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REPORTS BY DIVISIONS AND GOVERNMENTS ON THE SITUATION IN THEIR  
REGIONS AND COUNTRIES AND ON PROGRESS IN THE STANDARDIZATION  
OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES SINCE THE FOURTH CONFERENCE

Report by Romania

Paper submitted by Romania

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## R E S U M E

Tout en confirmant le principe soutenu par la Roumanie à toutes les conférences antérieures, à savoir que la normalisation des noms géographiques au niveau international est conditionnée par la normalisation au niveau national, dans le rapport on indique les directions suivies, durant la période 1982—1987, en vue de régler tous les problèmes liés à la graphie et à l'utilisation des noms géographiques en forme normalisée sur les cartes et d'autres documents cartographiques.

On souligne la capacité de la Roumanie de promouvoir, aussi à l'avenir, un large échange d'idées, de matériaux et de documentation dans le domaine de la normalisation des noms géographiques, avec tous les pays du monde.

## R E S U M E N

Se reafirma el principio sostenido por la Rumania a todas las conferencias antes, que la normalización a nivel internacional de los nombres geográficos está condicionada de la normalización a nivel nacional. En el informa se indican las direcciones, en las, cuales, en el periodo de 1982—1987 se trabajò para la reglamentación de los problemas referente a la escritura y al uso de los nombres geográficos en forma uniformada, en los mapas y otros documentos cartográficos.

Resale el deseo de Roumania de promover también en lo futuro un amplio cambio de ideas, materiales y documentación tocante a la uniformación de los nombres geográficos, con todos los países del mundo.

## REPORT BY ROMANIA

The Socialist Republic of Romania appreciates the constant interest of the United Nations for standardization of geographical names and expresses its decision to further act in conformity with the resolutions adopted at the previous conferences. At the same time, it considers that these conferences are useful and necessary for the clarification, through the intermediary of the United Nations Organization, of issues on geographical names, with a view to promoting understanding, collaboration and cooperation between countries of the world.

Standardization of geographical names has become today an obvious necessity resulting from diversification of relations between various countries, eager to collaborate and cooperate in different activity fields.

The Socialist Republic of Romania reaffirms, on this occasion, the principle that was put forth at the 1967 Geneva conference : standardization at the international level can be achieved only on the basis of each country's efforts to solve its problems in the field of geographical names ; it is conditioned by standardization at the national level, which is an attribute of the country where the respective geographical names are found.

In conformity with the above statements, in the period 1982—1987 the Socialist Republic of Romania intensified the activity for solving problems connected with spelling and utilization of geographical names, in standardized form, on maps and other cartographic documents. During this period, collection and standardization of geographical names was accomplished for topographic maps at scale 1 : 25 000. Standardization was made on the basis of recommendations checked and approved by institutions which draw and edit maps or other cartographic documents. In parallel with standardization, a list of appellatives was established, necessary to those who use the stock of geographical names or to those who are involved in the education process in schools and universities. The list comprises the proper appellatives and the semantics established on the basis of dictionaries or formulated by linguists and geographers, so that it should be accessible to a wide and diverse category of beneficiaries.

A file of data with geographical names is being built and will be put at the disposal of those interested in collecting and retrieving, in computer format, names from a specific area or categories of geographical names.

Also, teams of geographers and linguists work at elaborating vast works — toponymic dictionaries of historical provinces in Romania. So far, **The toponymic dictionary of Banat** (of which the first instalment was issued) and **The toponymic dictionary of Oltenia** have been established.

Scientific concerns of Romanian specialists in the field of geographical names, the presentation of these names in a unitary form is also evident in the special toponymy chapter in the second volume of the treaty **Romania's Geography** published in 1984 under the aegis of the Academy of the Socialist Republic of Romania. On going are also geographic dictionaries carried out under the aegis of the Romanian Geographical Society ; they are specific to each country (**judet**) and consist of inventories of geographical names in supervised, standardized graphic form.

Over the past five years, in the Socialist Republic of Romania, interest for the issues regarding geographical names has considerably grown ; in this respect, evidence is given by the increasing number of doctoral thesis (PhD) and diploma papers (MA), scientific papers at conferences and symposia, organised by various central, departmental or regional bodies.

At the same time, in research institutes, universities, researchers, professors, students organized scientific meetings on the significance and importance of geographical names for evidencing the continuity of the Romanian people in the Carpathian-Danubian-Pontic space.

One should also mention the attention given to the correct and unitary spelling orthography of geographical names in handbooks, atlases, school thematic maps edited in Romania; this action was also remarked at bilateral meetings of geographers and historians from Romania and from other European countries, meetings organized under the aegis of the Romanian National Commission for UNESCO and of ministries involved. Among other examples, one should mention the Atlas of general school level **The Socialist Republic of Romania** (1985) and the set of thematic didactic maps issued under the aegis of the Ministry of Education and Learning.

Particular attention is given to the standardized graphic form of geographical names on tourist maps of widespread use, such as the touristic map of Romania at scale 1 : 850 000.

An issue of both general interest and high complexity, brought to the attention of participating states during the previous conferences of standardization of geographical names was the gradual reduction of exonyms, first and foremost, from cartographic works. These works edited in the Socialist Republic of Romania over the past five years point to the fact that the reduction of the number of exonyms has been a permanent concern of bodies in charge with carrying out or approving such works.

The rigorous utilization of the official orthography of geographical names on the territory of each state and the reduction of the number of exonyms are also reflected in the recent cartographic output, namely the **World Map**, in plane and relief at the scale 1 : 10 000 000 and the **Political Map of the World** at scale 1 : 18 000 000.

With a view to ensure a correct use by mass media of present official names of the world states and of the dependent, nonautonomous territories or of special status territories, a list was drawn, comprising the short and long name in Romanian, in the official language(s) of the respective state and in international languages. Capitals are named in the official language and in Romanian.

Under the aegis of the Commission for cultivation of the Romanian language within the Academy of the Socialist Republic of Romania, the fourth edition of the **Orthographic, orthoepic and morphological dictionary of the Romanian language** was issued; it also includes the spelling of geographical names — Romanian and foreign — in accordance to international recommendations.

The same goal is achieved by large use encyclopedic works published lately, such as **The World Countries** (IIIrd edition, 1985) and **Small Romanian Encyclopedic Dictionary** (1987), which reproduce the official standardized spelling of geographical names in Romania and abroad.

The Socialist Republic of Romania upholds that a more extensive international cooperation should take place in this field, with regard to exchange of cartographic materials, updating of the exonyms list and other actions aimed at regulating the graphic form of the geographical name. It is estimated that international studies and works over the past years have achieved remarkable steps forward in the field of correct spelling of geographical names on the territory of the Socialist Republic of Romania, following, in most cases, the national standard forms; one may consider that these advances represent, in fact, a direct effect of the recommendations formulated at the previous United Nations conferences.

Also, between the IVth and the Vth Conferences the Socialist Republic of Romania participated and followed the development of proceedings of the United Nations regional divisions of geographical names standardization.

Standardization of geographical names, this reality and endeavour of United Nations, prompts further consistent action in conformity with adopted recommendations since it serves both general and each country's interests.

The Socialist Republic of Romania will further advocate a large exchange of ideas, materials and documentation on standardisation of geographical names, with all countries of the world, in order to put into practice and materialize in everyday activities the recommendations of the Vth United Nations conference.