

United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Sixth UN Conference on the
Standardization of Geographical Names
7th Meeting (AM)

NR/192
2 September 1992

CONFERENCE ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES DISCUSSES FINAL REPORT

Recommends Establishment of Three New Divisions of Group of Experts

The Sixth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names this morning recommended that the Economic and Social Council establish three new divisions of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names -- Africa South, Baltic and Eastern Europe, North and Central Asia Divisions.

That proposal was contained in the final report of the Conference, parts of which were adopted this morning. The report contains several other draft texts covering such subjects as the venue for the next Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, recommendations of the Working Group on Evaluations and the proposed establishment of a working group on information and publicity.

The final report of the plenary, which was discussed by participants today, describes reports presented by countries on the progress they had achieved in the field of toponymy -- the science of naming topographic features -- since the 1987 Conference, held in Montreal, Canada.

The United Nations convenes a conference on the standardization of geographical names every five years. Preparatory work for the conferences is conducted by a Group of Experts which was established at the request of the Economic and Social Council, in 1960. The main objective of the conference is the reduction of alternative names for the same places around the world, as well as the simplification and standardization of such names.

The Sixth Conference will meet again at 3 p.m. today to continue consideration of its draft final report.

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