



Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/CONF.79/L.20
24 June 1987

ENGLISH ONLY

FIFTH UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
Montreal, 18-31 August 1987
Item 5 of the provisional agenda*

NATIONAL STANDARDIZATION

Principles, policies and procedure: domestic geographic names**

Paper submitted by the United States of America

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* E/CONF.79/1.

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PRINCIPLES, POLICIES, AND PROCEDURES:
DOMESTIC GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

SUMMARY

The systematic standardization of geographic names in the United States began late in the 19th century. On September 4, 1890, President Benjamin Harrison signed an Executive Order establishing the United States Board on Geographic Names. From the beginning, the Board developed principles of domestic names standardization that have stood the test of time. A primary principle is formal recognition of present-day local usage. To this end, the Domestic Names Committee and its supporting staff work closely with State geographic names authorities, State and local governments and the general public in order to determine the choice, spelling, written form, and application of each name for official use. The full text of the document is available for review in the display area.

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