Fourth United Nations Conference on the
Standardization of Geographical Names
Geneva, 24 August to 14 September 1982
Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

REPORTS BY DIVISIONS AND GOVERNMENTS ON THE SITUATION IN THEIR
REGIONS AND COUNTRIES AND ON THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE
STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES SINCE THE THIRD UNITED NATIONS
CONFERENCE ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

Report by the Africa West Division of the United Nations
Group of Experts on Geographical Names**

Paper presented by the Africa West Division of the
United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

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Between 1977 when the last Regional Conference on the
Standardisation of Geographical Names was held, and now, there
had been practically very little or no activities at the
Divisional level. All efforts made to have a meeting of the
countries of the Division ended in failure. Consequently,
the activities of the Division were conducted through
correspondences.

In all there were about 4 correspondences with all the
countries of the Division, and it was anticipated that there
would be reactions to these correspondences. Only the Republic
of Ghana replied to one of them. In the case of that country,
there is no local body officially constituted for the
standardisation of Geographical Names. Until 1970, the subject
was handled by the National Atlas Project under the Council
for Scientific and Industrial Research with the Survey
Department and the Geography Department of the University of
Ghana Legon assisting. The personalities interested in the
subject had all left the scene, and since then a vacuum has
been created. Ghana considers the subject as of immense
importance and would like to cover it if time and funds were
available. At the moment however, the situation was bleak.
It was then suggested that the Commission for Geodesy in Africa,
or the African Association of Cartography or the E.C.A. Regional
Cartography Conference in Africa should include the subject in
their studies and conferences.
The next E.C.A. Regional Cartography Conference in Africa is proposed for Cairo in the first week of February 1983 and it is hoped that many countries in Africa will be represented at the Conference. It will then be possible to have a meeting of the representatives of Africa (West Division).

All the correspondences from the Chief of Cartography Section, Cartography and Information Services Branch, Natural Resources and Energy Division, Department of Technical Cooperation for Development as well as those correspondences from the Chairman of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNEGGN) were circulated to all the Survey Departments of the countries in Africa (West Division).