MEASURES TAKEN AND PROPOSED TO IMPLEMENT UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTIONS ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

Draft revision of the Statute of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

(Submitted by UNGEGN)
AIMS

The basic aims of the Group of Experts are:

(a) To emphasize the importance of the standardization of geographical names at the national and international levels and to demonstrate the benefits to be derived from such standardization.

(b) To collect the results of the work of national and international bodies dealing with the standardization of geographical names and to facilitate the dissemination of these results to Member States of the United Nations.

(c) To study and propose principles, policies and methods suitable for resolving problems of national and international standardization.
(d) To play an active role, by facilitating the supply of scientific and technical help, in particular to developing countries, in creating mechanisms for the national and international standardization of geographical names.

(e) To provide a vehicle for liaison and coordination among Member States, and between Member States and international organizations, on work associated with the standardization of geographical names.

(f) To implement the tasks assigned as a result of the resolutions adopted at United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names.

PRINCIPLES

No change at this time

FUNCTIONS

The functions of the Group of Experts are:

(a) To develop procedures and establish mechanisms for standardization in response to national requirements and particular requests.
(b) To undertake preparatory work for the periodic international conferences on the standardization of geographical names; to provide continuity for activities between conferences; and to provide leadership in the implementation of resolutions adopted at the conferences.

(c) To encourage the discussion and study of practical and theoretical steps directed towards standardization.

(d) To coordinate the activities of linguistic/geographic divisions formed to further the work at the national level; to encourage the active participation of countries and divisions; and to promote a degree of uniformity in the work undertaken.

(e) To create any necessary structure to supplement the work of divisions and to deal with issues beyond the scope of a division.

(f) To develop appropriate programmes to assist with training in individual countries and group of countries, to achieve standardization where this is lacking.
(g) To make mapping organizations aware of the importance of using standardized geographical names.

(h) To maintain liaison with international organizations dealing with related subjects and encourage UNGEGN divisions to participate in the United Nations regional or other cartographic conferences.

(i) To work at the highest possible national, international and United Nations levels to interrelate toponymy and cartography.

(j) To make standardization principles and standardized geographical names available as practical information for as wide a user community as possible, through all appropriate media.