)	af
B, β	v	v		v
Γ, γ	g	g		ɣ
ΓΓ, γγ	ng	ŋg		ŋg
(ΓK, γκ)	gk	gk		(θ <sup>(3)</sup> ŋg <sup>(4)</sup> (5))
ΓΞ, γξ	nx	ŋx		ŋx
ΓΧ, γχ	nch	ŋch		ŋx
Δ, δ	d	d		ð
E, ε	e	e		ɛ
(Eι, ει)	ei	ei		i
(Eι, έι)	éi	éi		ei
(Eι, εί)	eí	eí		ei
EY, ευ <sup>(9)</sup>	(ev	ev	(1)	ev
	ef	eí	(2)	ef
Z, ζ	z	z		z
H, η	i	i		i
HY, ηυ <sup>(9)</sup>	(iv	iv	(1)	iv
	if	if	(2)	if
Θ, θ	th	th		θ
I, ι	i	i		i
K, κ	k	k		k
Λ, λ	l	l		l
M, μ	m	m		m
MΠ, μπ	(b	b	(3) (5)	b
	mp	mp	(4)	mb
N, ν	n	n		n
(NT, ντ)	nt	nt		d <sup>(3)</sup> , nd <sup>(4)</sup> (5)
Ξ, ξ	x	x		x
O, ο	o	o		o
(Oι, οι)	oi	oi		i
(Oι, όι)	ói	ói		oí
(Oι, οί)	oí	oí		oí
OY, ου <sup>(9)</sup>	ou	ou		u
Π, π	p	p		p
P, ρ	r	r		r
Σ, σ, ς	s	s		s, z <sup>(10)</sup>
T, τ	t	t		t
Υ, υ	y	y		i
(Yι, υι)	yi	yi		i
Φ, φ	f	f		f
Χ, χ	ch	ch		x
Ψ, ψ	ps	ps		ps
Ω, ω	o	o		o

REMARKS

- (1) Before the consonants θ, γ, δ, ζ, λ, μ, ν, ρ and all vowels.
- (2) Before the consonants θ, κ, ξ, π, σ, τ, φ, χ, ψ and at the end of the word.
- (3) At the beginning of the word.
- (4) In the middle of the word.
- (5) At the end of the word.
- (6) The combinations in parentheses are included in the table for the sake of clarity because they are converted according to the conversion rules of each character they consist of.
- (7) For information only. It is not part of the standard.
- (8) Before the consonants θ, γ, δ, ζ, λ, μ, ν, ρ.
- (9) They are converted according to the conversion rules of each character when the vowel before u has an accent or when u has the diaeresis sign.
- (10) When the character combinations ευ, αυ, ηυ, are stressed in Greek and the accent is transcribed, then in the latin script the accent is set on the vowel (ie, év, éf, év, áf, ív, íf).

**V/20 Romanization of the Korean alphabet for geographical names**

The Conference,

Recognizing the desirability of a single romanization system for each non-Roman-alphabet language,

Recognizing also that the subject of romanization, as referred to in resolution 15 of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, is of paramount concern to the conferences,

Noting the adoption of new guidelines for the romanization of Korean by the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Korea, following Ministry Directive number 84-1 of 13 January 1984,

Noting also that the guidelines have been applied since that date in the maps and gazetteers published by the Korean authorities,

Recommends that the guidelines (see E/CONF.79/INF/68), be referred to the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names for consideration as the single international system for the romanization of Korean geographical names.

**VII/4 Review of the amended Beirut system of 1972 for the romanization of Arabic script**

The Conference,

Bearing in mind the various resolutions, in particular resolutions 8 and 9, respectively, of the second and third United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names;

Noting that the Arab countries, at the recommendation of Arab experts, in 1972 adopted a system for the romanization of Arabic script, which was amended in 1972;

Observing that, despite the efforts that have been made, difficulties remain with respect to the application of this system of romanization,

Recommends that the League of Arab States should, through its specialized structures, continue its efforts to organize a conference with a view to considering the difficulties encountered in applying the amended Beirut system of 1972 for the romanization of Arabic script, and submit, as soon as possible, a solution to the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.

### **VIII/13 Romanization of Thai geographical names**

#### The Conference,

Recognizing that, in its resolution 14, the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names had recommended the adoption of the modified general system of the Royal Institute of Thailand as the international system for the romanization of Thai geographical names,

Recognizing also that, in 2000, the Government of Thailand officially endorsed the revised version of this system as the national standard, and that it has been implemented,

Recommends that this revised system, the principles of which were set out in the report entitled “Principles of romanization for Thai script by the transcription method”,<sup>33</sup> submitted by Thailand to the Eighth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, be adopted as the international system for the romanization of Thai geographical names.

### **VIII/14 Romanization of Serbian Cyrillic**

#### The Conference,

Recalling that resolution 11 of the Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names concerned, inter alia, the romanization of the Serbo-Croatian Cyrillic alphabet of Yugoslavia,<sup>34</sup>

Recognizing that the term “Serbo-Croatian Cyrillic” is no longer appropriate,

Recommends that future documents of the United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names and the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names use the term “Serbian Cyrillic” instead.

### **IX/9 Romanization of Hebrew**

#### The Conference,

Considering that the Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, held in 1977, recommended the use of the romanization system for Hebrew geographical names in its resolution III/13,

Aware that over the past fifty years there have been some changes in the pronunciation of Hebrew in Israel, resulting partly from changes in the composition of the Israeli population,

Considering that the official national authority on, inter alia, transliteration rules concerning Hebrew, namely, the Academy of the Hebrew Language, has lately decided to introduce certain

changes in the romanization of Hebrew geographical names in maps and road signs which have been ratified by the government of Israel, and which have already begun to be implemented in Israel,

Recommends the introduction of certain limited amendments to the previously approved romanization system for Hebrew, as specified below:

- (a) The letter ו as a consonant is romanized as V, v, instead of W, w (as a pointed vowel it remains unchanged as ו (O, o) or ו (U, u));
- (b) The consonant letter ז is romanized as Ts, ts, instead of Z, z;
- (c) The consonant letter ק is romanized as K, k and not as Q, q;
- (d) The letters ח and ע, both represented by ' , are represented only (and always) in the middle of a word, whereas in the past ע was represented also at the beginning and end of a word;
- (e) The shva-na (previously romanized as sheva-na') is represented by e only where it is actually sounded. Example: קבר-יבנה > Bne-Brak (previously Bene-Beraq); but גאולים > Ge'ulim.

#### **X/6 Romanization of Belarusian geographical names**

The Conference,

Noting that in Belarus a system of romanization for Belarusian geographical names was adopted in 2000 and was revised in 2007,

Recognizing that the system is linguistically sound and that it has been implemented in maps and gazetteers of Belarus,

Recommends that the system, as set out in the conference room paper entitled "The Roman alphabet transliteration of Belarusian geographical names" (E/CONF.101/CRP2), be adopted as the international system for the romanization of Belarusian geographical names.

#### **X/7 Romanization of Bulgarian geographical names**

The Conference,

Recognizing that the romanization system for Bulgarian geographical names adopted by the Conference in its resolution III/10 is no longer used in Bulgaria,

Recognizing also that since 1999 Bulgaria has implemented another system of romanization, which was finalized and officially adopted in 2009 by the Transliteration Act and is now widely implemented,

Recalling that the Conference, in its resolution IX/8, allowed for the relevance of any internationally adopted romanization system that was no longer implemented by sponsoring nations to be reconsidered after ten years,

Recommends that the system, as set out in the document entitled “Romanization system in Bulgaria” (E/CONF.101/12 and /Add.1), be adopted as the international system for the romanization of Bulgarian geographical names.

#### **X/8 Romanization of Iranian geographical names**

The Conference,

Recognizing that the romanization system for geographical names adopted by the Conference in its resolution I/13 is no longer used in the Islamic Republic of Iran,

Recognizing also that over a period of more than twenty years a system of romanization called “broad transcription” has been developed for Persian and is now implemented in the national geographical names database and administrative divisions maps of the Islamic Republic of Iran,

Noting that the original Persian script forms of Iranian geographical names are available in the national geographical names database and the transliterated forms will be available in the same database,

Noting also that, because more implementation of this system is needed and a suitable transitional period will be required before the system can be fully implemented at the international level, the Islamic Republic of Iran should provide practical assistance to receiver countries for that purpose,

Recalling that the Conference, in its resolution IX/8, allowed for the relevance of any internationally adopted romanization system that was no longer implemented by sponsoring nations to be reconsidered after ten years,

Recommends that the “broad transcription” system, as set out in the document entitled “New Persian romanization system” (E/CONF.101/118 and /Add.1), be adopted as the international system for the romanization of Iranian geographical names.

#### **X/9 Romanization of Ukrainian geographical names**

The Conference,

Recognizing that in 2010 Ukraine officially adopted a system of romanization for geographical names, which revised a system used since 1996,

Recognizing also that, although not fully reversible, the system has nevertheless been well implemented in maps, gazetteers and databases of Ukraine, as well as on public signs and in spheres of life other than those concerning geographical names,

Recommends that the system, as set out in the document entitled “Romanization system in Ukraine” (E/CONF.101/84 and /Add.1), be adopted as the international system for the romanization of Ukrainian geographical names.

## **17. MARITIME AND UNDERSEA FEATURE NAMES**

### **II/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.

### **II/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 Geographic 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.

## **II/26 Standardization of names of undersea features beyond a single sovereignty**

### **I**

The Conference,

Recognizing 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.

## **III/21 Maritime feature names**

The Conference,

Having considered resolution 22 of the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names,

Noting that the International Hydrographic Organization has designated a technical committee to recommend improvements in procedures for naming oceans and seas and their integral subdivisions - referred to as maritime features - beyond the limits of national jurisdiction,

Recognizing the progress made by the International Hydrographic Organization in standardizing names of maritime features,

1. Expresses its appreciation to the International Hydrographic Association for its offer to assist in United Nations programmes related to maritime features;
2. Recommends that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names co-ordinate its programmes with those of the International Hydrographic Organization.

### **III/22 Undersea feature names**

#### **I**

The Conference,

Recalling resolution 26 of the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names,

Considering the increased activity in ocean research and the need to develop names to identify a rapidly growing number of newly discovered undersea features,

Recognizing that such names are required for certain hydrographic publications and for bathymetric charts or related material used for research documentation,

Noting that a set of procedures developed by the United Nations would, if implemented by all Member States, lead to a desirable degree of uniformity in naming new features, while also establishing a mechanism for resolving conflicts over or duplication of names,

Realizing the interest of the International Hydrographic Organization and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission in standardizing not only procedures for naming but also the names themselves,

Recommends that the principles and policies, as well as the name proposal form put before the Conference, be submitted to the International Hydrographic Organization for the purpose of developing an agreed statement to meet requirements for an internationally acceptable set of guidelines designed to ensure maximum standardization of undersea feature names.

#### **II**

The Conference,

Noting that national and international organizations may employ different terms and definitions for undersea features,



Realizing that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names has elaborated a list of terms and definitions that differ from those approved and submitted to the Conference by the International Hydrographic Organization,

Recommends that the Group of Experts, in collaboration with the International Hydrographic Organization, develop, for international use, a joint list of terms and definitions for undersea features.

#### **IV/12 Maritime and undersea feature names**

The Conference,

Noting that the Working Group on Undersea and Maritime Features of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names has completed its tasks in regard to undersea features, as called for by resolution 22 of the Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names,

Observing that work in maritime features has not been finished, but should be further coordinated with similar work of the International Hydrographic Office, as recommended by the Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in its resolution 21,

1. Recommends that the task of the Working Group should be limited to maritime features;
2. Further recommends that the Group of Experts should identify a point of contact to carry out essential liaison and communications regarding names of undersea features proposed by national bodies.

### **18. NAMES OF FEATURES BEYOND A SINGLE SOVEREIGNTY**

#### **I/8 Treatment of names of features beyond a single sovereignty**

##### **A. GENERAL**

The Conference,

Recognizing that some features common to, or extending across the frontiers of, two or more nations have more than one name applied to them,

Further recognizing that the names of some features of this kind have different applications or extent,

1. Considers that it is preferable that a common name or a common application be established, wherever practicable, in the interest of international standardization;

2. Recommends that the geographical names authorities of the nations concerned attempt to reach agreement on these conflicting names or applications.

## B. MARITIME AND UNDERSEA FEATURES

### The Conference,

Having discussed some of the problems arising from a lack of international standardization of names of maritime and undersea features,

Recognizing the necessity for international standardization of names in and under ocean areas to promote the safety of navigation and to facilitate the exchange of scientific oceanographic data,

Noting that valuable initial steps have been taken towards standardization of both the nomenclature of hydrographic and undersea features and the geographical names of some of these features by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), the International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB), the International Association of Physical Oceanography (IAPO), and member nations,

1. Recommends that the proposed United Nations Permanent Committee of Experts on Geographical Names should:

- (a) Obtain from the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), the International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB) and the International Association of Physical Oceanography (IAPO), full particulars of the work already accomplished by those organizations;
- (b) Establish means for the collection, approval and distribution by the United Nations of both a list of agreed terms and definitions for nomenclature of maritime and undersea features and an initial list of recommended geographical names for features requiring names;
- (c) Develop procedures for international standardization of naming new undersea features as they are discovered, defined and identified in the future;
- (d) Continue to consult with and, as appropriate, to use the facilities of IOC, IHB, IAPO and other relevant bodies to further United Nations objectives in international standardization of names of maritime and undersea features;

2. Further recommends that copies of this resolution be forwarded immediately to IOC, IHB and IAPO.

## II/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 Geographic 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.

## **II/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.

## **II/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.

## **II/26 Standardization of names of undersea features beyond a single sovereignty**

### **I**

The Conference,

Recognizing 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.

**II/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.

**III/20 Names of features beyond a single sovereignty**

The Conference,

Recommends that resolution 25 of the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names be reworded as follows:

The Conference,

"Considering the need for international standardization of names of geographical features that 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 different names should endeavour, as far as possible, to reach agreement on fixing a single name for the feature concerned;

"2. Further recommends that when countries sharing a given geographical feature do not succeed in agreeing on a common name, it should be a general rule of international cartography that the name used by each of the countries concerned will be accepted. A policy of accepting only one or some of such names while excluding the rest would be inconsistent in principle 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 names belonging to one language or another."

**V/25 Features beyond a single sovereignty**

The Conference,

Recalling resolution 25 of the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names,

Considering that it would be useful to know and compare the practical experience acquired by neighbouring countries in the standardization of names of geographical features extending across their common borders,

1. Recommends that Member States systematically inform future United Nations conferences on the standardization of geographical names of their achievements in this field;
2. Recommends to that end that those national geographical names authorities that have not yet done so establish with neighbouring authorities joint or interrelated programmes for the collection and treatment of names of features extending across their common borders.

## **19. EXTRATERRESTRIAL FEATURE NAMES**

### **II/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.

### **III/23 Extraterrestrial feature names**

The Conference,

Recalling resolution 21 of the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names,

Noting that recent planetary research programmes have resulted in a growing requirement for names for newly discovered features on the surface of the planets,

Anticipating that names for many features as yet unidentified will be required for the future,

Recognizing that nations active in planetary research must meet requirements for names for maps and charts,

Recognizing that in view of the great importance of space exploration for the whole of humanity, world-wide participation in the procedure for naming extraterrestrial features would ensure that succeeding generations will inherit a nomenclature less confused than that bequeathed by the past,

Realizing that those nations actively engaged in planetary exploration have developed certain procedures for producing names for maps, charts and other publications,

Aware of the role played by the International Astronomical Union in the establishment of names lists and the application of names to features for international purposes,

1. Recommends that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names collaborate with the International Astronomical Union and other interested international bodies in programmes for the allocation of names to extraterrestrial features so that all requirements for names information may be met;
2. Also recommends that, as required, nations employ their own languages and writing systems in the treatment of generic terminology;
3. Further recommends that proposal forms be devised by the Group of Experts for the use of all countries that may wish to suggest names for extraterrestrial features.

#### **IV/13 Extraterrestrial feature names**

##### The Conference,

Considering the statement on the present state of affairs made by the chairman of the Working Group on Extraterrestrial Features of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (E/CONF.74/L.93),

Noting that the naming of extraterrestrial features is done in a satisfactory way by the Working Group for Planetary System Nomenclature of the International Astronomical Union,

1. Recommends that the Working Group on Extraterrestrial Features of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names should be dissolved;
2. Further recommends that the chairman of the Working Group on Extraterrestrial Features should continue to maintain liaison between the United Nations Group of Experts and the Working Group for Planetary System Nomenclature of the International Astronomical Union.

**20. GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES FROM UNWRITTEN LANGUAGES**

**I/16 Recording geographical names from unwritten languages**

The Conference,

Recognizing the many problems resulting from the lack of a writing system for many languages of the world,

Recognizing further the need to record such languages as scientifically as possible in a suitable writing system,

Recommends that for the purpose of recording geographical names of unwritten languages, the methods to be employed, in order of preference, will be:

- (a) Recording in a phonetic writing system;
- (b) Recording in the alphabet of the International Phonetic Association (IPA):
  - (i) Where necessary, a narrow transcription of the pronunciation of the geographical name will be carried out in order to record as precisely as possible the full phonetic character of each name;
  - (ii) In normal circumstances, the broad transcription of a name in the IPA alphabet will be carried out;
  - (iii) The final writing of the geographical name will be in an appropriate conventional alphabet or script, to approximate as nearly as possible the sound represented by the IPA broad transcription;
- (c) Recording in the alphabet of a kindred language for which an alphabet exists;
- (d) Recording directly into a conventional alphabet or other writing system, if possible by a person familiar with the language from which the recording is made; if the person making the recording is unfamiliar with the language, as much information as possible will be recorded in order to assess the reliability of the names as finally written.

**I/18 Writing of African geographical names**

The Conference,

Recognizing the existence of a large number of unwritten languages in Africa whose rendition in the Roman alphabet presents very complex problems in the transcription of geographical names,

Noting that the French and English alphabets are mostly employed in the rendering of geographical names in these languages,



1. Draws the attention to the proposed United Nations Permanent Committee of Experts on Geographical Names to the peculiar nature of these problems;
2. Requests the proposed Commission to give special attention to these problems with a view to achieving an accurate rendering of the sounds, by using either the French or the English orthography, depending on the language area.

## **I/20 Revision of recommendation VII of the Group of Experts on Geographical Names**

### The Conference,

Having considered recommendation VII of the Group of Experts on Geographical Names,<sup>35</sup>

1. Suggests that the following paragraphs replace those previously contained in that recommendation:

"It is recommended that, if they have not already done so, countries of complicated ethnic and linguistic constitution consider and attempt to solve the problems brought about by the existence within their boundaries of geographical names from unwritten languages, or from minority languages (written or unwritten) or from dialects of the principal languages. Since the solutions of the problems brought about by the existence of names from unwritten languages or from dialects of the principal language may be exceedingly difficult, it is suggested that the countries concerned work together with, and profit from the experience of, other nations with similar problems, to bring about solutions satisfactory for their own needs.

"For the treatment of names from unwritten languages two stages are necessary. First, for recording names from oral evidence, one can develop an unambiguous phonemic notation for each language. Alternatively, where there is in use a phonetic alphabet adaptable to a number of unwritten languages, for example the International African Alphabet, it may be advantageous to apply it. Secondly, one can write the names in final form by means of regular correspondence established between that phonemic notation or phonetic alphabet and the writing system adopted by the country concerned for the language in question.

"It is recommended that names from languages with different writing systems be rendered systematically by transliteration or transcription as appropriate";

2. Recommends that the proposed United Nations Permanent Committee of Experts on Geographical Names consider this question further.

**21. MANUAL OF NATIONAL NAME STANDARDIZATION**

**IV/3 Systematization and generalization of experience in the sphere of the standardization of geographical names**

The Conference,

Considering that substantial experience has been acquired in this field since the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names,

Considering also that that experience should be systematized and generalized for its better use by all interested countries,

Aware that some countries are still in the process of drafting national instructions for the standardization of geographical names,

1. Recommends that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names should, at its next session, initiate the systematization of the experience acquired so far by preparing a handbook of general technical and methodological principles for the standardization of geographical names which could be used by interested countries as a guide in the elaboration of their own standardization procedures;
2. Recommends also that the document in question should be circulated to all participating countries and should be examined at the next Conference.

**IV/9 Manual of national name standardization**

The Conference,

Noting the importance of resolution 4 of the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names as the primary document that provides recommended guidelines for accomplishing national standardization,

Noting further that a need has been expressed for a manual of simplified guidelines to assist Member States which are beginning or are in the initial stage of national standardization,

Recommends that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, at its eleventh session, should examine the possibility of developing such a manual by amplifying recommendations A, B and C of the said resolution 4.

**V/23 National standardization manual**

The Conference,

Noting that the need for a manual of simplified guidelines to assist Member States with the national standardization of geographical names has repeatedly been expressed,

Noting also that a manual entitled "Organization and function of a national geographical names standardization programme" has been compiled under the direction of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names,

Recommends that the United Nations publish the manual - perhaps as a volume of *World Cartography* - as soon as possible, and distribute it widely.

#### **V/24     Semi-annual information bulletin**

The Conference,

Noting the need for a world information network relating to geographical names,

1.        Recommends that countries provide the United Nations Secretariat with information on their activities related to geographical names;
2.        Recommends also that a semi-annual information bulletin be prepared and disseminated by the United Nations Secretariat to geographical names authorities and cartographic agencies, giving information on (a) activities, such as training courses, new publications and regional meetings, and (b) significant decisions on geographical names.

#### **VIII/15 Support for training and publications**

The Conference,

1.        Expresses its appreciation to Germany, the Netherlands and the United Nations through the United Nations Statistics Division for providing funding for participants from developing countries to attend the training course associated with the Eighth Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names;
2.        Stresses the importance of this training and requests the Statistics Division, within existing resources, to continue to provide funding for such training for participants from developing countries;
3.        Recognizes the importance, for the foreseeable future, of both electronic and print versions of documents available in all official languages of the United Nations, and in this connection;
4.        Requests the Statistics Division to include in its publication programme for the biennium 2004-2005 the following:
  - (a)      A publication of about one hundred and sixty pages on romanization systems, and formats and standards for toponymic data exchange;
  - (b)      A basic manual of about one hundred and fifty pages on geographical names.

## **IX/10 Support for training and publications**

### The Conference,

Recalling resolution VIII/15, adopted by the Eighth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names on this subject,

Acknowledging the support provided by the United Nations Statistics Division for training courses on geographical names standardization,

Emphasizing the importance of such training, particularly for participants from developing countries, as an essential element of national spatial data infrastructure and as a means of safeguarding cultural heritage,

Recognizing the importance of both electronic and print versions of documents available in all official languages of the United Nations,

- (a) Continue to provide funding for participation in toponymic training courses;
- (b) Further develop the website of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names into an effective reference and communication tool, including the uploading of previous conference documentation in all official languages of the United Nations;
- (c) Include in its publication programme:
  - (j) Addendum pages containing additions made since 2002 to the *Glossary of Terms for the Standardization of Geographical Names* of the Group of Experts;
  - (iii) A press kit to assist countries in promoting the standardization of their geographical names and the work of the Group of Experts.

## **22. AIDS TO PRONUNCIATION**

### **III/7 Aids to pronunciation**

#### The Conference,

Noting that the transfer of names from one writing system into another would be facilitated by information on pronunciation,

Recognizing the practical difficulty of indicating precise pronunciations but the feasibility of providing indications of approximate pronunciations adequate for comprehension in the received script,

Recommends that the Group of Experts consider the nature and design of research and experimentation that may help to establish the ranges of comprehensible pronunciation.

## **VIII/11 Working Group on the Pronunciation of Geographical Names**

### The Conference,

Noting that a geographical name has both oral and written forms,

Noting also that the transliteration of geographical names from the script of one language into the script of another with or without diacritical marks, such as romanization, does not normally provide a guide to the correct pronunciation of such names by persons who are unacquainted with the source language,

Noting further that the Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in its resolution 7 recommended taking up the subject of pronunciation,

Recommends that a Working Group on the Pronunciation of Geographical Names be established within the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.

## **23. MINORITY LANGUAGES**

### **II/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.

## **V/22 Aboriginal/native geographical names**

### The Conference,

Aware that groups of aboriginal/native people exist in many countries throughout the world,

Also aware that these groups have their own languages, cultures and traditions,

Recognizing that the geographical names of these groups are a significant part of the toponymic traditions of every area or country in which they live,

Recognizing also that aboriginal/native people have an inherent interest in having their geographical nomenclature recognized as important,

1. Recommends that all countries having groups of aboriginal/native people make a special effort to collect their geographical names along with other appropriate information;
2. Recommends also that, whenever possible and appropriate, a written form of those names be adopted for official use on maps and other publications;
3. Recommends further that regional and international meetings be held to discuss the methodology for collecting and recording aboriginal/native geographical names.

## **VIII/1 Promotion of minority group and indigenous geographical names**

### The Conference,

Considering that the preservation of minority and indigenous group culture is recognized as being an important aspect of the work of the standardization of geographical names,

Recalling the intent of the resolutions of earlier Conferences, namely, resolution 36 of the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names relating to multilingual geographical names and resolution 22 of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names relating to the recording and use of aboriginal/native geographical names,

Recognizing that there are many agencies throughout the world actively pursuing the retention/revitalization of minority and indigenous group culture through the recording, recognition and promotion of the toponyms representing such groups,

Recognizing also that the promotion of this work will benefit the geographical names authorities and the United Nations, as well as provide valuable information for the community in general,

Noting that Australia has offered to assist the United Nations Secretariat in the compilation and presentation of a report on this work,

Recommends that geographical names authorities throughout the world be invited to present a summary of such activities for inclusion in a general report, scheduled to appear in 2007, on these activities to be prepared by the United Nations for subsequent dissemination to all interested parties.

**IX/5 Promotion of the recording and use of indigenous, minority and regional language group geographical names**

The Conference,

Recognizing that the task set by resolution VIII/1 adopted by the Eighth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names has been completed with the publication of version 1 of a summary report of activities undertaken in various countries relating to the promotion of the recording and use of indigenous and minority group geographical names,

Noting that the promotion of the recording and use of such names is a valuable aid to the recognition retention and revitalization of indigenous, minority and regional language group heritage,

Recommends:

- (a) That version 1 of the report as published in 2007 continues to be maintained and updated;
- (b) That a set of guidelines be compiled for field collection of indigenous, minority and regional language group geographical names;
- (c) That, utilizing the various experiences from different countries, a range of models (particularly with regard to legislation, policies and research procedures) for the promotion of the recording and use of indigenous, minority and regional language group geographical names be gathered;
- (d) That a dialogue between the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names and other national and international groups and academic bodies involved with indigenous, minority and regional language group geographical names be initiated, to further the work on geographical names standardization.

**24. PHYSIOGEOGRAPHIC NAMES**

**IV/7 Standardization of physiogeographic names**

The Conference,

Considering that it is necessary to identify activities within the framework of national standardization of geographical names, in accordance with resolution 16 of the Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names,

Recognizing that the standardization of named physiogeographic regions contributes to the solution of various problems,

1. Recommends that named physiogeographic regions should be registered and characterized unambiguously;
2. Further recommends that the named physiogeographic regions should be listed in surveys and other documents along with locations and dimensions of the features, and that the same procedures should be followed also with respect to regional features divided among two or more countries.

## **25. GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES ON TOURIST MAPS**

### **II/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.

## **26. VOTE OF THANKS**

### **II/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.

### **III/27 Vote of thanks**

#### The Conference,

1. Expresses its heartfelt thanks to the Government of Greece for the excellent arrangements made by it for the organization of the Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names and for the hospitality extended to the participants;
2. Also expresses its appreciation to the President for the excellent way in which he conducted the meetings and the manner in which he looked after the welfare of the participants;
3. Expresses its gratitude to the officers and staff of the United Nations Secretariat for their hard work.

### **IV/26 Vote of thanks**

#### The Conference,

1. Expresses its gratitude to the President of the Conference and the Chairman of the Committee for the excellent way in which they conducted the meetings, and to the Editor-in-Chief and the editorial committees for their dedication;
2. Expresses its appreciation to the Government of Switzerland, through its Federal Office of Topography, for the hospitality extended to the participants;
3. Expresses its thanks to the outgoing Chairman of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names for the valuable work done by Professor J. Breu of Austria;
4. Expresses its thanks to the officers and staff of the United Nations for their hard and dedicated work.

### **V/26 Vote of thanks**

#### The Conference,

1. Extends its heartfelt thanks to the Government of Canada for the excellent arrangements and services provided for the Conference and for the generous hospitality extended to the participants;

2. Expresses its gratitude to the Commission de toponymie du Québec and to the Ministère des relations internationales et des affaires culturelles du Québec for their hospitality;
3. Expresses its thanks to the International Congress of Onomastic Sciences for inviting the Conference to take part in a joint session;
4. Expresses its gratitude to the President of the Conference for the excellent way in which he conducted the meetings and looked after the interests of the participants;
5. Expresses its appreciation to the Officers of the Conference and to the officers and staff of both the Government of Canada and the United Nations for their hard work.

#### **VI/14 Vote of thanks**

##### The Conference,

1. Expresses its thanks to the United Nations Secretariat for its support and its excellent services, without which the Conference could not have completed its business on time;
2. Expresses its appreciation to the Government of the United States of America for the generous hospitality extended to participants through the United States Board on Geographic Names;
3. Expresses its gratitude to the President of the Conference for his leadership and the excellent manner in which he looked after the welfare of participants;
4. Expresses its thanks to the officers of the Conference and to the officers and staff of the United Nations, including the interpreters and translators, for their hard and dedicated work.

#### **VII/15 Vote of thanks**

##### The Conference,

1. Expresses its thanks to the United Nations Secretariat for its ongoing support and its excellent services, without which the Conference could not have completed its business in time;
2. Expresses its appreciation to the Governments of the United States of America and of South Africa for the generous hospitality extended to participants;
3. Expresses its gratitude to the President of the Conference for his leadership and the excellent manner in which he conducted the Conference;
4. Expresses its thanks to the officers of the Conference and to the officers and staff of the United Nations, including the interpreters and translators, for their hard and dedicated work;

5. Expresses its gratitude also to those Governments that provided personnel, equipment, support and resources to UNGEGN and its working groups, enabling it to undertake its activities,
6. Requests that the United Nations Secretariat forward a letter of gratitude expressing appreciation for such support to member countries.

#### **VIII/17 Vote of thanks**

##### The Conference.

1. Extends its heartfelt thanks to the Government of Germany for the excellent arrangements and services provided for the Eighth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names and for the generous hospitality extended to participants;
2. Expresses its particular gratitude to the Bundesamt für Kartographie und Geodäsie (Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy) for its excellent organization of Conference-related matters and of the associated technical exhibition;
3. Expresses its gratitude to the President of the Conference for the effective way in which he conducted the meetings;
4. Expresses its appreciation to the officers of the Conference and to the officers and staff of both the Government of Germany and the United Nations for their hard work and dedication, which greatly facilitated the business of the Conference.

#### **IX/11 Vote of thanks**

##### The Conference.

1. Extends its heartfelt thanks to the United Nations for the excellent arrangements and services provided for the Ninth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names;
2. Expresses its particular gratitude to the United Nations Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat for its excellent organization of Conference-related matters and of the associated technical exhibition;
3. Expresses its gratitude to the President of the Conference and the Chairs of the Technical Committees for the effective way in which they conducted the meetings;
4. Expresses its appreciation to the officers of the Conference and Technical Committees and to the officers and staff of the United Nations Statistics Division for their hard work and dedication, which greatly facilitated the business of the Conference.

**X/12 Expression of thanks**

The Conference.

1. Extends its heartfelt thanks to the United Nations for the excellent arrangements and services provided for the Tenth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names;
2. Expresses its particular gratitude to the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat for its excellent organization of Conference-related matters and of the associated technical exhibition;
3. Expresses its gratitude to the President of the Conference and the Chairs of the technical committees for the effective way in which they conducted the meetings;
4. Expresses its appreciation to the officers of the Conference and technical committees and to the officers and staff of the Statistics Division for their hard work and dedication, which greatly facilitated the business of the Conference.

**NOTES**

- 1 *Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names: Vol. II. Technical papers, 1972, p. 239.*
- 2 *Fourth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names: Vol. II. Technical papers, 1982, p. 390.*
- 3 *Fifth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names: Vol. I. Report of the Conference, 1987, p. 83.*
- 4 *Fifth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names: Vol. I. Report of the Conference, 1987, p. 85.*
- 5 *Fifth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names: Vol. I. Report of the Conference, 1987, p. 83-86.*
- 6 Working Paper No. 50 presented by UNGEGN to the Sixth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, 1992.
- 7 Recommendation of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, approved at its nineteenth session, New York, 12 January 1998.
- 8 *Fourth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names: Vol. II. Technical papers, 1982, p. 369.*
- 9 *Fourth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names: Vol. II. Technical papers, 1982, p. 86.*
- 10 *Fourth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names: Vol. II. Technical papers, 1982, p. 235 and p. 238.*
- 11 *Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names: Vol. II. Technical Papers, 1972, p. 48.*
- 12 *Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names: Vol. II. Technical papers, 1977, p. 232.*
- 13 *Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names: Vol. II. Technical papers, 1972, p. 50.*
- 14 *Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names: Vol. II. Technical papers, 1972, p. 48 and Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names: Vol. II. Technical papers, 1977, p. 232.*
- 15 *Glossary of Terms for the Standardization of Geographical Names, United Nations publication, Sales No. M.01.XVII.7 (2002).*

- 16 *Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names: Vol. II. Technical papers*, 1977, p. 435.
- 17 E/CONF.91/L.65 and Add.1.
- 18 Now (2002) the Terminology and Reference Section of the United Nations Secretariat.
- 19 Data elements are the result of separating data into categories for the purpose of determining the arrangement of gazetteers by vertical or horizontal columns or for the descriptive coding of data for either gazetteer layout or automatic data processing.
- 20 E/CONF.91/CRP.11.
- 21 See *Fifteenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific, Kuala Lumpur, 11-14 April 2000: Report of the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.01.I.2), chap. VIII, sect. 8, resolution 7.
- 22 See *Report of the Seventh United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas, New York, 22-26 January 2001: Report of the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.01.I.13), chap. VI, sect. B, resolution 7.
- 23 *Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names: Vol. II. Technical papers*, 1977, p. 234.
- 24 *United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names: Vol. 2. Proceedings of the Conference and Technical papers*, 1967, p. 122.
- 25 *Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names: Vol. II. Technical papers*, 1972, p. 31.
- 26 *Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names: Vol. II. Technical papers*, 1972, p. 5.
- 27 *Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names: Vol. II. Technical papers*, 1972, p. 163.
- 28 Revised edition, May 1972, edited by D.N. Sharma Atri Harnal, Survey of India.
- 29 *Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names: Vol. II. Technical papers*, 1972, p. 30.
- 30 *Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names: Vol. II. Technical papers*, 1977, p. 393.
- 31 *Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names: Vol. II. Technical papers*, 1972, p. 117.
- 32 *Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names: Vol. II. Technical papers*, 1977, p. 393.

- 33 “Principles of Romanization for Thai script by the transcription method.” Submitted by Thailand to the Eighth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, 2002. E/CONF.94/INF.41.
- 34 As of 4 February 2003, the official name of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was changed to Serbia and Montenegro.
- 35 *World Cartography*, vol. VII (United Nations publication, Sales No.: 62.I.25), p. 13.

**B. RESOLUTIONS CROSS-REFERENCED BY CONFERENCE**

Conference	Resolution	Section	Conference	Resolution	Section
<b>I</b>	1	2		23	17,18
	2	1		24	18
	3	13		25	18
	4	5		26	17,18
	4 (E)	10		27	5
	5	11		28	14
	6	12		29	14
	7	6		30	13
	8	18		31	3
	9	15		32	5
	10	15		33	3
	11	16		34	18
	12	16		35	10,14
	13	16		36	23
	14	16		37	8
	15	16		38	25
	16	20		39	26
	17	16			
	18	20			
	19	8	<b>III</b>	1	1
	20	20		2	10
				3	13
<b>II</b>	1	1		4	5
	2	2		5	2
	3	2		6	9
	4	2		7	22
	5	16		8	16
	6	16		9	16
	7	16		10	16
	8	16		11	16
	9	16		12	16
	10	16		13	16
	11	16		14	8
	12	6		15	7
	13	15		16	5
	14	8		17	9
	15	11		18	14
	16	8		19	14
	17	10		20	18
	18	7		21	17
	19	6		22	17
	20	12		23	19
	21	19		24	1
	22	17		25	15



Conference	Resolution	Section	Conference	Resolution	Section
	26	2		15	5
	27	26		16	10
				17	13
<b>IV</b>	1	1		18	16
	2	3		19	16
	3	21		20	16
	4	4		21	7
	5	7		22	22
	6	7		23	21
	7	24		24	11, 23
	8	8		25	18
	9	21		26	26
	10	9			
	11	9	<b>VI</b>	1	2
	12	17		2	2
	13	19		3	2
	14	16		4	2
	15	15		5	2
	16	15		6	1
	17	16		7	4
	18	10,13		8	3
	19	13		9	5
	20	14		10	9
	21	2		11	8
	22	2		12	2
	23	2		13	7
	24	2		14	26
	25	2			
	26	26	<b>VII</b>	1	2
				2	1, 2
<b>V</b>	1	1		3	6
	2	2		4	16
	3	2		5	5
	4	2		6	13
	5	6		7	2
	6	3		8	9
	7	1		9	7, 13
	8	1		10	2
	9	11		11	7
	10	2		12	7
	11	4		13	2
	12	5		14	2
	13	14		15	26
	14	4			

Conference	Resolution	Section	Conference	Resolution	Section
<b>VIII</b>	1	5, 23	<b>IX</b>	4	5
	2	5		5	5, 23
	3	8		6	13
	4	14		7	13
	5	2, 6		8	15
	6	13		9	16
	7	13		10	7, 21
	8	2		11	26
	9	5			
	10	13	<b>X</b>	1	1, 2
	11	22		2	2
	12	9		3	5
	13	16		4	5
	14	16		5	2
	15	7, 21		6	16
	16	1, 2		7	16
	17	26		8	16
				9	16
<b>IX</b>	1	1, 2		10	2
	2	2		11	7
	3	2		12	26

## APPENDIX 1

### List of UN reports of the ten conferences

*United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names: Vol. I. Report of the Conference*, Geneva, 4-22 September 1967, United Nations Publication E.68.I.9. (1968).

*United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names: Vol. 2. Proceedings of the Conference and technical papers*, Geneva, 4-22 September 1967, United Nations Publication E.69.I.8. (1969).

*Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names: Vol. I. Report of the Conference*, London 10-31 May 1972, United Nations Publication E.74.I.2. (1974).

*Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names: Vol. II. Technical papers*, London 10-31 May 1972, United Nations Publication E.74.I.4. (1974).

*Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names: Vol. I. Report of the Conference*, Athens, 17 August - 7 September 1977, United Nations Publication E.79.I.4. (1979).

*Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names: Vol. II. Technical papers*, Athens, 17 August - 7 September 1977, United Nations Publication E/F/S.81.I.7. (1981).

*Fourth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names: Vol. I. Report of the Conference*, Geneva, 24 August - 14 September 1982, United Nations Publication E.83.I.7. (1983).

*Fourth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names: Vol. II. Technical papers*, Geneva, 24 August - 14 September 1982, United Nations Publication E/F/S.86.I.21. (1987).

*Fifth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names: Vol. I. Report of the Conference*, Montreal, 18-31 August 1987, United Nations Publication E.88.I.7. (1988).

*Fifth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names: Vol. II. Technical papers*, Montreal, 18-31 August 1987, United Nations Publication E/F/S.90.I.21. (1991).

*Sixth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names: Vol. I. Report of the Conference*, New York, 25 August - 3 September 1992, United Nations Publication E.93.I.23. (1993).

*Sixth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names: Vol. II. Technical papers*, New York, 25 August – 3 September 1992, United Nations Publication E/F/S.95.I.39 (1997).

*Seventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names: Vol. I. Report of the Conference*, New York, 13-22 January 1998, United Nations Publication E.98.I.18 (1998).

*Seventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names: Vol. II. Technical papers*, New York, 13-22 January 1998. Contact: United Nations, Statistics Division, New York.

*Eighth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names*, Berlin, 27 August – 5 September 2002, United Nations Publication E.03.I.14 (2003).

*Ninth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names*, New York, 21-30 August 2007, E/CONF.98/136, United Nations Publication, E.08.I.4.

*Tenth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names*, New York, 31 July – 9 August 2012, E/CONF.101/144, United Nations Publication, E.12.I.13.