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STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
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Item 4 of the agenda

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

National report presented by Greece

Paper submitted by Greece

NATIONAL REPORT PRESENTED BY GREECE

Reviewing the five-year period since the Fourth U.N. Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names held in Geneva in 1982, the activities in the field of name standardization in Greece may be summarised as follows:

(1) The Hellenic Geographic Service has continued the preparation of the 1:5,000 scale map series which now covers 85 per cent of the country as well as the revision of maps in all other scales, while the Hellenic Hydrographic Service has continued the field collection of hydronyms as a part of the revision of the Sailing Directions, which contain a full alphabetical index of all geographical names referred therein.

(2) Both agencies have recently completed the acquisition of automated cartographic systems which will greatly facilitate map and chart production as well as geographic names processing. As a pilot project, the Hellenic Hydrographic Service is setting up a data base for all islands, islets and rocks in Greek waters, which has already resulted in doubling the number of such features listed previously as being 3,000, to 6,000.

(3) The detailed Gazetteer of Greece, comprising of three volumes and including 90,000 names has been published in both Greek and latin versions by the Hellenic Geographic Service using computer methods. The Gazetteer is based on the 1:50,000 scale map series and includes for each feature the geographical name, feature code, map sheet, altitude and coordinates.

(4) In 1983 the Greek Government endorsed the ELOT 743 conversion system of the Greek alphabet as the romanization standard for cartographic and administrative purposes. Maps and charts using the new conversion system were published by the Hellenic Geographic Service, the Hellenic Hydrographic Service and the Municipal Transport Authority of Athens. Greece along with Cyprus will request the Fifth Conference to adopt the ELOT 743 as an international standard for geographical names.