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Fifth United Nations Conference  
on the Standardization of  
Geographical Names  
Montreal, 18-31 August 1987  
Item 4 of the provisional agenda\*

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 submitted by the Moroccan delegation to the Fifth  
United Nations Conference on the Standardization of  
Geographical Names\*\*

Paper submitted by Morocco

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\* E/CONF.79/1.

\*\* A detailed report is available in the Arabic language.

KINGDOM OF MOROCCO

SUMMARY OF THE REPORT SUBMITTED BY THE MOROCCAN DELEGATION TO  
THE FIFTH UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF  
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES 1/

Morocco has always taken a particular interest in the questions raised by the standardization of geographical names. This interest derives from the great effort made by the Kingdom of Morocco to establish various topographical maps on various scales, which are fundamental documents for any economic and social development of a nation, on the one hand, and to encourage the development of geographical studies aimed at an in-depth knowledge of the country, on the other hand.

The interest taken by the Kingdom of Morocco in questions relating to geography is illustrated by its active participation in scientific and technical events, whether at the international or the regional level.

Thus, upon its creation following the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, the Moroccan National Commission on Toponymy began its activities. Within the framework of its assigned functions and in order to carry out its task, the National Commission on Toponymy has concentrated its efforts at various levels:

I. At the national scale:

- (a) Making the public aware of the importance of the standardization of geographical names, using all information media;
- (b) The establishment of provincial or regional commissions assisted by cadres from the Department of Land Conservation and Topographical Work (Cartography Division: an official body responsible for the preparation of topographical maps of Morocco) and placed under the chairmanship of the Governor of His Majesty the King. These commissions work under the technical supervision of the central Commission for the Standardization of Geographical Names;
- (c) Liaison and co-ordination between the various regional commissions;
- (d) Conferences in the field of toponymy at the central and regional levels;
- (e) The collection and utilization of documents and works prepared by national or international researchers and specialists in the field of toponymy (teachers, geographers, historians ...);

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1/ A detailed report is available in the Arabic language.

- (f) Co-operation with organizations and associations concerned with the standardization of geographical names (associations of Moroccan geographers ...).

II. At the international level:

1. The organization of the training course in toponymy at Rabat, with the aid and assistance of the United Nations Secretariat, provided through Mr. Max C. de Henseler;
2. The visit of Dr. Abdelhadi Tazi, a member of the Academy of the Kingdom of Morocco and Chairman of the Arab Group to the Jordanian Geographical Centre for Toponymy;
3. Dr. Tazi's visit to the Department for the Standardization of Geographical Names at the King Sa'ud University at Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

In conclusion, it should be noted that all these activities relating to the exchange of information, experience and methodology have been backed and supported by the will and desire of the members of the Arab Group to arrive at a unified system of transliteration at the level of the Arab world.

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