

**SEVENTH
UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
ON THE STANDARDIZATION
OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES**

New York, 13–22 January 1998

Vol. I. Report of the Conference



UNITED NATIONS

Department of Economic and Social Affairs

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Chapter I

ORGANIZATION OF THE CONFERENCE

A. Terms of reference

1. The Seventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names was held at United Nations Headquarters in New York, from 13 to 22 January 1998, in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 1997/213 of 1 May 1997.

B. Opening of the Conference

2. The Executive Secretary welcomed delegates and spoke of the importance of the Conference and its relevance to the work of the United Nations. He then introduced Mr. Nitin Desai, Under-Secretary-General, Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

3. In opening the Conference, Mr. Desai welcomed the delegates and spoke of the history and development of the Conferences. He emphasized the importance of standardizing geographical names and described the value of having standardized names in support of such activities as commerce, emergency preparedness, local and regional planning, peacekeeping, tourism, and preservation of cultural heritage. He also emphasized the need for toponymic training.

4. The Director of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Mr. Hermann Habermann, was then given the floor to present briefly the work and mandate of his Division. He welcomed the recent administrative decision taken by the Secretariat to include all former cartographic activities and responsibilities of the Department of Development Support and Management Services into the mandate of the Statistics Division. This, it was pointed out, would strengthen the existing synergies between comprehensive databases affecting economic and social matters and cartographic activities, their complex databases, and the widely recognized role and importance of geographical information systems, global spatial data infrastructures, and electronic communication technologies and systems.

C. Attendance

5. The Conference was attended by 211 representatives and observers from 71 countries, five specialized agencies, one intergovernmental organization, two international scientific organizations, three other organizations, four observers, and two units of the United Nations Secretariat. The list of participants is contained in annex I.

D. Election of the President

6. The Conference elected Mr. Peter Raper (South Africa) as President. Mr. Raper thanked the Conference for this honour.

7. The President of the Sixth Conference, Mr. Abdelhadi Tazi, spoke of the accomplishments since that Conference and congratulated the President of the Seventh Conference on his election.

E. Adoption of the rules of procedure

8. The Conference reviewed the rules of procedure contained in document E/CONF.91/2, and accepted them with one change: in rule 6, the number of Vice-Presidents was reduced from three to two. The rules of procedure are reproduced below as annex II.

F. Adoption of the agenda

9. The Conference adopted the provisional agenda contained in document E/CONF.91/1 (see annex III).

G. Election of officers other than the President

10. The Conference elected the following officers:

First Vice-President: Sylvie LEJEUNE (France)

Second Vice-President: Brahim ATOUI (Algeria)

Rapporteur: Roger L. PAYNE (United States)

Editor-in-Chief: Helen KERFOOT (Canada)

H. Organization of work

11. Officers for the three committees of the Conference were also elected, as follows:

Committee I: national programmes

Chairman: Botolv HELLELAND (Norway)

Vice-Chairman: Bela POKOLY (Hungary)

Rapporteur: Randall FLYNN (United States)

National standardization (item 5)

Exonyms (item 10)

Committee II: technical programmes

Chairman: Naftali KADMON (Israel)

Vice-Chairman: John PARKER (Australia)

Rapporteur: Gerd QUINTING (United States)

Toponymic data files (item 6)

Terminology in the standardization of geographical names (item 7)

Committee III: international programmes and exchanges

Chairman: Ferjan ORMELING (Netherlands)

Vice-Chairman: Peeter PÄLL (Estonia)

Rapporteur: Julliette M. MOORE (United Kingdom)

Features beyond a single sovereignty (item 11)

Writing systems and guides to pronunciation (item 12)

Toponymic Web sites (item 13)

Toponymic education and practice (item 14)

Cooperation with national and international agencies and other bodies (item 15)

Country names (item 16)

12. Items 1-4, 8, 9 and 17-21 were considered in plenary meetings.

I. Credentials of representatives to the Conference

13. The Credentials Committee, composed of the President, the two Vice-Presidents, the Rapporteur, and the Deputy Executive Secretary, reported that the credentials of all representatives had been found to be in order.

14. Mr. Payne (United States) announced the passing away of Mr. Meredith "Pete" Burrill, one of the original founders of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names and instrumental in its development. Mr. Burrill had been a highly respected scholar and had developed many aspects of applied toponymy. He had addressed the Sixth Conference in 1992. A minute of silence was observed for Mr. Burrill and other participants in the work of the Group of Experts who had passed away since 1992: Mr. Rolf Boehme (Germany), Ms. Pamela Opie-Smith (United Kingdom), and Mr. Per Houde (Norway).

Chapter II

SUMMARY OF THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

A. Plenary meetings

Reports by divisions and Governments on the situation
in their regions and countries and on the progress made
in the standardization of geographical names since the
Sixth Conference (item 4)

15. It was noted that, as previously agreed, only summaries highlighting major points of each paper would be presented in plenary; for details the papers themselves could be consulted.

16. The report of Estonia (E/CONF.91/L.3) stated that the Governmental Place Names Committee had been founded in 1994 to advise the Government on matters relating to geographical names. The Law on Place Names, passed by Parliament on 11 December 1996, provided a legal framework for standardization of geographical names. The Committee, which was subsequently reorganized as the Place Names Board of Estonia, had prepared regulations, and the Government had appointed the Institute of Estonian Language to conduct research into onomastics and to serve in an advisory capacity. Additional work and progress were reported regarding the cataloguing of names of populated places and the use of minority names. Considerable work had been accomplished in the nation's cartographic programme (at various map scales), and a digital geographical names database had been established. Also, a geographical names Web site has been developed.

17. The report of the Baltic Division (E/CONF.91/L.6) summarized the meetings of the Division. It was noted that much effort had been concentrated on training. A course held in Riga, Latvia, had emphasized automated data processing as well as national and international standardization. Members of the Division had participated as observers in meetings of the Norden Division and of the Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia Division.

18. The report of Israel (E/CONF.91/L.7) indicated that the automated toponymic database was maintained on a regular basis. All geographical names were shown vocalized, but in cartographic application, the vocalization marks were frequently lost; the same was true on road signs and similar notices. Ambiguity, especially with foreign names, could result, and vocalization was, therefore, often required. The new digitally derived topographic maps were displaying names in "plene" unvocalized spelling. The official romanization system for Hebrew was under review, since organizations other than the Survey of Israel were using unofficial versions. A special commission was analysing the issue.

19. The report of the East Mediterranean Division (other than Arabic) (E/CONF.91/L.8) noted considerable interdivisional cooperation, including participation in training courses in South Africa and with the Dutch- and German-speaking Division on the UNGEGN glossary of toponymic terminology. Lectures were presented at seminars held in the Republic of Korea and New Zealand. A comprehensive textbook on toponymy had been prepared and would be printed in the near future. It was announced that Cyprus had requested membership in the Division.

20. Finland reported (E/CONF.91/L.15) that comprehensive field collection of names continued with the addition of Sámi names as well as Finnish. Almost 3 million names had been collected, including over 300,000 minority names.

21. The official treatment of names was the responsibility of the Research Institute for the Languages of Finland, which dealt with various issues, including spelling of names on maps, changes in names of municipalities and other administrative areas, toponymic training, use of foreign names, and evaluating the need for a place-name law. The 1:20,000 scale maps were in digital form, and a Web site was available. It was announced that there had been no response from the Government to a request to establish a national names authority. It was explained that the Web site was available to Finnish citizens only; however, the Web site of the Nordic Place Names Database was available to all.

22. Slovakia reported (E/CONF.91/L.20) that the standardization of names in country was complete for those names shown on maps at a scale of 1:10,000. There had been no change in the organization that standardized names, with four different bodies sharing responsibility. Current policy encouraged the inclusion of Hungarian minority names in parentheses on large-scale maps. The automated database of geographical names included all names shown on maps at the scale of 1:10,000 and 1:50,000. Standardized geographical names were also required to be used by the public media. The treatment of minority languages was set forth in the toponymic guidelines and addressed Hungarian. There was no use of Romany, Ruthenian, Ukrainian or German in cartographic applications.

23. In the report of Germany (E/CONF.91/L.24) it was stated that the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names (StAGN) included experts from Austria, Germany, and Switzerland, with collaboration from German-speaking areas of Belgium and Italy (Alto Adige/South Tyrol). The Committee held regular meetings twice a year. The Gazetteer of Germany included names shown at a map at the scale of 1:500,000 and was available in both conventional and digital form. It had been expanded to names shown at a map at the scale of 1:250,000, but that version was available in digital form only. Work on a concise gazetteer was in progress, and a list of names in the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltic States had been compiled. A digital automated database of German-language country names was being updated. Work to rectify minor discrepancies between names used in Germany, Austria and Switzerland was continuing. However, some still existed as a result of decisions in the various Foreign Offices. Web sites had been, or were being, established.

24. The report of Canada (E/CONF.91/L.31) mentioned that the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names had celebrated its centennial in September 1997. The Committee, made up of representatives from provinces, territories and the federal Government, met once a year. A strategic plan had been developed and put into place, addressing major themes such as data collection, automation, policy development, procedures and training, dissemination of information, and outreach. Field work rested with the provincial and territorial governments. The automated database included the official name, locative attributes, status, and other relevant fields relating to administration and history. Additional data fields might be maintained at the provincial and territorial levels. The federal governmental department responsible for the committee and some provincial governments maintained active geographical names Web sites.

25. When the new territory of Nunavut becomes a reality in 1999, there would be some special toponymic problems, but the procedures already established in

the Northwest Territories of Canada would be available. The legal authority for the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names was an Order in Council.

26. In its report (E/CONF.91/L.32) the United States/Canada Division mentioned that there were two meetings held annually in conjunction with the National States Council (formerly the Western States Council) and the meeting of the Canadian Permanent Committee. Other informal meetings might be held from time to time. Topics and areas of cooperation include transboundary issues, indigenous names policies, digital databases and the Internet, use of diacritical marks, and training issues.

27. The report of Sweden (E/CONF.91/L.45) stated that while Swedish was the only official language, minority names from Finnish and Sámi occurred in areas where those languages were spoken. Several governmental organizations had the authority to standardize certain categories of names; collaboration existed between the National Land Survey and the Institute for Language and Folklore Research. There was no official Swedish gazetteer, although the database at the National Land Survey was based on a map at the scale of 1:50,000.

28. Latvia reported (E/CONF.91/L.49) that the toponymic landscape of Latvia was complex, containing parallel layers of names from four languages: Livonian, German, Russian, and Latvian. The German and Russian aspects had been virtually replaced by Latvian. Latvian experts participated in activities of the Baltic Division and a training course was hosted in Latvia in 1997. An automated database was being developed, based primarily on a map at the scale of 1:50,000. Livonian names were accepted, especially for historical purposes, and names of the Latgalian dialect were accepted where appropriate. The main issue at hand was standardization of the names of "villages".

29. The report of the Islamic Republic of Iran (E/CONF.91/L.58) stated that the National Gazetteer had been compiled based on a map at the scale of 1:250,000, and was being completely revised. The first part of the project was the Province of Yazd. There had been five meetings of the Asia South-West Division (other than Arabic) in Tehran, the last of which was in 1994. Additional activity included preparing specialized gazetteers of townships, "mountains", and "rivers". The responsibility of standardizing names lay with the Home Office, but if there were serious problems with the names of administrative divisions or major cities, then parliamentary action might be necessary.

30. In the report of Hungary (E/CONF.91/L.44) it was stated that the Committee on Geographical Names was an interdepartmental body housed in the Ministry of Agriculture. The new act relating to surveying and mapping had increased awareness of the Committee. A new and comprehensive set of orthographic guidelines had been established. Work continued on the development of an automated database of names based on a map at the scale of 1:10,000. An act relating to ethnic and national minorities, passed in 1993, allowed for the preservation of culture and language - hence, names as well. The UNGEGN glossary on toponymic terminology and the resolutions of the Sixth Conference had been translated into Hungarian.

31. In the report of the Czech Republic (E/CONF.91/L.50) it was stated that the national standardization of names was the responsibility of the Ministry of the Interior; the Ministry of Regional Development; the Czech Office of Surveying, Mapping and Cadastre; and cadastral offices. The Toponymic Guidelines for Map Editors and Other Editors had recently been published (1997). In 1994 a digital database had been created based on the national map series at the scale of 1:10,000. There had been regular participation in the East Central and

South-East Europe Division and at an international symposium on geographical names held in Vienna in 1996.

32. The report of Ukraine (E/CONF.91/L.51) stated that the National Council on Geographical Names, established in 1993, was responsible for all aspects of names standardization in the country. Glossaries of major geographical names worldwide had been issued for use in schools. The romanization system for the transcription of the Ukrainian Cyrillic alphabet had been presented to the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) in 1996 and would soon be submitted to the Government of Ukraine. The creation of an automated database on geographical names was under way, based on a map at the scale of 1:100,000.

33. The report of Slovenia (E/CONF.91/L.52) stated that in 1986 the Executive Council had appointed a Commission for the Standardization of Geographical Names at the suggestion and encouragement of the Surveying and Mapping Authority and the Slovenian Geographical Society. The Government of Slovenia re-appointed the Commission in 1995. A gazetteer of official names of communities had been published. The sources for standardized names were topographic maps at the scales of 1:25,000; 1:10,000; and 1:5,000. About 200,000 names from various sources were not yet standardized. The Commission would address those issues. Minority names had caused complex problems, but cooperation with local experts had resulted in the appropriate names on the map, followed by the secondary Slovenian names. Work had been done to use the geographical names database in a Geographic Information System (GIS) application, and the Commission for Geographical Names Standardization had established a Web site for information regarding names standardization. Local experts had been working closely with the Government of Slovenia and the Geographical Names Commission for many years and represented the local jurisdiction in multilingual areas. The issue of transliteration systems used for names in Slovenia that were not in the Roman alphabet was still being researched, but many foreign governmental and private sources had been utilized. The original form was used as much as possible, with the Slovenian translation often appearing in parentheses.

34. South Africa reported (E/CONF.91/L.53) that since 1994, the number of provinces had increased from four to nine, and official languages from two to eleven. That had had, and would continue to have, a significant impact on toponymy in South Africa. All names from the 11 official languages were endonyms because they were from within the country. Generally, official approval of names, or a preferential form of name, was made with consideration of the prevalent local language. In South Africa each of the languages had a standing written orthography.

35. The report of Poland (E/CONF.91/L.54) stated that thus far, there was no official body responsible for standardizing geographical names, although there were two commissions that established names: one for names within Poland, and one for foreign names. Names were being collected for an automated database relative to a map scale of 1:10,000. Several publications containing lists of names and guidelines had been published. Polish experts had participated in all of the meetings of the East Central and South-East Europe Division and with observer status, of the Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia Division and the Baltic Division. In 1994, the Cartographic Commission of the Polish Geographic Society had held a special session on a database of geographical names for use in the editing of topographic maps.

36. Austria reported (E/CONF.91/L.61) that the Board on Geographical Names had held several meetings over the past two years. A symposium on geographical

names had been held on the occasion of the 100th meeting of the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names (StAGN) and the celebration of the millennium of Austria. In addition to official names and locative attributes, the automated database (GEONAM) contained instructions relating to cartographic type placement. There had been considerable progress made on the revised edition of the historical place names book of Burgenland, and it was hoped that it would be published in about three years. There were also local projects for historical maps and the publication of work on the tradition of place names of Austria and Italy (Alto Adige/South Tyrol) since 1200.

37. The report of Australia (E/CONF.91/L.66) stated that the Committee on Geographical Names in Australia (CGNA) had a coordinating role in Australian naming activities. Each Australian state and territory was responsible for geographical naming and had legislative policy and procedures to support the process. The mission of the Committee was to "develop national standards and guidelines for geographical names to support the national spatial data infrastructure of Australia" (ASDI). Its activities, including activities arising from its biennial meetings, were reported to the Intergovernmental Committee on Surveying and Mapping (ICSM) of Australia. They had included a national gazetteer, toponymic guidelines, Internet information, indigenous place names, a national place names project, international development, and the development of a strategic plan.

38. The Asia, South-East and Pacific South-West Division (E/CONF.91/L.67) reported that three meetings had been held, including presentations of papers, and projects such as the Division's place names map at the scale of 1:10,500,000 had been reviewed. The toponymic training course scheduled for Darwin in 1997 had been postponed, but hopefully could be held in mid-1998.

39. The report of China (E/CONF.91/INF.23) stated that the standardization efforts for names in China had been transferred to the Ministry of Civil Affairs, and responsibilities at the provincial, municipal, and county levels had been incorporated into local governments. Numerous publications on various aspects of naming had been issued. Since 1989, 10 training courses had been held with about 1,100 students in attendance; all aspects of applied toponymy, including romanization were covered. An automated database of names based on a map at the scale of 1:1,000,000 was being upgraded to the scale of 1:250,000. In 1994, an international symposium had been held on national minority names in Yunnan Province; more than 50 papers were read.

40. In the report of Japan (E/CONF.91/INF.4), it was indicated that there may be more than 10 million names in use in Japan, but that only about 1 million of them had been collected for maps at the scale of 1:25,000. There was currently no single authority for geographical names, although various agencies were attempting to cooperate and coordinate activities. However, there were rules for standardizing names of populated areas, "mountains", undersea features, and features in Antarctica. In 1997, a concise gazetteer was prepared from maps at a scale of 1:1,000,000.

41. Argentina reported (E/CONF.91/INF.6) that the Instituto Geográfico Militar (IGM) was responsible for all aspects of national geographical activity and that there were official publications and maps at a variety of scales. Many provinces produced maps at very large scales. The office of Hydrographic Naval Services was responsible for the names of maritime features and participated in handling names of features in Antarctica. The Office had a Web site where it presented its reports. In the near future toponymic features would be included; they were currently available in graphic and digital form.

42. The report of the United States (E/CONF.91/INF.7) stated that the United States Board on Geographic Names had originally been created in 1890, but had been established in its current form by public law in 1947. It was divided into domestic and foreign committees, with advisory committees for names of undersea features, names in Antarctica, and names of extraterrestrial features. Most foreign name activities since 1992 had involved database development and enhancement and the creation of a fully searchable Internet Web site. There had been over 20 revised, conventional foreign gazetteers released since 1992 and a revision of the guide to romanization systems. Domestic activity included a major revision of the publication Principles, Policies, and Procedures: Domestic Geographic Names, and action on more than 1,500 names proposed since 1992. More than 400,000 additional entries had been added to the national automated names database. The National Digital Gazetteer had been released, and the fully searchable Internet Web site had been made operational. There was active participation in training courses in Central and South America, in Latvia and South Africa. Experts attended meetings (as observers) of the Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia Division and of the Baltic Division.

43. With regard to the change in domestic policy on the use of diacritical marks, all such marks may be used if included in the Roman alphabet. "Insignificant features" were considered by some states too small to be named; the Federal Board had no such policy.

44. The report of the United Kingdom (E/CONF.91/INF.17) explained the new system of administrative organization. While it had been completed in Wales and Scotland, it was not expected to be completed in England until April 1998. The reason for a two-tiered system in some areas and a one-tiered system in other areas was explained. The new system had been implemented gradually, so there was no official set of maps showing the finalized administrative units.

45. The report of Switzerland (E/CONF.91/CRP.3) indicated that there was no central authority for standardization of geographical names but that there were five different authorities at the federal level. Most of the activity was at the cantonal and local levels. There had been continued work in populating the automated names database at the federal level, and data fields included the name as it appeared on the national map, altitude (in most cases), locative attributes, and map reference. In 1996, Rhaeto-Roman had been recognized as an official language. However, the law did not specifically mention activity with regard to geographical names, largely because those names had been in use and were already official. There has been much cooperation with StAGN, the organization for the standardization of geographical names in the German language.

46. In the report of the Republic of Korea (E/CONF.91/CRP.6) it was stated that the official governmental authority for standardization of geographical names had been established in 1981, based on a surveying law. There were three committee levels: a central committee; special city, metropolitan city, and province committees; and city, district, and county committees. The Republic of Korea had held eight seminars and conferences on international issues since 1992.

47. The report of France (E/CONF.91/CRP.10) noted work on the standard base map review and tourist maps at a large scale. The database had been completed, focusing on names of communes, departments and regions, and all agencies were required to use it. The list of countries and capitals of the world had been maintained, and a glossary of dialect terms had been compiled. Also, the

translation of the UNGEGN glossary of toponymic terminology into French had been completed with cooperation from the Commission de toponymie du Québec, Canada.

48. Discussion ensued about the transliteration system used for the Arab-speaking countries of North Africa. Currently, there were two systems: some countries in North Africa used a French system agreed to by the affected parties; the remainder of the Arab-speaking world used the amended Beirut system. The Arab League wished to propose acceptance of a universal transliteration system which has been finalized, except for minor discrepancies involving four characters: j, d, dh and q.

49. Greece reported (E/CONF.91/CRP.12) that there was no centralized function organ for collecting, registering and standardizing geographical names but that those different tasks were shared by various governmental authorities, according to the category of names. A working group had been established in 1997 to study the status, structure, and functions of a national names authority. The responsibility for the determination of official names rested with the Ministry of the Interior. Official maps were produced by the Hellenic Military Geographical Service and the Hellenic Naval Hydrographic Service. A new edition of the Gazetteer of Greece had been published in 1997, and a corresponding automated database was continually updated. Geographical names in the gazetteer might appear in dimotiki or katharevousa, and even in archaic or foreign forms, in some cases.

50. The Netherlands (E/CONF.91/CRP.13) reported that since 1988, official names had been available in digital form, based on a map scale of 1:50,000, but had recently been enhanced to a map scale of 1:25,000. Since 1992, much work had been done in the area of training, including participation in courses in South Africa and advising on courses for the Asia South-East and Pacific South-West Division. There was increased use of Frisian names; they were becoming official and were reflected on topographic maps.

51. The report of the Dutch- and German-speaking Division (E/CONF.91/CRP.14) indicated that there had been five divisional meetings since 1992. The agenda items had included toponymic guidelines, the UNGEGN glossary of toponymic terminology, training, exonyms, country names, the various toponymic activities within member countries. There had been participation in the symposium held on the occasion of the 100th meeting of StAGN (Permanent Committee on Geographical Names), and participation in activities celebrating the millennium of Austria. A German glossary of toponymic terminology, based on version 2 of the UNGEGN glossary that had been published.

52. The report of Norway (E/CONF.91/CRP.15) stressed that the primary principles inherent in the Norwegian Place Name Act of 1990 were local pronunciation and current spelling principles. The same principles applied to names in multilingual areas. The Ministry of Norwegian Cultural Affairs had organized regional names advisory services to assist the Norwegian Mapping Authority and other public bodies in names standardization. Almost 750,000 names had been collected as part of county projects; many of them were for "microtoponyms", which referred to small features such as field names and names of "minor" features that might not necessarily be named on maps. They should be a topic for discussion at a later time. It was noted that "microtoponym" was not included in the UNGEGN glossary of terminology. Most of the names on maps at the scale of 1:50,000 had not yet been evaluated to determine whether they complied with the Place Name Act. The Norwegian Mapping Authority was responsible for establishing a database of names that did comply with the Act; the database would be available to the public. Names in multilingual areas were

to be treated in the same way as Norwegian names, but questions still existed concerning minority languages: North Saami, Lule Saami, South Saami, and Kven (Finnish). A conference sponsored by the Norden Division on foreign names in Nordic countries had been held in Oslo in May 1997.

53. The report of the Russian Federation (E/CONF.91/CRP.18) indicated that there had been major changes in toponymic standardization procedures since 1992, with priorities set for improving procedures, developing a proposal for legislation, compiling manuals and references, revising the application of the transliteration system for cartographic application, developing a digital database, and cooperating with other countries. In 1994, an interdepartmental committee had been created to standardize geographical name usage. The committee had developed principles and procedures for data collection. A draft law on naming geographical features had been submitted to the Duma and was approved in March 1997. In December 1997, the law had been signed by the President of the Russian Federation. Thus there was a legal basis for naming in the Russian Federation.

54. In its report E/CONF.91/CRP.19, Algeria stated that the Institut national de cartographie had been assigned responsibility for the selection of names to be put on maps. Aware of the various United Nations resolutions on the standardization of geographical names, the recently created National Council of Geographic Information would establish a permanent national committee of toponymy in 1998. Recently two books on toponymy in Algeria had been published.

55. The report of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (E/CONF.91/CRP.23) stated that about 300,000 geographical names had been collected from maps at various scales, including those of 1:25,000 and smaller. A digital database was being prepared for those geographical names. There had also been participation in the fourteenth session of the East Central and South-East Europe Division in Budapest in 1997.

56. The report of Cuba (E/CONF.91/CRP.24) noted that the National Committee of Geographical Names had existed since 1987. Decree 150 of 1989 had called for reorganizing geographical names in Cuba by expanding procedures and providing a legal basis and a process of approval for names. Procedures for investigating and collecting geographical names had been implemented. A geographical dictionary would be published in 1998, and a digital database was being established. It should be available later in 1998.

57. The report of Cyprus (E/CONF.91/CRP.25/Rev.1) stated that the authority for making names official had been established in 1977 and obligatory application of the romanization system ELOT 743 had been made in 1988. Many names had an ancient cultural basis and dated back 2,500 years. Tourist maps utilizing official names had been designed at scales of 1:5,000; 1:15,000; and 1:50,000. The official Gazetteer of Cyprus (vol. I) had been completed and was available to the public. A concise gazetteer containing about 2,000 names was also available, and numerous topical glossaries were being prepared. ELOT 743, the transliteration system approved by UNGEGN, was being used.

58. Morocco reported (E/CONF.91/CRP.26) that geographical names were of great importance in that country, especially relating to cartographic application, road signs, cultural heritage, and socio-economic application. Therefore, considerable effort was made to standardize names in accordance with the resolutions and recommendations of the United Nations. Standardization was primarily achieved through the organization responsible for cadastral and cartographic activities. Research conducted at universities had also provided

valuable support, and that research had resulted in the publication of books and theses on names standardization. The primary goals were the use of standardized geographical names on standard and special maps; on new maps at a scale of 1:25,000; on revised maps; and on the base map of the country. The National Committee had organized international meetings through universities and was in contact with the Arab League and the Arabic Language Commission. There had been an official publication of the new administrative situation, and an official map portraying the structure would soon be released. It was also announced that from May 1997 to May 1998 was the official year of Ibn Battoutah, and there had been numerous activities in celebration. The airport at Tanger had been renamed Ibn Battoutah International Airport, and a postage stamp commemorating the year of Ibn Battoutah had been issued.

59. The delegate of the United Kingdom indicated that there has been some confusion regarding the new administrative situation within Morocco. Specifically, prefectures and provinces seemed to appear as both first-order and second-order administrative divisions. It was explained that the current structure was standardized and that the order of hierarchy was as follows: regions, provinces/préfectures, urban and rural towns/villages.

60. The delegate from Morocco explained that the amended Beirut transliteration system of 1972 was in use. Derived from the Encyclopedia of Islam in the early part of the century, it had been modified in 1972 into the current system. At the Third United Nations Conference in 1977, it had been accepted for use, except for four characters.

61. The Moroccan delegate confirmed that a system to modify the Amended Beirut System of 1972 would likely be put forward.

62. The delegate of Algeria indicated that there might be a resolution to organize a conference of Arabic countries to resolve the issue. The delegate also indicated that a national committee on toponymy would be established in 1998. After July 1998 all maps published officially would be in Arabic only.

63. The report of Croatia (E/CONF.91/CRP.38) stated that there was no national body addressing the standardization of geographical names in that country but that efforts were being made to establish such a body. Currently, Parliament decided on the names of administrative divisions, and community names were decided on by the Council of Counties. Local jurisdictions decided the names for streets and squares, but the names of physical features were not yet standardized. The mapping agency had been reorganized and produced topographic maps at the scale of 1:25,000 and 1:5,000. There was a military mapping agency as well as an office for providing hydrographic charts. Croatian was the official language, but names in minority languages could be used if authorized by local jurisdictions and such names might be found in use in Istria (Italian) and Bjelovar and Daruvar (Czech). While some research on toponymic themes had been done by linguists, geographers, and cartographers, there had as yet been little collaboration with mapmakers. A gazetteer of "settlements" had been published.

64. The report of Nigeria (E/CONF.91/CRP.42) stated that a working committee for the standardization of map and place Names had been set up in the early 1970s, and three editions of the National Gazetteer had been published since that time. The official National Committee for the Standardization of Map and Place Names had been established by a decree in 1989. The Committee had been formulating and establishing principles, policies and procedures, as well as toponymic guidelines. Although the downturn in the national economy had

adversely affected the activity of the Committee, the requirements of the Geographic Information System (GIS) had necessitated the revitalization of its work. Almost the entire country was covered by maps at a scale of 1:50,000 and those maps were the basis for the third edition of the National Gazetteer. Because of major internal administrative changes, much field work was being undertaken. Once the field work was complete, the fourth edition of the National Gazetteer was expected to appear in 1998. The fourth edition would form the basis for establishing an automated database, and names from a variety of additional sources would be added. The delegate emphasized the importance of continuous training and cited valuable training received in the staff offices of the United States Board on Geographic Names in 1980.

65. Romania reported (E/CONF.91/CPR.44) that toponymic field activity had continued to generate names for use on the base map series at a scale of 1:25,000. The Historical Geographical Atlas of Romania had been published in 1996, and the first two volumes of the Geographical Encyclopedia of Romania had been published in 1996 and 1997. For the 100th anniversary of the publication of the Great Geographical Dictionary of Romania, the Geographical Society of Romania was preparing a new edition. A gazetteer of Romania was in preparation by the Geographical Institute of Romania, and the version of the UNGEGN glossary of toponymic terminology in Romanian was under way. There had been toponymic courses in support of field work, and the National Office for Cadastre, Geodesy, and Cartography, established in 1996, was examining the possibility of becoming the national toponymic authority. The linguistic realities of minority language forms were reflected on maps and in the gazetteer.

66. The report of Peru (E/CONF.91/CRP.45) stated that the standardization of geographical names in that country had been affected by various historical circumstances. Many indigenous names had been transformed by explorers and early settlers, and some elements of languages from Africa had been introduced. The process of achieving independence had affected the toponymy. In Peru, geographical names were applied in accordance with international agreements with neighbouring countries. The National Geographical Institute had been responsible for national cartography since 1921 and had evolved into the de facto authority for geographical names since the names on its cartographic products were used by all other organizations. Interviews conducted during field work and verified by other sources formed the basis of the standardized toponymy. Special problems existed and must be overcome because of the various dialects of the indigenous languages and idiomatic references in those languages. The problem of numerous duplicate names, especially of streets in urban areas, was being addressed. The toponymy of Peru was highly varied and complex. The delegate emphasized the importance of training and cited the positive results of the course in applied toponymy held in Lima in 1995, under the auspices of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History. There was evidence that certain names in Peru were of Arabic origin, but additional research was required on the subject.

Measures taken and proposed to implement United Nations
resolutions on the standardization of geographical names
(item 8)

67. The system of state names authorities in the United States was explained in a report (E/CONF.91/INF.12). Forty-two of the fifty States had such an authority. The Federal Board relied on recommendations from the authorities to ensure local use and acceptance, which was of paramount importance. In the

eight States where there was no such authority, there was direct contact with local governments.

68. The delegate from Canada indicated that the collection of the resolutions adopted at each of the six United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names had been updated (E/CONF.91/CRP.1). The resolutions were listed by subject and cross-referenced by Conference. They were also available in English and French on the Canadian geographical names Internet Web site.

69. The South African delegate reported that the compilation of United Nations documents on geographical names had been translated into Arabic. Translations into Chinese, French and Spanish were being prepared. In that way, United Nations resolutions on the standardization of geographical names and other relevant material would be available to users of geographical names in most countries in the world. Articles on UNGEGN and the standardization of geographical names were included in publications appearing in Berlin and Helsinki, and papers on the subject were presented at various international congresses and seminars.

Commemorating the thirtieth anniversary of the First
United Nations Conference on the Standardization of
Geographical Names (item 9)

70. The President drew attention to the fact that one of the delegates from Cyprus, Menelaos Christodoulou, had participated, in all seven Conferences. The President further cited and emphasized the achievements and accomplishments, technical and otherwise, made by the Member States and the work of the Committees over the past 30 years.

71. The delegate of the Islamic Republic of Iran presented a paper (E/CONF.91/L.59) highlighted the accomplishments and contributions of two noted individuals who were scholars, geographers and toponymists, Nasser-Khosrow and Istakhri. Nasser-Khosrow, who had published an account of his travels, discoveries, and observations in 444 A.H. (after Hejira, or 1051 A.D.), had made highly valuable contributions to the geographical knowledge of the time and especially to early toponymy, by recording and describing more than 750 geographical names. Istakhri had also travelled widely and had established himself as a great geographer and toponymist. He made sharp and relevant observations and was cited by numerous geographical scholars who followed. His books gave full account of his accurate observations which included the name and location of each feature in his accounts. A map of the routes travelled by Nasser-Khosrow was distributed (E/CONF.91/L.59/Add.1).

72. The delegate from the United Kingdom applauded the paper on the Irani toponymists and noted its usefulness and relevance. He asked about the reference to Darya-ye-Khazar (Caspian Sea). It was explained that Darya-ye-Qazvin was used historically; Darya-ye-Khazar was used within the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Darya-ye-Mazandaran was used by Iran for international cartography.

73. The delegate of Israel presented a summary of a comprehensive paper (E/CONF.91/L.14) on Ptolemy, providing a bridge between antiquity and the current work of UNGEGN. Ptolemy's work was of major importance and involved innovations in geography, history, cartography, linguistics and toponymy. He described physical and cultural conditions as well as phonetics and the conversion of names from one language to another. His cartographic applications

introduced coordinates and elevation, depicting three-dimensional space, to which he added order of precedence or history, thereby adding the fourth dimension of change through time. His greatest work in the field was Geographia, or Cosmographia, which was composed in eight books. The first and last focused on methodology, and books two through seven listed and described more than 8,000 geographical names and their coordinates. Book eight was followed by an atlas of maps directly referencing the Earth's surface and using for the first time a system of coordinates. The talk was followed by slides showing some of Ptolemy's work.

74. The report of Morocco (E/CONF.91/CRP.26) noted the importance of the Conferences and made reference to their numerous accomplishments over the past 30 years. The delegate had cited the names of the President of each conference:

First Conference, 1967 - Mr. Meredith "Pete" Burrill (United States);

Second Conference, 1972 - Mr. H. A. G. Lewis (United Kingdom);

Third Conference, 1977 - Mr. L. Mavridis (Greece);

Fourth Conference, 1982 - Mr. D. P. Blok (Netherlands);

Fifth Conference, 1987 - Mr. Jean-Paul Drolet (Canada);

Sixth Conference, 1992 - Mr. Abdelhadi Tazi (Morocco);

Seventh Conference, 1998 - Mr. Peter E. Raper (South Africa).

75. The delegate from Morocco presented a paper (E/CONF.91/CRP.35) summarizing the exploits and contributions of the accomplished, respected, and revered scholar and geographer Ibn Battoutah, who had travelled extensively throughout North Africa, the Middle East, India, and China, then returning to Morocco. He had also visited southern Europe and other parts of western Africa. He had written eloquently of his travels and observations. His written accounts were lucid and reflected keen observations, establishing him as an extraordinary geographer and toponymist. His important observations and analyses had been shared by the world's major cultures, and his work has been rendered into more than 20 languages. He had been the first properly to transcribe many geographical names and had cited more than 1,000. His work was noted for its high degree of credibility.

76. The President invited Mr. Randall, observer from the United States, to comment on a presentation by Mr. Burrill at the Sixth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names. Mr. Burrill, one of the founders of UNGEGN, had been responsible for the formulation of many topics considered by that group. His remarks had highlighted aspects of UNGEGN, including its relevance and evolution. They were to be published in the next UNGEGN Newsletter.

Meetings and conferences: United Nations Group of Experts
on Geographical Names (item 17 (a))

77. No documents were submitted for item 17 (a).

78. The President noted that there had been two meetings of UNGEGN, in 1994 and 1996 in New York and Geneva, respectively. The work of the working groups was

discussed, and it was noted that much has been accomplished regarding training, toponymic guidelines, gazetteers, and the development of Internet sites. It was also mentioned that numerous countries had been successful in establishing national names authorities since the previous Conference. There had been cooperation with professional organizations, including the Economic Commission for Africa, which was interested in working towards revitalizing the Divisions of UNGEGN in Africa. There was cooperation with the International Cartographic Association (ICA) and the International Council of Onomastic Sciences (ICOS), as well as with the Place Names Survey of the United States (PLANSUS), which had asked that its Vice-President, Mr. Payne (United States), serve as liaison with UNGEGN.

Meetings and conferences: divisional and inter-divisional meetings and programmes (item 17 (b))

79. No documents were submitted for item 17 (b).

Meetings and conferences: national names meetings, conferences and symposia (item 17 (c))

80. The delegate from the United States discussed the history, establishment and growth of the Western States Geographic Names Council, noting that it was founded in 1976 as a forum in which the Rocky Mountain states could discuss problems relating to cartographic application of names. After two years, the group had expanded to include all of the western states, and in 1991 it voted to include all of the states west of the Mississippi River. In 1997, the group became a national entity, covering all states. The Council's annual conference in applied toponymy attracted almost 100 participants. The Place Names Survey of the United States (PLANSUS) had been founded almost 35 years ago, for the systematic collection of names in the United States. Since that work was taken over by the United States Government, PLANSUS had refocused its goals to promote toponymic research, provide methodological assistance and establish minimum requirements for toponymic research.

Meetings and conferences: international names meetings, conferences and symposia (item 17 (d))

81. The observer from the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) informed the delegates of an ISO group working on systems of romanization and noted the extreme importance for close collaboration. It was noted that there were likely other projects of ISO that would be of common interest.

82. The delegate of Austria described the Symposium on the occasion of the 100th meeting of StAGN (Permanent Committee on Geographical Names) and the celebration of Austria's millennium (E/CONF.91/L.64). Eleven experts had lectured on various subjects, including geographical names in developing countries, names in multilingual areas, linguistic aspects of geographical names, and names standardization.

83. The delegate from the Republic of Korea discussed the eight sessions held on the naming of the East Sea/Sea of Japan (E/CONF.91/CRP.9). Many guest lecturers had presented papers on current and historical aspects of the issue.

Economic and social benefits of the national and international
standardization of geographical names (item 18)

84. No documents were presented for item 18.

85. The President noted the usefulness of the UNGEKN Newsletter as a forum for informational papers, announcements and notices. He also made reference to the explosion of information available from the Internet. That medium had become a very useful tool for toponymy, both for disseminating information and for interactive database retrieval.

Arrangements for the Eighth Conference (item 19)

86. The President introduced the proposed provisional agenda for the Eighth Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names. An explanation was given of how the agenda was determined, and a discussion of the items followed.

87. The Conference decided that the item "Education and practice" should not be split into two agenda items. At a later date it could be decided which Committee would address the issue.

88. The item on Web sites was discussed, and it was decided that it should remain as a separate agenda item, which could be included under the work of Committee II or Committee III.

89. The inclusion and separation of division and governmental reports was discussed, and they were retained as separate items, with the reference to meetings of divisions also included in a separate agenda item.

90. The presentations of country reports in summary form was emphasized. The Rapporteur indicated that written summaries would assist the reporting of the most salient items from country reports.

91. Elimination of the item "Conversion into non-Roman writing systems" was discussed. It was decided to retain it as an agenda item.

92. The emphasis on the work of the committees and the limited time available for writing the report of Committee III were mentioned as considerations in establishing the final agenda.

93. The discussion turned to a date for the Eighth Conference. The Executive Secretary indicated that the Economic and Social Council would be reviewing all conferences. It was suggested that the Eighth Conference be scheduled for the second half of 2002.

94. Since the Seventh Conference had been held later than originally scheduled, the question of holding one or two UNGEKN sessions before the Eighth Conference was raised.

Closing of the Conference (item 22)

95. The President thanked all participants for having prepared and presented the 133 technical documents to the Conference and for their active involvement in the discussion, which had greatly contributed to the international standardization of geographical names. He also thanked the secretariat of the Conference for all the arrangements made before and during the sessions as well

as the interpreters, translators, conference and documents distribution officers, who had worked very hard during the previous two weeks to make the Conference a success.

Action taken by the Conference

96. At its final plenary meeting, the Conference adopted 15 resolutions (see chap. III below). The delegates from the Republic of Korea and from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia voiced some reservations concerning the list.

97. A text, meant to serve as the basis of a draft resolution on the "standardization of maritime features beyond any sovereignty", was introduced "for information" by the delegate from the Republic of Korea.

98. The delegate indicated the reasons and need for such a resolution, citing as an example the controversial issue of the name of the body of water known as Sea of Japan, East Sea, and East Sea of Korea. He recommended that the Conference should adopt such a resolution in order to further its mission of international standardization. While strong programmes of national standardization were sufficient in most cases to achieve international standardization, some instances required discussion and cooperation among countries regarding features that might border several countries but fell beyond their sovereignties. Such a resolution would encourage discussion, leading to a reduction in confusion regarding references to such features.

99. The delegate from Japan spoke against the circulation of the proposed text, because it was prepared without the consensus of the resolution's collaborating delegates and the process did not follow the rules of procedure. Resolutions should be circulated at least 24 hours before any action could be taken. It was further noted that the proposed text was not really in keeping with the spirit of the original reason for holding conferences on the standardization of geographical names.

100. The delegate of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea expressed disappointment in the statements and position of the delegate from Japan. He then took a position of support for the proposed text.

101. As each interested delegation stated its intention to submit a statement for the record later, the President reminded them that no statement could be accepted unless read to the assembled delegates.

102. Further discussion followed. The delegate from Iran noted that consensus on the proposed text had not been reached during the Conference. He proposed that the period between the Seventh and the Eighth Conferences should be used to work towards such consensus. That proposal was accepted by the Conference.

103. The delegate of the Republic of Korea, acknowledging the difficulties involving consensus and procedures, urged no further debate on the proposed text, which, he claimed, did not really provide anything substantively new that was not already contained in previous resolutions. He stressed that the issue should rather be considered by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, with the goal of presenting a draft resolution to the Eighth Conference.

104. In his closing statement, the President urged and encouraged the three interested countries to make use of the previous resolutions on the issue and to

work, in the spirit of those resolutions, towards a mutually acceptable agreement.

B. Committee I: National programmes

National standardization (item 5)

Field collection of names (item 5 (a))

105. The report of Canada (E/CONF.91/L.38) highlighted the field work performed in collecting geographical names information and the steps taken to develop a database to track work conducted in that area. A map included in the report, reflecting information in the database, showed graphically those areas where systematic surveys, partial surveys, and independent data collection efforts were complete or under way. It was emphasized that respect of local usage had been of paramount consideration in the standardization programme in Canada, as a matter of policy. Canada was commended for that policy by several representatives. The high cost of systematic field collection was recognized as a difficulty to be overcome and a contributing factor in the low number of researchers actively engaged in the field. The employment of telephone surveys was noted as an adjunct means of collecting data but could not be considered a substitute for rigorous field collection. The pace of community-based field collection of toponymic data in northern Canada was expected to increase with the imminent emergence of Nunavut as a new administrative division.

Office treatment of names (item 5 (b))

106. The report of Estonia (E/CONF.91/L.2) outlined the process undertaken to develop and realize the Estonian Law on Place Names of 1996. The Place Names Act of Norway, adopted in 1990, provided a useful model for the Estonian legislation. The Law on Place Names was considered necessary, since the development of the Estonian juridical system following the re-establishment of independence had led to certain lacunae in the legal code with respect to processes governing the official treatment of geographical names. The Law on Place Names contained three main provisions dealing with the procedures for the standardization of place names (including the specification of the national bodies possessing the authority to approve place names), the requirements (or policies) to be imposed on the standardization process, and the application and use of place names. The Law formalized the existence of the Place Names Board, established policies governing minority language names, provided recommendatory guidance on the use of parallel names, and provided for the establishment and maintenance of a National Place Names Register.

107. In another paper (E/CONF.91/L.35), the representative of Canada noted that the general principles reflected in Conference resolutions should form the basis for the development of sound selection criteria for the choice of geographical names. A project could be envisaged whereby a codification of advantageous practices for name selection emerging from the several Conferences could be catalogued.

108. The representative of Austria reported on the orthographic reform of the German language which was concluded in German-speaking countries in 1996 (E/CONF.91/L.62 and Add.1). Implementation of the reform would have implications for place names in Austria. The reform could be applied to the names of physiographic features but not to features where a legal act was

required to effect a name change. The Conference noted that the reform had not been finalized in Austria and that an intergovernmental expert group was engaged in commenting on its stipulations. The Austrian Court of Law would consider the reform in the first half of 1998.

109. China submitted a report (E/CONF.91/INF.24) covering the mechanism for geographical names standardization and elaborated upon the procedures for assigning and changing geographical names, the problems encountered in the standardization of geographical names terminology, and the criteria employed for the uniform spelling of Chinese and minority language geographical names. Special consideration was given by the Conference to the place names of Hong Kong, which had reverted to full Chinese sovereignty on 1 July 1997. The representative of China reported that the traditional characters and traditional names of features would continue to be used in that special administrative region.

110. The representative of the United States reported on a recently published booklet covering the principles, policies, and procedures for domestic geographical names standardization (E/CONF.91/INF.10). Revisions to the previous edition had included the addition of a policy on Native American names, an extension from one year to five years following the death of an individual as a criterion in a commemorative naming policy, and an amendment to the policy for the use of diacritical marks. It was emphasized that predominant local usage played the most significant role in the determination of the application of diacritical marks. An additional report from the United States (E/CONF.91/INF.13) provided further details on the requirements to be fulfilled in proposing a commemorative geographical name.

111. The Conference recognized the progress made in toponymic data collection in the United States (E/CONF.91/INF.11). The 25-year place name compilation programme, begun in 1976, was moving towards completion, with comprehensive data collection complete or under way in all but four states. The effort had been a collaborative one among various state agencies and universities. The programme included provisions for the collection of variant and historical names as well as official names. The principal sources employed had been documentary, since prohibitive cost made field collection impossible.

112. The representative of Austria reported on the conversion of Austrian military mapping to conform to specifications promulgated by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (E/CONF.91/INF.19). The geographical names on the converted 1:50,000-scale maps would be identical to those used in civilian mapping and those contained in GEONAM, the official Austrian place names register.

113. The report of the Russian Federation (E/CONF.91/CRP.21) described the main points of the federal law adopted in 1997 on naming geographical features. The law was intended to establish the legal basis for naming and renaming geographical objects. It included, *inter alia*, provisions for the establishment of policies and procedures for the standardization of geographical names, for the establishment of a federal body to oversee the federal geographical names programme and for the creation and maintenance of a national catalogue of geographical names, and it established the basis for international cooperation in toponymy. It was noted that much work remained to be done in elaborating the provisions of the new law, and the representative of the Russian Federation stated that the United Nations Group of Experts would be kept informed of progress, as the practical aspects of the law were implemented.

Treatment of names in multilingual areas (item 5 (c))

114. The representative of Finland reported on the choice of place name spellings to be used by translators and editors (E/CONF.91/L.16). Prior to 1997 the choice of place name spelling was not always entirely clear for translators into foreign languages, given that Finland was officially a bilingual country. The Finnish Constitution and official language act had provided the legal basis for the languages in Finland. The Toponymic Guidelines contained descriptive information regarding the languages and dialects encountered in Finnish place names. In 1997 the Finnish and Swedish Language Boards issued recommendations on choices of place name spelling in cases where the legal provisions and the Toponymic Guidelines were not sufficiently clear.

Administrative structure of national names authorities
(item 5 (d))

115. The representative of Canada presented two brief reports. The first (E/CONF.91/L.39) contained a digest of the strategic plan of the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names. The complete plan, first developed in 1989 and updated several times since, was being revised and would be made available in English and French versions. The second report (E/CONF.91/L.40) contained a useful index to articles related to geographical names standardization appearing in the issues of Canoma, a periodical devoted to topics of Canadian toponymy, published by the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names.

116. The report of Australia (E/CONF.91/L.60) described the significant restructuring of the administrative hierarchy of Victoria, for the development, maintenance, and standardization of geographic information, including geographical names. Before 1995, the paradigm of centralized authority at the state level was in place. In that year, the state of Victoria undertook a complete review of the allocation of authority in the area of land information. Through devolution, centralized authority for all aspects of geographical names work would largely be passed to local municipal authorities. Less emphasis would be placed on centralization, with local municipalities playing a greater role in all aspects of land information. The duties of the newly established Registrar of geographical names were explained.

117. The representative of the Republic of Korea described the organization and purview of the Central Committee of Geographical Names at the ministerial level, the provincial and special city committees at the next lower level, and the committees at the city, district and county level (see E/CONF.91/CRP.7). Membership requirements for the Central Committee were noted.

Toponymic guidelines for map and other editors (item 5 (e))

118. Finland presented its revised set of toponymic guidelines, now in its third edition (E/CONF.91/L.17). Among the changes from the second edition were additional information on Sámi orthography, a revised list of generic terms, additions to the list of abbreviations used in maps, information about the new administrative division of the country, and a reworked list of municipalities.

119. Germany contributed the third edition of its toponymic guidelines (E/CONF.91/L.26), the update of which had been necessitated by the administrative reform in the five new Länder. Additional details on the

languages of the cultural and linguistic communities of the Sorbs and Danes in Germany and on German dialects had been extended in the new edition. A publication on the Internet in English and German was being established.

120. The representative of Sweden presented the third revised version of the toponymic guidelines for that country (E/CONF.91/L.46). The guidelines followed the format recommended by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, with provision for description of linguistic features, names authorities, glossaries, and administrative structures. It was noted that the orthographies of North Sami and Lule Sami were not homogeneous and that the orthographies were under the jurisdiction of the Sami groups themselves.

121. The Chairman of the Committee noted the three distinct spellings: Sami, Sámi, and Saami. Consultation with the Norden Saami Council was needed to resolve the discrepancy.

122. The report of Estonia (E/CONF.91/INF.16) highlighted changes to the toponymic guidelines necessitated by the alteration of the legal apparatus governing place names in Estonia. The principal components of the guidelines were noted, including the description of Estonian as the national language, with accompanying characterizations of the minority languages and dialects (such as Võru) encountered in Estonia. The representative of Estonia remarked that the current, second edition of toponymic guidelines was already partly out of date: the quantity of official maps published had increased and the list of villages and settlements required revision. The Estonian toponymic guidelines had been made available on the Internet.

123. The representative of Austria reported that the toponymic guidelines for her country had been completely revised, with inclusion of all addenda and corrigenda (E/CONF.91/INF.21). The guidelines would be published in the collected volumes of toponymic guidelines; they had not been made available on the Internet.

124. The representative of Norway introduced the revised toponymic guidelines for Norway (E/CONF.91/CRP.16). They had been reworded to account for the provisions of the Place Name Law enacted in 1991. The role of Kven and Sami as minority languages was described in the context of standardization based on orthographic rules and preponderant local usage. It was noted that most place names in Norwegian would have either a definite or indefinite form, though occasionally even Norwegians found the distinction problematical. With respect to the Bokmål or Nynorsk forms of writing, the representative of Norway noted that, in accordance with the Place Name Law, geographical names were standardized first by establishing the name's pronunciation and then deriving a spelling based on the orthographic conventions conforming to the Bokmål or Nynorsk form of writing. A correction was noted to the table of the South Sami alphabet on page 6 of the report where Ø should be replaced with Ö.

125. The representative of the Czech Republic presented a report on the newly issued first edition of the toponymic guidelines for that country (see E/CONF.91/CRP.17). The report represented the finalization of guidelines presented in provisional form to the eighteenth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, in 1996. The six sections of the guidelines were briefly described, as were the general characteristics of the Czech language and its four principal groups of dialects. The alphabet table included two columns with information to facilitate the pronunciation of each letter of the Czech Roman alphabet. With respect to the administrative structure of the country, it was reported that a new law, adopted in 1997, would

significantly alter the country's administrative make-up, with a consolidation of divisions into 14 first-order divisions (called kraj) by the year 2000. The full form of the names of the current principal divisions was reported to be the generic term okres, followed by the uninflected specific term.

126. The representative of Italy described the revised Italian toponymic guidelines (E/CONF.91/CRP.20), the first revision since the guidelines were presented by Mr. Toniolo in the 1980s. The new version, presented by the Italian Military Geographic Institute, on behalf of the Defence General Staff, contained additional source material listings, a revised list of abbreviations, and an update to the administrative division list to reflect the province (provincia) structure. The representative expressed appreciation for the efforts of Mr. Toniolo, who continued, in his retirement, to contribute to the toponymy of Italy.

127. Greece presented its revised toponymic guidelines (E/CONF.91/CRP.22), the product of a working group established in 1997 to review Greek toponymic policy and procedure. The guidelines superseded those issued at the ninth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names. The content and format of the new guidelines adhered to the recommendations of earlier United Nations conference resolutions. Special mention was made of the fact that in existing sources of Greek toponymy, old spellings representing the katharevousa form of the language could be still found. It was, however, stressed that dimotiki was not only the official form of Greek language but the only one actually used. Geographical names, in this environment, remain the same except for their endings and the accentuation system.

128. The Conference noted with satisfaction that nine countries had submitted up-to-date toponymic guidelines. The representative of South Africa, as coordinator of toponymic guidelines on behalf of the United Nations Group Of Experts on Geographical Names, remarked that the guidelines were one of the most useful products to emerge from the Group of Experts and the standardization conferences. It was noted that a listing of toponymic guidelines so far produced had been included in UNGEGN Newsletter No. 17. The Conference then considered the desirability (and feasibility) of the projected publication of assembled toponymic guidelines in combined volumes. The representative of South Africa expressed the concern that guidelines would fall out of date for a variety of reasons, necessitating a potentially costly programme of publication and republication. The use of the Internet for making toponymic guidelines accessible was suggested as a less expensive approach. The representative of Algeria, among others, remarked that the Internet did indeed offer the promise of ease of accessibility but that its promise had yet to be fulfilled in many countries of the world. The conclusion reached by the Conference was to issue toponymic guidelines in the various media available to the country involved, with the widest possible dissemination as the primary objective. The Executive Secretary introduced several remarks on behalf of the United Nations, offering the possibility of publishing the guidelines in the Newsletter of UNGEGN and in World Cartography. A second important point raised by the Executive Secretary was the exploration of cooperative arrangements with the private sector to assist not only in the publication of guidelines but in furthering other aims of the Group of Experts. The exploration of such arrangements could be conducted by the Working Group on Publicity and Funding.

Exonyms: categories and degree of use of exonyms
(Item 10 (a))

129. The representative of Israel presented a report on an unconventional approach to exonyms being studied in Israel (E/CONF.91/L.10), which had also been mentioned in a paper presented at the Sixth Conference, in 1992. The report noted that at a certain level exonyms were ineradicable. In areas where there were large influxes of tourists from foreign areas, it might be helpful, in support of the tourist infrastructure, to establish recommended exonymic spellings on a donor basis. Included in the report was a list of examples of donor English-language exonyms which had been established for use in tourist publications and on road signs. Some difficulties in the approach were noted by other representatives. The principal problem was that exonyms were usually understood as emanating from the linguistic and cultural tradition of a foreign people, leading to some scepticism that a donor principle could be applied. An additional difficulty was the problem of determining donor exonyms in the many languages that would be encountered in a tourist environment. Nonetheless, the prospect of mutual communication in the determination of exonyms on a bilateral level was an interesting one and should be considered further. The representative of Israel emphasized that the crux of the report was the identification of a limited number of geographical features for which single-language donor-recommended exonyms were deemed necessary. Those features should be separated from features where only endonyms would be applied.

Exonyms: principles in reducing the use of exonyms
(Item 10 (b))

130. No papers were presented for item 10 (b).

Exonyms: provisional lists of exonyms (item 10 (c))

131. The representative of Poland reported on the recently published Polish Geographical Names of the World, issued by the Commission on the Standardization of Geographical Names Outside Poland (E/CONF.91/L.56). The names of localities and administrative units were arranged alphabetically by country; the names of physiographic objects were arranged by large natural regions. The Polish exonyms were given along with the equivalent local forms. The four constituent parts of the publication covered Europe, Eastern Europe and Asia, the rest of the world's land mass, and oceans and seas.

C. Committee II: Technical programmes

Toponymic data files (item 6)

Data collection procedures (item 6(a))

132. Austria submitted a paper (E/CONF.91/INF.20), with regard to lists of the catchment areas of Austrian rivers, rivulets, and lakes, on the catchment area of the River Drau. It constituted one volume in a series. The projects were supported with the aid of electronic data processing (i.e., by personal computers). Names were collected from the Austrian map, at the scale of 1:50,000. Additional names not contained in the map series were acquired by correspondence with local communes.

Data elements required (item 6 (b))

133. Slovakia announced the creation of a computer-aided database of geographical names (E/CONF.91/L.18), based on map series at the scale of 1:10,000. The database contained names of populated places, administrative units, and natural features such as hills, valleys, mountain ranges, and streams. Each database entry contained the following elements: name and code of the county; name and code of the district; name and code of the municipality; name and code of the cadastral area; the standardized name along with the date when it was standardized; the previously standardized name form, if it existed, along with the time span of its validity; the feature designation code; the map sheet identification; orographic unit classification and its code; watershed classification and its code; additional data (spot elevation); and geographical coordinates. The database was updated regularly and thus far about 30 per cent of all districts had been covered.

134. Canada introduced a paper (E/CONF.91/L.34) delineating feature classes for geographic names records for that country's federally maintained database. For the establishment of that database, numeric codes and tables were used to specify the types of features being recorded. Over 800 distinct codes were compiled which could be grouped into larger categories. The grouping of features was finalized with the publication of the Concise Gazetteer of Canada, access to names records on the World Wide Web, and the sale of digital toponymic data. As a result, there were currently 38 categories and associated codes used nationally for the primary breakdown of names records. It was explained that the definitions of the terms "city", "town", and "village" varied from province to province, depending on population or administrative structure.

135. Poland reported (E/CONF.91/L.55) that work on the establishment of a database of geographical names had begun in 1995. The main effort consisted of the collection of names based on the 1:10,000-scale topographic map series published by the State Geodetic and Cartographic Service. The second phase of the work consisted of verifying the names data by comparing them with lists of official names. The following elements were displayed in the database: name, possessive case suffix, colloquial name, type of geographic object, name status, and the source from which the spelling was derived. The type-of-object category comprised localities and physiographic objects. It is planned to increase the detail on localities by adding type, population, statistical code (assignment to administrative unit) and location. Further details on physiographic objects would include type (some 40 categories), territorial identification, and location. Thus far, 85,000 names had been entered into the database.

Toponymic data transfer standards and formats (item 6 (c))

136. The delegate of the United Kingdom presented the comprehensive report of the Working Group on Toponymic Data Exchange Formats and Standards (E/CONF.91/CRP.11). The primary task of the group was to investigate and recommend the requirements, standards, and formats that were available for the encoding, processing, international exchange and promotion of nationally standardized geographical names for international use. The report was subdivided into four annexes. Annex A contained a master list of characters in two parts: sorted alphabetically and by diacritic mark; and sorted by ISO/Unicode code order. Annex B, part I was made up of the principal languages, writing systems, and romanization systems for each country. Annex B, part 2, provided the tables of characters for basic Roman and each of the extended Roman-alphabet character sets. From those tables the completeness of the 8-bit

and 16-bit standards to meet the requirements for encoding digital geographical names could be readily assessed. Annex C comprised recommendations on a proposed toponymic data-exchange standard. Annex D contained a summary statement on the Unicode Standard, version 2.0.

137. The Working Group reached six conclusions and made five specific recommendations. It was planning to submit the data in its report to the Unicode Consortium. Answers were provided to questions from various delegations regarding the time frame for actual use of the draft encoding standards on both hardware and software platforms and the revision of some of the language tables (e.g., Saami).

Automated data processing (ADP) systems (item 6(d))

138. Japan introduced a paper (E/CONF.91/INF.5) describing the function of the Geographical Survey Institute, which gathered names information for the entire country and transferred the data into database format, according to spellings in hiragana, katakana, and kanji in singular and plural forms. The order was fixed in the database for all names. In addition to the name, administrative names and codes and the corresponding map series were also entered. The Institute had also prepared the National Geographic Names Gazetteer, in 1997.

139. The Russian Federation described the forthcoming development of its national catalogue of geographical names (E/CONF.91/CRP.27) for collection, storage, updating and processing of geographic names data. The national topographic map series at the scale of 1:100,000 was said to be taken as the base. The automated toponymic file would comprise about 2.5 million names. The report contained a list of features that the national catalogue would need to meet production requirements.

140. Canada introduced a paper (E/CONF.91/L.33) on the Canadian Geographical Names Data Base (CGNDB) which contained 500,000 names records, two thirds of which had been approved by the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names (CPCGN). A brief description of the 24 data fields was included. They provided primarily locational information, map sheet information, and status of a name. It was pointed out that recent improvements in coordinate precision and increased map information had been made.

Compatibility and structure of systems (item 6 (e))

141. No papers were submitted for item 6 (e).

National gazetteers (item 6(f))

142. During the past five years, the National Directorate of Geography and Cadastre of Mozambique had been engaged in the collection and description of geographical names based on maps at 1:50,000 and 1:250,000 scales for the geographical dictionary of Mozambique. The Directorate hoped to establish its National Committee on Geographical Names as soon as possible. The Directorate was represented at the training courses on geographical names held in 1993, 1995 and 1997, organized by UNGEGN (South Africa Division) in South Africa.

143. Mozambique submitted a paper (E/CONF.91/L.1) on its new publication Geographical Names of Mozambique, 1997, with three sample pages attached.

144. Germany reported (E/CONF.91/L.27) that its digital geographical names database had been expanded with names derived from the Joint Operations Graphic (JOG) map series, at a scale of 1:250,000. The database contained the following elements: name, statistical key number, coordinates, elevation, areal extension, population, feature code, and reference to map sheet numbers of official map series, and was available on diskette.

145. Canada submitted a paper on the Concise Gazetteer of Canada, 1997 (E/CONF.91/L.41). It was the first time that such a volume, containing some 47,000 approved names, had been produced. The paper provided name selection criteria, user instructions, and a sample page. The representative of the United Kingdom expressed his appreciation for the Gazetteer.

146. Latvia reported on place name dictionaries of Latvia (E/CONF.91/L.47). The paper outlined historical stages of the issuance of dictionaries in Latvia starting in the seventeenth century. A toponymic dictionary Place Names of Latvia 1922-25, was the first dictionary of Latvian place names, containing mostly names of populated places. Three dictionaries of hydronyms were published between 1984 and 1994. Base mapping was started in 1993, with 130 sheets produced, 800-1,500 names per sheet. The aim was the establishment of a national digital database. To that end, Latvia intended to compile normative state toponymic dictionaries as well as regional and local toponymic dictionaries.

147. Germany presented a paper (E/CONF.91/L.28) on its Concise Gazetteer of Germany which consisted of an alphabetically ordered names listing and a systematically ordered part showing the following feature classes: populated places, hydrographic features, mountains, regions and islands. Sorbian names were included as variants. It was stated that Sorbs resided in the states of Brandenburg and Saxony and that the two states treated Sorbian differently. In Saxony it was decided that the Sorbian name would follow the official name, separated by a slash (but in the same typeface); whereas in Brandenburg it was left to the communes to decide whether the Sorbian name was part of the official name.

148. The United States of America submitted a paper (E/CONF.91/INF.14) on the Digital Gazetteer of the United States of America, which first appeared in 1993. Each successive version had contained a considerably larger number of names. It was possible, with the Digital Gazetteer, to download, for example, individual state gazetteers, the Concise Gazetteer of the United States of America, a file of features classified as populated places, and a file of features that no longer existed. It was pointed out that a digital gazetteer was out of date soon after its release and that the Internet World Wide Web was more dynamic and up-to-date since the data were reviewed weekly. The fourth version of the Digital Gazetteer, to be issued in late 1998, would include a separate section of geographical names in Antarctica.

149. Italy reported (E/CONF.91/CRP.36) that a national digital gazetteer had been completed in 1997. It contained approximately 750,000 names, derived from the 1:25,000-scale official map series. It included feature names (including any name from a language besides Italian), coordinates rendered in the Gauss-Boaga system, and a "feature attribute catalogue code", describing the properties of the feature. The Gazetteer was available on CD-ROM.

Other publications (item 6(g))

150. A paper (E/CONF.91/L.21) listing the eight provinces and 79 districts of Slovakia, as of 1996, was submitted by Slovakia.

151. The United States of America submitted a paper (E/CONF.91/L.23) describing progress made since the Sixth Conference on the gazetteer programme of foreign areas by the United States Board on Geographic Names.

152. A list of new editions of gazetteers was included. In addition, it was mentioned that 15 issues of the Foreign Names Information Bulletin had appeared to date. A new edition of the Board's Publications Catalog was expected in the next year. Also mentioned were the publication Romanization Systems and Roman-script Spelling Conventions (1994), a new version of the interim compact disk covering foreign areas (1998), and access to the Board's database of foreign geographical names via the Internet.

153. A paper submitted by Canada (E/CONF.91/L.36) described the multimedia CD-ROM Noms et lieux du Québec, 1997, produced by the Commission de toponymie du Québec. It was not a gazetteer but had been based on the illustrated dictionary Noms et lieux du Québec, published in 1994. It contained the origin of about 6,000 place names. Multiple search criteria could be utilized to create name lists. The CD-ROM was compatible with either an Apple Macintosh or an IBM Windows environment.

154. The United States of America presented a paper (E/CONF.91/INF.15) regarding the Publications Catalog of the United States Board on Geographic Names, listing the various publications issued by the Board. Every publication was briefly described, either individually or by series.

155. Greece reported on its administrative divisions (E/CONF.91/CRP.28) - 13 regions subdivided into departments, provinces, municipalities, and communes. In the paper, the names of the regions, departments, provinces and municipalities appeared in both Greek and Roman scripts.

156. The report of Algeria (E/CONF.91/CRP.29), "Introduction à la notion d'espace et limite contenue dans un nom de lieu", was filed with the Conference but was not presented.

157. Hungary briefly informed the Conference about a printed index of populated place names of Albania, published in that country in 1996 and containing about 2,500 names.

Terminology in the standardization of geographical
names (item 7)

158. Israel submitted the report of the Working Group on Toponymic Terminology for the period 1992-1997 (E/CONF.91/L.9) and presented version 4 of the UNGEGN glossary of toponymic terminology (E/CONF.91/L.13). The representative of Israel regretted that there were no translations of the glossary into Arabic and Russian. Translations into the other three official languages of the United Nations had been completed. He suggested that all five translations be brought up to version 4.

159. The representative of France stated that the French translation had already been updated to that effect. A further proposal was made - namely, that

the same volunteers who had performed the earlier translations work on version 4. The representative of Israel remarked that additions, deletions and other changes agreed upon at the eighteenth session of UNGEEN had been included in version 4. He also stated that the uniform numbering system of version 4 needed to be applied to all translations so that they could be compared.

160. The representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea stated that Hangŭl was not the name of the Korean script in his country; it was Josoŋo. The representative of the Republic of Korea stressed that Hangŭl was the name of the Korean script in his country. The representative of Israel suggested deletion of that term from entries Nos. 284 and 294, with which the representative of the Republic of Korea also agreed. New terms suggested for inclusion were "microtoponym" and "synonym". The latter term was already included in version 4 of the glossary. The representative of Algeria proposed the term "ethnonym" for inclusion and provided the following definition from the French language version of the glossary: "Un ethnonyme est un nom de personne ou de groupe humain utilisé dans la dénomination des lieux", ("An ethnonym is the name of a person, or group of persons, used in the name of a place.")

161. Slovakia introduced a paper (E/CONF.91/L.19) that argued convincingly that diacritics were just as significant as the basic letters of any orthography. It demonstrated, using pairs of geographical names in Slovakia, how the presence, alteration or absence of a diacritic mark might change the pronunciation and, therefore, the meaning of a word. The paper favoured reaffirmation of resolution 10 of the first United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, which was viewed as at variance with resolution 19 of the Third United Nations Conference. The representative of Israel, as editor of the glossary, remarked that in version 4, the terms "diacritic" (No. 064) and "exonym" (No. 081) had indeed been amended. The representative of Slovakia thanked the representative of Israel for leading the work on the glossary.

D. Committee III: International programmes and exchanges

Features beyond a single sovereignty (item 11)

Policies, procedures and cooperative arrangements (item 11 (a))

162. No papers were presented on item 11 (a).

Features common to two or more nations (item 11 (b))

163. The representative of the Republic of Korea introduced a paper (E/CONF.91/CRP.8/Rev.1) on how to name the sea area between the Korean Peninsula and the Japanese Archipelago. The Republic of Korea had brought the issue to the Sixth Conference, seeking support for the use of the name "East Sea". The Republic of Korea deemed it inappropriate to name the sea in question after a single country; "East Sea" was a neutral name for the feature. As a result of the Sixth Conference, the Republic of Korea suggested bilateral talks with Japan with a view to finding a mutually acceptable solution, but unfortunately no progress had been made. The representative suggested that, as an interim measure, two names - "East Sea" and "Sea of Japan" - should be used simultaneously, in accordance with a general rule of cartography. In support of the interim measure, reference was made to the International Hydrographic Organization's (IHO) resolution A.4.2.6, and resolutions 20 and 21 of the Third Conference. Historical evidence was quoted, supplying background to the names

"Sea of Korea", "East Sea" and "Sea of Japan". In 1997, the Republic of Korea had requested IHO to include the name in its special publication Limits of Oceans and Seas, and it was hoped that the request would be implemented in 1999, when the next edition was expected to be published.

164. The representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea also presented a paper (E/CONF.91/CRP.37) on the name of the sea situated between the Korean Peninsula and Japan. Evidence from ancient times was quoted, indicating that the name "Sea of Korea" or "East Sea" had a long history. It was stated that only just before and during the Japanese colonization had the name "Sea of Japan" come into prominence. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea had presented its argument at the Sixth Conference. It repeated its request to the Japanese authorities to negotiate changing the name, and it now requested, the Seventh Conference to help find a satisfactory solution to the conflict.

165. The representative of Japan stated that the views of his country had been recorded at the Sixth Conference. He pointed out that the name "Sea of Japan" had been long accepted worldwide and was well established, and that the introduction of other names would cause confusion. The function of the current Conference was to deal with technical, not political, issues and the Conference should not deal with individual names.

166. The representative of Israel stated that, without going into political considerations, his country supported the Republic of Korea's position and referred to resolution 25 of the Second Conference. He urged the Conference to encourage cartographers to use both "East Sea" and "Sea of Japan".

167. The representative of the United Kingdom stated that resolutions 20 of the Third Conference and 25 of the Second Conference both referred to shared sovereignty, whereas the name under discussion referred to an area on the high seas. He suggested that such names be referred to IHO. The IHO's Special Publication No. 23 was in the process of revision, the latest edition being 1953, and therefore it might be an appropriate time for IHO to consider the issue.

168. The observer from IHO remarked that the purpose of the Special Publication No. 23 was to facilitate international understanding of the geographical extent of the high seas. The Conference was informed that IHO had no regulatory role in standardizing geographical names and that there was no legal basis to its recommendations.

169. Since IHO could provide a forum for its member States to address such issues, the Chairman and the observer from IHO suggested that the matter under discussion could also be put to IHO. The delegate of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea then stated that he insisted that the name "East Sea of Korea" be used, and he asked for that name to be applied in document E/CONF.91/CRP.37 as well.

Writing systems and guides to pronunciation (item 12)

170. The representative of Israel presented a paper (E/CONF.91/L.12) describing the introduction of unvocalized plene orthography in Hebrew GIS-derived digital topographic maps. He clarified that plene orthography did not alter the pronunciation of Hebrew names and that transliteration was not affected. In response to a query from the representative of Morocco, it was indicated that Arabic numerals were used on cartographic products in Israel.

Writing systems and guides to pronunciation

Romanization (item 12 (a))

171. The convenor of the Working Group on Romanization Systems of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names introduced his report (E/CONF.91/L.22), which outlined the activities of the Working Group since the Sixth Conference, in 1992.

172. He noted that the three-volume gazetteer of Greece, published in 1993 by the Hellenic Military Geographical Service, had rendered all toponyms in the EL0T 743 romanization system. That had then been superseded by a new volume, published in 1997, as indicated in the report of Greece (E/CONF.91/CRP.12).

173. At the fourteenth session of UNGEGN, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea had agreed to cooperate in devising a single romanization system for Korean, to be based on the guidelines the two countries had submitted to the Group of Experts. Unfortunately there had been no progress on the matter for the past three years.

174. At the Sixth Conference, Thailand had presented a revised romanization system for Thai. In September 1997, the Convenor had received an amended version from the Royal Thai Survey Department and had distributed copies to all members of the Working Group for review.

175. The provisional system for the romanization of Ukrainian, submitted at the seventeenth session of UNGEGN, had been superseded by a version submitted at the eighteenth session. The system had not yet been finalized.

176. Also at the eighteenth session, certain changes made to the romanization system for Hebrew by the survey of Israel had been announced. The official status of the proposed changes was not known.

177. The Convenor recommended extending the mandate of the current Working Group on Romanization Systems, since further discussion would be needed on certain romanization systems, once they were finalized, and on new systems for scripts not yet covered.

178. The representative from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea stated that unfortunately there had been no opportunity to cooperate with the Republic of Korea on devising a single romanization system, owing to problems on the Korean Peninsula, and he went on to stress that a single system for the romanization of Korean was very much needed.

179. The representative of Israel presented a paper (E/CONF.91/L.11) highlighting the proposed changes to the romanization system of the Survey of Israel. He stated that although stability was an important factor in a romanization system, one had also to consider the needs of the main users of a system. He pointed out that the main users of romanized Hebrew were tourists visiting Israel. He argued that the basic changes to the system that were being suggested would make the system more "user-oriented". Finally, it was stressed that the Group of Experts would be notified when any final decisions had been made.

180. The representative of the United Kingdom expressed his country's concerns about the proposed changes. The orthographical stability of the current system

was crucial. The simplifications proposed might threaten Israel's toponymic heritage. If the proposed simplifications were to be implemented, their application should be limited to a certain category of publication, such as freely distributed tourist maps. In reply, the delegate of Israel said that the current system, dating from the time of the British Mandate, was incomprehensible to most users and that no one respected Israeli toponymic heritage more than Israel itself.

181. The representative of Peru also expressed his country's concerns over the proposals put forward by Israel.

182. Referring back to the paper presented by the Convenor of the Working Group on Romanization Systems, the Executive Secretary urged experts to keep working towards a single romanization system for Korean, stating that it would be of great interest to the international community.

183. The representative of Israel presented a paper (E/CONF.91/CRP.5) outlining a survey which had been initiated in Israel to establish how users of different languages would pronounce Hebrew place names in romanized script. Foreign tourists, the largest group of users of romanized names, were to be the basis of the survey. The representative from Israel stressed that the survey had not been completed.

184. The representative of the Russian Federation introduced a paper (E/CONF.91/CRP.30) detailing the updated rules for the romanization of geographical names in the Russian Federation. Changes had occurred, making some clarifications of the methodological applications of the system necessary. Use of the system was possible for the Russian forms of the names in some of the countries of the former USSR, until such time as they had their own romanization systems. There were no mandatory rules for the use of the system currently. The rules would probably be elaborated for private companies and governments in accordance with the law on geographical names.

185. The Convenor of the Working Group seconded the opinion expressed in paper E/CONF.91/CRP.39, that there should be some liaison between the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) on the subject of romanization.

Conversion into non-roman writing systems (item 12 (b))

186. No papers were presented on item 12 (b).

Writing of names in unwritten languages (item 12 (c))

187. No papers were presented on item 12 (c).

Toponymic Web sites (item 13)

188. The Chairman of Committee III stressed the opportunities that the World Wide Web offered for the standardization of geographical names, while pointing out that, since access to the Internet was still fairly restricted, the provision of paper versions of toponymic documents was still important.

189. Estonia presented a paper (E/CONF.91/L.5) describing the Home page of the Place Names Board of Estonia, which had been on the Internet since September 1997. Most of the documents of the Board were displayed on the Home page. One page of the Web site was devoted to the Baltic Division of UNGEGN, and there were also links to other information on geographical names. Estonia's toponymic guidelines were also to be found on the Web.

190. Germany gave a short statement about the Ständiger Ausschuss für geographische Namen (StAGN) Internet Web site (E/CONF.91/L.25). It was reported that the Web site contained information concerning the StAGN administrative structure, history, tasks, publications and institutions.

191. Germany then described the index of German-language Antarctic place names available on the Internet (E/CONF.91/L.29). The site included details of new name proposals (even if not adopted), making the process of decision-making more public. It was hoped that a link would be established in the future to the Scientific Committee for Antarctic Research (SCAR).

192. Germany introduced a paper (E/CONF.91/L.30), which gave information on the list of country names in the German language available on the Internet.

193. The representative of Canada described the Web site of the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names (CPCGN) (E/CONF.91/L.43). Half a million geographical names records were available on the Internet. The site, accessible in English or French, provided a reference service and contained information on language usage, publications, regular updates on name changes, links to the geographical Web sites of other countries, and an educational programme. A large audience was reached by the Internet, though the importance of paper copy must not be underestimated.

194. Canada presented a paper detailing the United Nations documents available on the Canadian Web site (E/CONF.91/L.42). There was some discussion about the implications in terms of copyright of putting United Nations documents on the Web. The issue would have to be researched in full, because it was still a fairly recent concern due to the rapid development of the World Wide Web.

195. The representative of Slovenia stated that his Government had established a link to Canada's Web site from their own. In response, the Chairman emphasized that it was the link possibilities that gave the Web its great value.

196. Canada had prepared a document giving details of all Web sites noted in documents of the Seventh Conference (E/CONF.91/CRP.40). The Conference considered the document to be very useful.

197. The representative of the United States of America presented a paper (E/CONF.91/INF.8) describing the Web site of the United States Geological Survey's (USGS) Geographic Names Information System (GNIS). It was stressed that GNIS was the vehicle for domestic names standardization. The GNIS database listed the federally recognized name of almost 2 million feature names within the jurisdiction of the United States of America. The site had a link to the National Imagery and Mapping Agency's (NIMA) Geographical Names Processing System, which contained 4 million entries of foreign names. Conventional enquiries had decreased due to increased use of the Internet. The representative of the United States of America urged countries to establish links to one another's Web sites.

198. The representative of the United States stated that a link would be established between the NIMA's foreign names Web site and the other Web sites listed in Canada's paper (E/CONF.91/CRP.40).

199. A discussion on the cost of creating and maintaining a Web site followed. Canada pointed out that there were a variety of options for a country interested in creating a Web site. There was a vast difference between putting a full names database on the Web and creating just a few Web pages, the latter being an easier and cheaper option.

200. The representative from the United States of America stated that there was no cost-recovery programme for its GNIS domestic names site. Since the database supported a national mapping programme, it served a federal purpose. The data were available at no cost and with no copyright.

201. Finland presented a paper describing the Nordic Place Names Database (E/CONF.91/CRP.43), which was a joint project of five Nordic countries. An interesting aspect of the database was the possibility to choose a map output in addition to a traditional list of names in response to a query. English, Finnish and Swedish were the working languages of the database. The representative from Finland went on to praise the work of the Working Group on Toponymic Data Exchange and Standards.

Toponymic education and practice (item 14)

Existing education and practice (item 14 (a))

202. The representative of Austria presented a report on the Institute of the Military Geosystem (E/CONF.91/L.63). The structure and tasks of this Institute, which was attached to the National Defence were outlined. Its main task was the procurement and supply of geographic information for military and defence bodies.

203. The representative of Algeria presented a paper in which the history and sources of toponymic research in Algeria were described (E/CONF.91/CRP.31).

204. Algeria then presented a paper on toponymy and linguistics (E/CONF.91/CRP.32). It was noted that languages differed due to varying perceptions of the outside world. In the act of naming, each language acted selectively.

205. In reply to a question from the Chairman, the Algerian representative answered that Arabic was the national and official language of Algeria. Nevertheless, the Berber language was spoken in certain regions of Algeria. Toponyms from each area were collected and rendered without translation.

206. The representative from Algeria presented a paper on toponymy and geography (E/CONF.91/CRP.33). The representative of Israel commented on the interesting relationship between map space and geographical names, highlighted in the paper.

207. Canada referred to its paper previously presented (E/CONF.91/L.43), drawing attention to the description of the "SchoolNet" facility on the Web site of the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names. The Web site was shown to be providing opportunities for education in the field of toponymy at the school level.

Training courses in toponymy (item 14 (b))

208. The Convenor of the Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy of UNGEGN presented a report on the activities of the Working Group for the period 1992-1997 (E/CONF.91/INF.18). A list of toponymy courses held during the period was provided, along with a list of the current membership of the Working Group. A model for a toponymy course programme was given, and reference was made to the toponymy courses Web site on the Internet.

209. The representative of Latvia reported (E/CONF.91/L.48) on an international training course in toponymy organized by the Baltic Division of the UNGEGN in Riga in 1997. The emphasis of the three-day course was on national standardization, standardization of dialectal place names, and automatic data processing. Latvian, Russian and English were the languages of the course. The Convenor of the Working Group offered to distribute teaching material from the course.

210. The observer from the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) presented a paper (E/CONF.91/INF.9) describing the Institute's two-week course on applied toponymy. He stressed that the course was intended as an introduction to the subject. The possibility of offering an advanced course was being considered. An outline of such a course was provided, in which the students would gain experience in both raw data analysis and in automated data processing. Finally, it was added that five introductory courses had been held since the Sixth Conference, in 1992. The date and venue for the next course had not been decided.

211. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran suggested that a training course could be organized by the United Nations for the two weeks preceding a Conference or a meeting of the Group of Experts. The idea was received favourably, but it was pointed out that financial and practical problems of time might present difficulties.

212. The representative of South Africa drew attention to five United Nations training courses which had been held in Pretoria. Of the nine countries in the Africa South Division of UNGEGN, seven had attended a training course in Pretoria. The next course would be held in Pretoria in July 1998, and an invitation was offered to any country wishing to attend.

213. The representative from Nigeria stressed the need for training in toponymy in her country.

Exchange of advice and information (item 14 (c))

214. No papers were presented on item 14 (c).

Exchange of personnel (item 14 (d))

215. No papers were presented on item 14 (d).

Technical assistance (item 14 (e))

216. No papers were presented on item 14 (e).

217. Nigeria expressed interest in having "attachment training" at the professional level. A discussion followed on whether countries with advanced database facilities could give professional assistance to those countries in need of technical support. Australia, Canada and the United States of America expressed willingness to help with attachment training, although financing it was seen as a significant obstacle.

Cooperation with national and international agencies and
other bodies (item 15)

Cooperation with national agencies (item 15 (a))

218. The Republic of the Russian Federation introduced a paper on the activities of the Working Group on Geographical Names of the Inter-State Council of Geodesy, Cartography, Cadastre and Remote Sensing, of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) (E/CONF.91/CRP.34). The paper included the terms of reference of the Working Group. A bulletin prepared by the Working Group, entitled "Changes in geographical names in the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States from 1992-1996", had been issued in 1997 and had been distributed to the cartographic geodetic services of CIS members. The bulletin was available to other countries from the Federal Geodetic and Cadastral Service of Russia.

Cooperation with international organizations (item 15 (b))

219. The representative of the United States presented a paper concerning the second edition of the United States Antarctic Gazetteer (E/CONF.91/L.4). It replaced the first edition of 1980 and was available at the Web site of the United States Geographic Names Information System (GNIS). Hard copies were also available. The Gazetteer included names approved by the United States Board on Geographic Names. The representative of Germany remarked that there was an ongoing project by the Working Group on Geodesy and Geographic Information at SCAR to produce a composite gazetteer, listing all the names proposed by member States for features in the Antarctic, without any preference being shown.

220. Austria gave a brief report of the activities of the International Council of Onomastic Sciences (ICOS) (E/CONF.91/INF.22). The current board of directors of the Council was described. One of the aims of ICOS was the advancement and coordination of onomastic sciences at the international level. ICOS was therefore also interested in the standardization of geographical names.

Cooperation with public information media (item 15 (c))

221. Canada reported on the increased media interest in the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names during its Centennial Year 1997 (E/CONF.91/L.37). Trying to create media interest in the subject of the standardization of geographical names was not always easy. There was the frequent misconception that the Committee invented names for features. The precise role of the Committee could be explained clearly with the use of examples.

Country names (item 16)

222. The representative from Germany referred to a previous paper presented by Germany relating to the topic (E/CONF.91/L.30). The list of country names in German, available on the Internet, was also available in hard copy. Germany indicated that copies could be forwarded to interested parties, should they contact the address given in the paper.

223. The representative from Poland introduced a paper concerning a list of country names drawn up by the Commission for the Standardization of Geographical Names Outside Poland (E/CONF.91/L.57). The Conference was informed of the availability of a booklet that contained the list and was given detailed explanations of its contents. All independent, internationally recognized countries had been included in the list, including those of United Nations members and eight non-members. Names of autonomous and dependent territories had been placed in the appendix. Replying to a question from Slovakia concerning transliteration, Poland stated that as a rule, where no United Nations romanization system existed, systems had been adopted which were in use in Polish cartography.

224. The Convenor of the Working Group on Country Names of UNGEGN introduced the Working Group's current list of official forms of country names (E/CONF.91/L.65). The work had begun as a result of resolution 10 taken at the Fourth Conference. The study comprised the names of independent States generally recognized by the international community; non-members of the United Nations were indicated by an asterisk. The intention of the Working Group had been to list the short form and official title of each country in the working languages of the United Nations (English, French and Spanish) and also to provide the official local romanized form.

225. The attention of the Conference was drawn to an addendum to the paper (E/CONF.91/L.65/Add.1), which corrected a few entries. The Convenor acknowledged that there had been some problems in obtaining some of the information for the document, and noted that a new United Nations Terminology Bulletin (No. 347, Rev.1) had recently been published. It was suggested, therefore, that the Working Group continue its work and publish regular updates/amendment sheets to the current document.

226. The representative of Greece stated that the adjectival form of the name of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia was currently under discussion between the two countries. He asked for the outcome of the negotiations not to be pre-empted by the use of the language designation given in the country names document (E/CONF.91/L.65). He referred to the relevant Conference resolutions on the need to coordinate the work of the Group of Experts with that of the Terminology Section of the United Nations Secretariat and pointed out that Terminology Bulletin No. 347, Rev.1, contained an entry for the adjectival form of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

227. The representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia stated that his delegation objected to the name given for his country in the country names document. He stated that the name given in that document was the result of Security Council resolution 817 and was not the true name of the country. He indicated that the name given in the document might be an obstacle to the good relations that were currently developing between his country and Greece.

Chapter III

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE

VII/1. Creation of a French-speaking division¹

The Conference,

Considering that French-speaking countries face a common set of issues from both a toponymic and a cultural point of view, and that for those countries, a chance to be in the same division would be likely to facilitate their participation in the work of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN),

Recommends that the following division be added to the divisions of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names: French-speaking Division.

VII/2. Eighth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names and twentieth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

The Conference,

Noting the positive results of the work accomplished on the standardization of geographical names at both the national and international levels by States Members of the United Nations,

Noting also the essential role played by the present Conference and by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names at its nineteenth session,

Recognizing the necessity of continuing this important work,

1. Recommends to the Economic and Social Council that the Eighth Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names be convened in the second half of 2002;

2. Also recommends to the Economic and Social Council that the twentieth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names be convened during the fourth quarter of 1999;

3. Further recommends that the Economic and Social Council continue to support the important work of the secretariat of the Group of Experts regarding the standardization of geographical names.

¹ Recommendation of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, approved at its nineteenth session, New York, 12 January 1998.

VII/3. Standardization of geographical names and the United Nations regional cartographic conferences

The Conference,

Recalling that geographical names constitute a key element of the cartographic field,

Taking note of the rapid development of geographical information technology,

Noting the existence of regional cartographic conferences organized under the auspices of the United Nations,

Noting also the responsibility and the mandate, on behalf of the Economic and Social Council, of the secretariat for the organization of such conferences,

Recommends that the United Nations Secretariat, acting as liaison, inform the special working group on proposals for the reorganization of the United Nations regional cartographic conferences of the concerns, deliberations and recommendations of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names and of the United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names, as proposed in resolution 2 of the Sixth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas.

VII/4. Review of the amended Beirut system of 1972 for the romanization of Arabic script

The Conference,

Bearing in mind the various resolutions, in particular resolutions 8 and 9, respectively, of the second and third United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names,

Noting that the Arab countries, at the recommendation of Arab experts, in 1972 adopted a system for the romanization of Arabic script, which was amended in 1972,

Observing that, despite the efforts that have been made, difficulties remain with respect to the application of this system of romanization,

Recommends that the League of Arab States should, through its specialized structures, continue its efforts to organize a conference with a view to considering the difficulties encountered in applying the amended Beirut system of 1972 for the romanization of Arabic script, and submit, as soon as possible, a solution to the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.

VII/5. National standardization based on local usage

The Conference,

Recalling its guidelines on the collection and official treatment of geographical names in recommendations B and C of resolution 4 of the first United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names,

Recognizing the positive effect those guidelines have had on national standardization in many countries,

Observing that national standardization programmes are often based on national map series without benefit of investigation into current local usage,

Noting that the names of many features which do not appear on maps have yet to be collected, and may therefore be lost,

1. Recommends that measures be taken nationally to ensure that names yet to be collected are recorded, using the methods described in the above-mentioned recommendations;

2. Further recommends that, whenever possible, national standardization be based on current local usage of name forms, collected through field work.

VII/6. Toponymic data exchange formats and standards

The Conference,

Recalling that recommendation E of resolution 4 of the first United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names identifies the minimum content of gazetteers,

Noting that at its eighteenth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names established the Working Group on Toponymic Data Exchange Formats and Standards,

Noting further the report of the Working Group to the Seventh Conference,²

Recognizing the potential for countries to promote the international use of their nationally standardized names by digital means, including the Internet,

1. Recommends that countries promote the international use of nationally standardized names through publication and exchange of digital toponymic data, utilizing international text-encoding standards and a digital gazetteer format based on recommendation E of resolution 4;

2. Recommends further that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names liaise with the Unicode Consortium in order to inform that body of the text-encoding requirements found in the field of toponymy and to promote the development of computer tools to facilitate the digital exchange of geographical names information.

VII/7. Cooperation and agreements with consumer enterprises

The Conference,

Recalling resolution 5 of the Sixth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names by which the Working Group on Publicity and Funding was created,

² E/CONF.91/CRP.11.

Noting the continuing difficulty of securing the funds necessary to conduct the much needed activities of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, including publication, outreach, and training,

Recognizing the substantive need for wide dissemination of standardized place names in the global marketplace for use by commercial ventures, communications firms, international software developers and others,

Recognizing that the private sector is prepared to enter into various funding and sponsorship arrangements with Governments,

1. Recommends that the United Nations Secretariat, as soon as possible after the Seventh Conference and well before the twentieth session of the Group of Experts, promulgate the existing guidelines or otherwise recommend guidelines covering the engagement of the Group of Experts in cooperative agreements and sponsorships with elements of the private sector;

2. Further recommends that the Group of Experts actively pursue the underwriting of the activities proposed by interested parties in the private sector;

3. Requests that the Secretariat report progress in this area at the next and future meetings of the Group of Experts.

VII/8. List of country names

The Conference,

Recalling resolution 10 of the Sixth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names,

Noting that the UNGEGN Working Group on Country Names had submitted to the Seventh Conference a list of country names in the official language(s) of each country,³

Noting also that the Documentation, Reference and Terminology Section of the United Nations Secretariat issues and updates on a regular basis a terminology bulletin of country names in the six official languages of the United Nations but that the bulletin does not include the names of countries in their official language(s),

Further noting that there are certain differences between the names issued by the Documentation, Reference and Terminology Section and the forms recommended by the UNGEGN Working Group,

Recommends that the UNGEGN list of country names, in their official language(s) and in their romanized form as well as in the three working languages of UNGEGN, be updated on a regular basis and regarded as a reference for all cartographic applications, both national and international, published in the Roman alphabet.

³ E/CONF.91/L.65 and Add.1.

VII/9. Standardization of geographical names utilizing the Internet

The Conference,

Recognizing the potential of the Internet to promote and realize the goals and resolutions of the United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names,

Recognizing further the importance of countries preserving their individual toponymic heritage and promoting the international use of their nationally standardized names by all available means, including the Internet,

Noting that the establishment of toponymic Web sites on the Internet is technically achievable now at low cost,

1. Recommends that country toponymic Web sites be established and used for a variety of purposes, including:

- (a) Information on the standardization of geographical names;
- (b) Toponymic guidelines;
- (c) Information on training courses in toponymy;
- (d) Nationally standardized names;
- (e) Interactive capabilities for handling geographical names enquiries;
- (f) Facilitation of the international exchange of toponymic data;

2. Recommends further that the UNGEGN secretariat establish an UNGEGN Web site;

3. Recommends further that the Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy consider the development of an Internet-based training course in toponymy;

4. Recommends further that access to data included on toponymic Web sites be provided free of charge in the interests of international standardization.

VII/10. Support

The Conference,

Recognizing the importance of the work of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names and of the Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names,

Noting that, in the framework of restructuring the Secretariat of the United Nations, the reduction of staff is being achieved by not filling the positions of personnel who retire or separate otherwise from the service of the United Nations,

Noting also that the number of officials serving the United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names has decreased from five

to one, and that the only one still in service will also shortly be retiring from the United Nations,

Considering that the continuity of the secretarial work of the United Nations Group of Experts and of the United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names is essential,

Requests the Secretary-General to ensure the continued availability of officials with the necessary expertise and experience in cartography and/or the standardization of geographical names to provide the relevant support to the United Nations Group of Experts and to the Conferences.

VII/11. Teaching materials for training courses in toponymy

The Conference,

Taking account of the efforts made by individual member States and experts in preparing teaching materials for courses in toponymy,

Considering that only a limited number of trainees can be reached by conventional courses in toponymy,

Also considering the need to provide potential trainees with up-to-date training materials,

Urges the organizers of courses in toponymy to make available a copy of their teaching materials to the convenor of the Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy, so that it can act as a clearing house for all those searching for additional up-to-date material to be used at courses in toponymy elsewhere.

VII/12. Training courses in toponymy in conjunction with sessions of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

The Conference,

Taking account of the large number of toponymic experts participating in the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names,

Recognizing the desirability of minimizing travel costs for members of the Group who wish to acquire additional skills,

Encourages the Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names to consider organizing short advanced training courses on the subject of the standardization of geographical names to adjoin meetings of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.

VII/13. Liaison with the International Organization for Standardization

The Conference,

Noting that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names and the International Organization for Standardization share an interest in several subject areas,

Recognizing that an exchange of information between the two could promote standardization of geographical names,

1. Recommends that the Secretariat liaise with ISO in order to encourage ISO to take note of relevant Conference resolutions on romanization, and suggests that ISO, through the Secretariat, liaise with the Working Groups on Country Names, Romanization Systems and Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers;

2. Recommends further that the United Nations Secretariat investigate the feasibility and desirability of establishing stronger links between the Group of Experts and ISO;

3. Requests that the Secretariat report the conclusions of its investigation, with recommendations, to the Group of Experts at its twentieth session.

VII/14. Access to and archiving of technical papers

The Conference,

Recalling resolutions 1 and 5 of the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in which it was recommended that the UNGEGN secretariat serve as a documentation centre and clearing house,

Recognizing the amount of information that has been presented at past Conferences and meetings of UNGEGN and its working groups,

Recognizing further that the collection of technical papers held by the UNGEGN secretariat is incomplete and that accessing and making available the information in them efficiently and effectively is therefore difficult,

1. Urges countries to ensure that the UNGEGN secretariat is supplied with the material necessary to fulfil its functions in this regard;

2. Recommends seeking the support and assistance of countries to catalogue and index the information in the technical papers they hold, in coordination with the UNGEGN secretariat;

3. Recommends further that assistance and support be sought from a country or countries to reproduce the documentation in a form that makes it more accessible to all;

4. Recommends also that, from now on, the secretariat collect and maintain all technical materials and papers.

VII/15. Vote of thanks

The Conference,

1. Expresses its thanks to the United Nations Secretariat for its ongoing support and its excellent services, without which the Conference could not have completed its business in time;
2. Expresses its appreciation to the Governments of the United States of America and of South Africa for the generous hospitality extended to participants;
3. Expresses its gratitude to the President of the Conference for his leadership and the excellent manner in which he conducted the Conference;
4. Expresses its thanks to the officers of the Conference and to the officers and staff of the United Nations, including the interpreters and translators, for their hard and dedicated work;
5. Expresses its gratitude also to those Governments that provided personnel, equipment, support and resources to UNGEGN and its working groups, enabling it to undertake its activities,
6. Requests that the United Nations Secretariat forward a letter of gratitude expressing appreciation for such support to member countries.

Annex I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

A. States Members of the United Nations

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Alternates

Mr. David KORNBLUTH, Director, Law Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Oren DAVID, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations

ITALY

Representative

Mr. Francesco Paolo FULCI, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations

Alternates

Mr. Giulio TERZI, Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations

Mr. Maurizio PAMPALONI, Chief of Research of Italian Geographic Military Institute, Florence

Mr. Sabato RAINONE, Chief, Geographic Officer, Italian Defence General Staff

JAPAN

Representative

Mr. Takekazu AKAGIRI, Director, Cartographic Department, Geographical Survey Institute, Ministry of Construction

Alternates

Mr. Tetsuo KONDO, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations

Mr. Takashi OKADA, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations

JORDAN

Representative

Col. Mohamad FARGHAL, Counsellor/Military Adviser on Peace-Keeping Affairs at the Permanent Mission of Jordan to the United Nations

KAZAKHSTAN

Representative

Mr. E. Sh. SHAIMERDENOV, Director, Department of Languages Development, Ministry of Information and Civic Accord

Alternates

Mr. K. Sh. KUSAINOV, Director, Institute of Languages, Ministry of Science, Academy of Science

Mr. A. T. KAIDAROV, President, International Society Kazakh language, Academician, Academy of Sciences

Mr. Serik ZHANIBEKOV, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Kazakhstan to the United Nations

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Representative

Mr. Kingmano PHOMMAHAXAY, Third Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to the United Nations

LATVIA

Representative

Mr. Jurgis KAVACS, Chief, Toponymic Section of State Land Service of Latvia; Researcher, University of Latvia

Alternates

Ms. Vita STRAUTNIECE, Head of Toponymic Division, State Land Service

Ms. Zinta GOBA, Researcher, Scientific Laboratory of Regional Geography and Toponymy, University of Latvia

LEBANON

Representative

Dr. Hicham HAMDAN, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations

MALI

Representative

Mr. Illalkamar AG OUMAR, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Mali to the United Nations

MEXICO

Representante

Sr. Cristobal MORALES BEJAR, Instituto Nacional de Estadística, Geografía e Informática

MONACO

Representatives

Mr. Jacques BOISSON, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Monaco to the United Nations

Mrs. Isabelle PICCO, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Monaco to the United Nations

MOROCCO

Représentants

M. Abdelhadi TAZI, Membre de l'Académie du Royaume du Maroc

M. Mohamed ALAHIAN, Chef de Service de la Documentation cartographique, Division de la cartographie

MOZAMBIQUE

Representative

Mr. Luis ABRAHAMO, Chief, Division Nacional de Geografia e Cadastro

Alternate

Mr. Alexandre Uisse CHIDIMATEMBUE, Head, Aerial Photography, Cartography Department

MYANMAR

Representative

Mr. Kyaw SWA, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Myanmar to the United Nations

NETHERLANDS

Representative

Mr. Ferjan ORMELING, Professor of Cartography, University of Utrecht

Alternates

Mr. A. P. T. BIJLSMA, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Netherlands to the United Nations

Ms. A. M. C. WESTER, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Netherlands to the United Nations

NIGERIA

Representative

Mr. M. N. YAHAYA, Surveyor-General of Nigeria, Federal Surveys Department, Federal Ministry of Works and Housing

Experts

Mrs. E. O. ADEBIYI, Deputy Surveyor-General of Nigeria, Federal Surveys Department

Mr. G. A. OYENEYE, Assistant Director, Federal Surveys Department

Adviser

Mr. S. A. OTUYELU, Minister, Permanent Mission of Nigeria to the the United Nations

NORWAY

Representative

Mr. Botolv HELLELAND, Senior Lecturer/State Name Advisor, Department of Name Research

OMAN

Representative

Col. Nasser Sultan AL-HARTHY, Director of the National Survey Authority, Ministry of Defence

PERU

Representative

Mr. Jose HERRERA, Jefe del Instituto Geográfico Nacional

Alternate

Mr. Juan QUIÑE, Director-General de Geografía, Instituto Geográfico Nacional

POLAND

Representative

Mr. Jerzy KONDRACKI, President, Commission of the Standardization of Geographical Names Outside of Poland, Warsaw University

Alternates

Ms. Izabella KRAUZE-TOMCZYK, Secretary, Commission of the Standardization of Geographical Names Outside of Poland, Head Office of Geodesy and Cartography

Mr. Jerzy OSTROWSKI, Member, Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside of Poland, Polish Academy of Sciences

QATAR

Representative

Mr. Yousuf Eisa AL-EBRAHIM, Civil Engineer

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Representative

Mr. Dae Won SUH, Director-General, United Nations Systems Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Alternates

Mr. Rae Kwon CHUNG, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations

Mr. Yeong Moo CHO, Assistant Director, United Nations Economic Affairs Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Jin Hyun KIM, President, Seoul City University

Mr. Ki Suk LEE, Professor, Department of Geography Education, Seoul National University

ROMANIA

Representative

Mr. Serban DRAGOMIRESCU, Scientific Secretary, Romanian Academy

Alternates

Mr. eng. Narcis-Traian CONSTANTINESCU, Inspector, National Office of Cadastre, Geodesy and Cartography

Mr. Florin FLORIAN, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Romania to the United Nations

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Representative

Mr. Vladimir BOGINSKIY, Chief, Cartographic Department, Central Research Institute of Geodesy, Air Survey and Cartography

Alternates

Mr. S. M. TARASENKO, Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations

Mr. Dmitry SUBBOTIN, Third Secretary, Legal Department, Division of Boundary and Cartography, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

SAUDI ARABIA

Representative

Mr. Abdulaziz A. AAL-SHEIKH, Professor of Geography, King Saud University, Riyadh

SLOVAKIA

Representative

Mr. Imrich HORNANSKÝ, President, Office of Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre

Alternates

Ms. Mária KOVÁČOVÁ, Secretary, Geographical Names Commission, Geodetic and Cartographic Institute, Bratislava

Mr. Miloslav HETTES, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Slovakia to the United Nations

SLOVENIA

Representative

Ms. Ema POGORELCNIK, Adviser to the Director, Surveying and Mapping Authority

Alternate

Mr. Milan OROZEN ADAMIC, Scientific Associate, Scientific Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Arts and Sciences, Anton Melik Institute of Geography

SOUTH AFRICA

Representative

Mr. Peter E. RAPER, Director, National Place Names Committee, Names Research Institute

Alternate

Ms. Lucie MÖLLER, Chief Researcher, Names Research Institute, Human Sciences Research Council

SPAIN

Representative

Mr. Arturo LACLAUSTRA, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Spain to the United Nations

Alternates

Mr. Diego CARRASCO, Director del Departamento de Coordinación Jurídica y Relaciones Internacionales, Madrid

Mr. Francisco RABENA, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Spain to the United Nations

Ms. Marta BETANZOS, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Spain to the United Nations

SWEDEN

Representative

Mr. Hans LUNDBORG, Minister, Permanent Mission of Sweden to the United Nations

Alternates

Mr. Hans RINGSTAM, Principal Administrative Officer, National Land Survey of Sweden, Gävle

Mr. Leif NILSSON, Place Name Consultant, Institute for Swedish Language and Folklore Research, Uppsala

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

Representative

Mr. Mikhail WEHBE, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations

Alternates

Mr. Mohammed Hassan IDRIS, Director-General, General Directorate of Topography, Damascus

Eng. Marwan SOKAR, Director of Public Relations, General Directorate of Topography, Damascus

Mr. Hussam-edin A'ALA, Attaché, Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations

THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

Representative

Mr. Naste CALOVSKI, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the United Nations

Alternates

Mr. Slobodan TASOVSKI, Minister Counsellor, Deputy Permanent Representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the United Nations

Mr. Igor DZUNDEV, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the United Nations

Mr. Blagoja MARKOVSKI, Chairman, National Commission for the Standardization of Geographical Names

Ms. Donka GLIGOROVA, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the United Nations

Ms. Maja ORTAKOVA, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the United Nations

TOGO

Representative

Mr. Roland Y. KPOTSRA, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Togo to the United Nations

Alternate

Mr. Komi Mensah AFETO, Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Togo to the United Nations

TURKEY

Representative

Mr. Metin TUNCEL, Department of Geography, Istanbul University

Alternates

Mr. Burak ÖZÜGERGIN, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations

Mr. Feza ÖZTÜRK, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations

Ms. Sebnem KOÇOĞLU, Attache, Turkish Consulate General in New York

UKRAINE

Representative

Mr. Anatoli Lavrentiyovych BONDAR, Director-General, Main Administration of Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine

Alternate

Ms. Natalia Vitaliyivna KONDRATSOVA, Third Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

Representative

Mr. R. MARSDEN, Head, Geography and Geodesy Division, Military Survey; Permanent Committee on Geographical Names

Alternates

Mr. P. J. WOODMAN, Secretary, Permanent Committee on Geographical Names

Ms. J. M. MOORE, Research Assistant, Permanent Committee on Geographical Names

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Representative

Mr. Roger PAYNE, Executive Secretary, United States Board on Geographic Names, Chief, Geographic Names Office, United States Geological Survey

Alternate

Mr. Randall FLYNN, Executive Secretary for Foreign Names, United States Board on Geographic Names, National Imagery and Mapping Agency

Experts

Ms. Angela BOTTOM, Department of State

Mr. Leo DILLON, Cartographer, Department of State

Mr. Ronald GRIM, Chairman, United States Board on Geographic Names, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Mr. Charles HEYDA, Scientific Linguist, National Imagery and Mapping Agency

Mr. Joel MORRISON, United States Board on Geographic Names, Bureau of the Census

Mr. Gerd QUINTING, Scientific Linguist, National Imagery and Mapping Agency

Mr. Richard WITMER, Chief Geographer, United States Board on Geographic Names, United States Geologic Survey

Mr. Louis A. YOST IV, Deputy Chief, Geographic Names Office, United States Geological Survey

B. Non-member States

HOLY SEE

Representative

Mr. Alfred EDWARD, Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations, New York

SWITZERLAND

Representative

Ms. Livia LEU AGOSTI, Counsellor, Permanent Observer Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations

C. United Nations Secretariat

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Ms. Paulina MAKINWA-ADEBUSOYE, Chief, Food Security and Sustainable Development Division

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

Mr. Miklos PINTHER, Chief, Cartographic Section, Library and Publications Division

Mr. Bernhard WAGNER, Cartographer, Cartographic Section, Library and Publications Division

Mr. Vladimir BESSARABOV, Cartographer, Cartographic Section, Library and Publications Division

Mr. Robert MCKAY, Cartographer, Cartographic Section, Library and Publications Division

UNITED NATIONS CENTRE FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (HABITAT)

Mr. Gaetano LEONE, New York Office

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP)

Mr. Pierre QUIBLIER, Liaison Officer, Regional Office for North America,
New York

D. Specialized agencies

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND
CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (UNESCO)

Ms. Nina SIBAL, Director, UNESCO Liaison Office, New York

WORLD BANK

Mr. Gregory PRAKAS, Senior Cartographer, General Services Department

INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION (IMO)

Mr. G. AH-FONG, Administrative Officer, External Relations Office, Legal Affairs
and External Relations Division

E. Intergovernmental organization

PAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY (PAIGH)

Mr. Roger L. PAYNE, Chairman of the PAIGH Working Group on Geographical Names

F. International scientific organizations

INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC ORGANIZATION (IHO)

Mr. Randall FLYNN, Executive Secretary for Foreign Names, United States Board on
Geographic Names, National Imagery and Mapping Agency

INTERNATIONAL CARTOGRAPHIC ASSOCIATION (ICA)

Mr. F. ORMELING, Professor of Cartography, University of Utrecht, Netherlands

G. Other organizations

AGENCE DE COOPERATION CULTURELLE ET TECHNIQUE (ACCT)

M. Ridha BOUABID, Directeur, Observateur permanent de l'ACCT auprès des Nations
Unies

M. Pierre TSIANGUEBENI, Responsable de programme au Bureau permanent d'observation auprès des Nations Unies

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR STANDARDIZATION (ISO)

Mr. John CLEWS, Chairman of ISO/TC46/SC2: Conversion of Written Languages

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

Mr. Juan José VALDÉS, Project Manager, National Geographic Maps, Washington, D.C.

H. Observers

Mr. Richard RANDALL, United States Board on Geographic Names (retired)

Ms. Marie THERIAULT, doctoral student in linguistics, University of Montreal, Canada

Mr. Michael SMART, former Secretary of the Ontario Geographic Names Board, Canada

Mr. Nathaniel O. ABELSON, Map Librarian, Dag Hammarskjöld Library (retired)

I. Secretariat of the Conference

Executive Secretary

Mr. Gabriel GABELLA, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Deputy Executive Secretary

Mr. K. Hans STABE, Environment, Energy and Industrial Statistics Branch, Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Annex II

RULES OF PROCEDURE

Chapter I

REPRESENTATION AND CREDENTIALS

Rule 1

Each State participating in the Conference shall be represented by an accredited representative. If more than one representative is appointed, one of them shall be designated as head of the delegation. Each delegation may also include such alternate representatives, advisers and experts as may be required.

Rule 2

The credentials of representatives, and the names of alternate representatives, advisers and experts shall be submitted to the Executive Secretary, if possible not later than 24 hours after the opening of the Conference. The credentials shall be issued either by the Head of the State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Rule 3

A Credentials Committee shall be appointed at the beginning of the Conference. It shall consist of five members who shall be appointed by the Conference on the proposal of the President. It shall examine the credentials of representatives and report without delay.

Rule 4

Pending a decision of the Conference regarding an objection to the participation of a delegation, the latter shall be entitled to participate provisionally in the Conference.

Chapter II

AGENDA

Rule 5

The provisional agenda drawn up by the Secretariat and communicated to the Governments invited to the Conference by the Secretary-General of the United Nations shall form the provisional agenda for the Conference. Any representative of a State participating in the Conference may propose any item for inclusion in the provisional agenda.

Chapter III

OFFICERS

Rule 6

The Conference shall elect a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Rapporteur and an Editor-in-Chief from among the representatives of the States participating in the Conference.

Rule 7

The President shall preside over the plenary meetings of the Conference. He shall not vote but may designate another member of his delegation to vote in his place.

Rule 8

If the President is absent from a meeting or any part thereof, a Vice-President designated by him shall preside. A Vice-President acting as President shall have the same powers and duties as the President.

Chapter IV

SECRETARIAT

Rule 9

The Executive Secretary of the Conference appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations shall act in that capacity in all meetings of the Conference. He may appoint a deputy to take his place at any meeting.

Rule 10

The Executive Secretary or his representative may at any meeting make either oral or written statements concerning any questions under consideration.

Rule 11

The Executive Secretary shall provide and direct such staff as is required by the Conference. He shall be responsible for making all necessary arrangements for meetings and generally shall perform all other work which the Conference may require.

Chapter V

CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Rule 12

A majority of the representatives participating in the Conference shall constitute a quorum.

Rule 13

In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him elsewhere by these rules, the President shall declare the opening and closing of each plenary meeting of the Conference, shall direct the discussion at such meetings, accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote and announce decisions. He shall rule on points of order and, subject to these rules of procedure, shall have complete control over the proceedings.

Rule 14

The President may, in the course of the discussions, propose to the Conference the closure of the list of speakers or the closure of the debate. He may also propose the suspension of or the adjournment of the meeting or the adjournment of the debate on the item under discussion. He may also call a speaker to order if his remarks are not relevant to the matter under discussion.

Rule 15

The President, in the exercise of his functions, remains under the authority of the Conference.

Rule 16

During the discussion on any matter, a representative may at any time raise a point of order, and the point of order shall be immediately decided by the President in accordance with these rules of procedure. A representative may appeal against the ruling of the President. The appeal shall be immediately put to the vote and the President's ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of representatives present and voting. A representative may not, in raising a point of order, speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

Rule 17

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move the adjournment of the debate on the item under discussion. Any such motion shall have priority. In addition to the proposer of the motion, one representative shall be allowed to speak in favour of, and one representative against, the motion.

Rule 18

During the course of the debate, the President may announce the list of speakers and with the consent of the Conference declare the list closed. The President may, however, accord the right of reply to any representative if, in his opinion, a speech delivered after he has declared the list closed makes this desirable. When the debate on an item is concluded because there are no other speakers, the President shall declare the debate closed. Such closure shall have the same effect as closure by the consent of the Conference.

Rule 19

A representative may at any time move the closure of the debate on the item under discussion, whether or not any other representative has signified his wish to speak. Permission to speak on the closure of debate shall be accorded only to two speakers opposing the closure, after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote.

Rule 20

The Conference may limit the time allowed for each speaker.

Rule 21

Proposals and amendments shall normally be introduced in writing and handed to the Executive Secretary of the Conference, who shall circulate copies to the delegations. As a general rule, no proposal shall be discussed or put to the vote at any meeting of the Conference unless copies of it have been circulated to all delegations not later than the day preceding the meeting. The President may, however, permit the discussion and consideration of amendments or motions as to procedure even though those amendments or motions have not been circulated or have only been circulated the same day.

Rule 22

A proposal or a motion may be withdrawn by its proposer at any time before voting on it has commenced, provided that the motion has not been amended. A motion which has thus been withdrawn may be reintroduced by any representative.

Rule 23

When a proposal has been adopted or rejected, it may not be considered unless the Conference, by a two thirds majority of the representatives present and voting, so decides. Permission to speak on the motion to reconsider shall be accorded only to two speakers opposing the motion, after which it shall be immediately put to the vote.

Chapter VI

VOTING

Rule 24

Each State represented at the Conference shall have one vote, and the decisions of the Conference shall be made by a majority of the representatives of States participating in the Conference present and voting.

Rule 25

For the purpose of these rules, the phrase "representatives present and voting" means representatives present and casting an affirmative or negative vote. Representatives who abstain from voting shall be considered as not voting.

Rule 26

The Conference shall normally vote by show of hands, but any representative may request a roll-call. A roll-call shall be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the delegations at the Conference, beginning with the delegation whose name is drawn by lot by the President.

Rule 27

After the President has announced the beginning of the vote, no representative shall interrupt the vote except on a point of order in connection with the actual conduct of the voting. Explanations of their votes by representatives may, however, be permitted by the President either before or after the voting. The President may limit the time to be allowed for such explanation.

Rule 28

Parts of a proposal shall be voted on separately if a representative requests that the proposal be divided. Those parts of the proposal which have been approved shall then be put to the vote as a whole; if all the operative parts of a proposal have been rejected the proposal shall be considered rejected as a whole.

Rule 29

When an amendment is moved to a proposal, the amendment shall be voted on first. When two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the Conference shall first vote on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal and then on the amendment next furthest removed therefrom, and so on, until all the amendments have been put to the vote. When, however, the adoption of one amendment necessarily implies the rejection of another amendment, the latter amendment shall not be put to the vote. If one or more amendments are adopted, the proposal shall then be voted upon. A motion is

considered an amendment to a proposal if it merely adds to, deletes from or revises part of that proposal.

Rule 30

If two or more proposals relate to the same question, the Conference shall, unless it decides otherwise, vote on the proposals in the order in which they have been submitted. The Conference may, after each vote on a proposal, decide whether to vote on the next proposal.

Rule 31

All elections shall be decided by secret ballot unless otherwise decided by the Conference.

Rule 32

1. If, when one person or one delegation is to be elected, no candidate obtains the required majority in the first ballot, a second ballot shall be taken, which shall be restricted to the two candidates obtaining the largest number of votes. If, in the second ballot, the votes are equally divided, the President shall decide between the candidates by drawing lots.

2. In the case of a tie in the first ballot among the candidates obtaining the second largest number of votes, a special ballot shall be held for the purpose of reducing the number of candidates to two. In the case of a tie among three or more candidates obtaining the largest number of votes, a second ballot shall be held; if a tie results among more than two candidates, the number shall be reduced to two by lot.

Rule 33

If a vote is equally divided upon matters other than elections, a second vote shall be taken after an adjournment of the meeting for 15 minutes. If this vote also results in equality, the proposal shall be regarded as rejected.

Chapter VII

OFFICIAL AND WORKING LANGUAGES

Rule 34

Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish shall be the official languages and English, French and Spanish shall be the working languages of the Conference.

Rule 35

Speeches made in an official language shall be interpreted into the other official languages of the Conference.

Rule 36

Any representative may make a speech in a language other than an official language of the Conference. In this case, he shall himself provide for interpretation into one of the official languages of the Conference.

Chapter VIII

RECORDS

Rule 37

1. There shall be neither verbatim nor summary records of meetings.
2. Sound recording of meetings of the Conference and of any committees shall be made and kept in accordance with the practice of the United Nations.

Chapter IX

PUBLICITY OF MEETINGS

Rule 38

The plenary meetings of the Conference and the meetings of its committees shall be held in public unless the body concerned decides that exceptional circumstances require that a particular meeting be held in private.

Chapter X

COMMITTEES

Rule 39

The Conference may establish such committees as may be necessary for the performance of its functions. Items relating to the same category of subjects shall be referred to the committee dealing with that category of subjects. Committees shall not introduce any item on their own initiative.

Rule 40

Each committee shall elect its own Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur.

Rule 41

So far as they are applicable, the rules of procedure of the Conference shall apply to the proceedings of the committees. A committee may dispense with certain language interpretations.

Chapter XI

OTHER PARTICIPANTS AND OBSERVERS

Rule 42

Representatives designated by organizations that have received a standing invitation from the General Assembly to participate in the sessions and work of all international conferences convened under its auspices have the right to participate as observers, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference and its committees.

Rule 43

Representatives designated by national liberation movements invited to the Conference may participate as observers, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference and its committees on any matter of particular concern to those movements.

Rule 44

Representatives designated by the specialized agencies^a may participate, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference and its committees on questions within the scope of their activities.

Rule 45

Representatives designated by other intergovernmental organizations invited to the Conference may participate as observers, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference and its committees on questions within the scope of their activities.

Rule 46

1. Non-governmental organizations invited to the Conference may designate representatives to sit as observers at public meetings of the Conference and its committees.

2. Upon the invitation of the presiding officer of the Conference body concerned, and subject to the approval of that body, such observers may make oral statements on questions in which they have special competence.

Rule 47

Written statements submitted by the designated representatives referred to in rules 42 to 46 shall be distributed by the Secretariat to all delegations in the quantities and in the languages in which the statements are made available to the Secretariat for distribution, provided that a statement submitted on

^a For the purpose of these rules, the term "specialized" includes the International Atomic Energy Agency and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

behalf of a non-governmental organization is on a subject in which it has a special competence and is related to the work of the Conference.

Chapter XII

AMENDMENTS

Rule 48

These rules of procedures may be amended by a decision of the Conference.

Annex III

AGENDA

1. Opening of the Conference.
2. Election of the President of the Conference.
3. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Adoption of the rules of procedure;
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda;
 - (c) Election of officers other than the President;
 - (d) Organization of work;
 - (e) Credentials of representatives to the Conference.
4. Reports by divisions and Governments on the situation in their regions and countries and on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names since the Sixth Conference.
5. National standardization:
 - (a) Field collection of names;
 - (b) Office treatment of names;
 - (c) Treatment of names in multilingual areas;
 - (d) Administrative structure of national names authorities;
 - (e) Toponymic guidelines for map editors and other editors.
6. Toponymic data files:
 - (a) Data collection procedures;
 - (b) Data elements required;
 - (c) Toponymic data transfer standards and formats;
 - (d) Automated data-processing (ADP) systems;
 - (e) Compatibility and structure of systems;
 - (f) National gazetteers;
 - (g) Other publications.
7. Terminology in the standardization of geographical names.
8. Measures taken and proposed to implement United Nations resolutions on the standardization of geographical names.

9. Commemorating the thirtieth anniversary of the first Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names.
10. Exonyms:
 - (a) Categories and degree of use of exonyms;
 - (b) Principles in reducing the use of exonyms;
 - (c) Provisional lists of exonyms.
11. Features beyond a single sovereignty:
 - (a) Policies, procedures and cooperative arrangements;
 - (b) Features common to two or more countries.
12. Writing systems and guides to pronunciation:
 - (a) Romanization;
 - (b) Conversion into non-Roman writing systems;
 - (c) Writing of names in unwritten languages.
13. Toponymic Web sites.
14. Toponymic education and practice:
 - (a) Existing education and practice;
 - (b) Training courses in toponymy;
 - (c) Exchange of advice and information;
 - (d) Exchange of personnel;
 - (e) Technical assistance.
15. Cooperation with national and international agencies and other bodies:
 - (a) Cooperation with national agencies;
 - (b) Cooperation with international organizations;
 - (c) Cooperation with public information media.
16. Country names.
17. Meetings and conferences:
 - (a) United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names;
 - (b) Divisional and interdivisional meetings and programmes;
 - (c) National names meetings, conferences and symposia;

- (d) International names meetings, conferences and symposia.
18. Economic and social benefits of the national and international standardization of geographical names.
 19. Arrangements for the Eighth Conference.
 20. Adoption of the report of the Conference.
 21. Closing of the Conference.

Annex IV

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

<u>No.</u>	<u>Title/Country</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>
E/CONF.91/1	Provisional agenda	3 (b)
E/CONF.91/2	Provisional rules of procedure	3 (a)
E/CONF.91/L.1	Standardization of geographical names (Submitted by Mozambique)	6 (f)
E/CONF.91/L.2	The Estonian Law on Place Names (Submitted by Estonia)	5 (b)
E/CONF.91/L.3	Country report: Estonia (Submitted by Estonia)	4
E/CONF.91/L.4	Geographical names in Antarctica (Submitted by United States of America)	15 (b)
E/CONF.91/L.5	Home page of the Place Names Board of Estonia (Submitted by Estonia)	13
E/CONF.91/L.6	Report of the Baltic Division (Submitted by Estonia)	4
E/CONF.91/L.7	National report of Israel for the period 1992-1997 (Submitted by Israel)	4
E/CONF.91/L.8	Report of the East Mediterranean Division (other than Arabic) for the period 1992-1997 (Submitted by Israel)	4
E/CONF.91/L.9	Report of the Working Group on Toponymic Terminology for the period 1992-1997 (Submitted by UNGEGN)	7
E/CONF.91/L.10	Donor-recommended exonyms for historical topographic features in Israel (Submitted by Israel)	10 (a)

<u>No.</u>	<u>Title/Country</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>
E/CONF.91/L.11	Considerations for and against the revision of a romanization system: the case of Hebrew (Submitted by Israel)	12 (a)
E/CONF.91/L.12	Plene vs. vocalized orthography of names in Hebrew GIS-derived digital topographic maps (Submitted by Israel)	12
E/CONF.91/L.13	Glossary of toponymic terminology, version 4 (Submitted by UNGEGN)	7
E/CONF.91/L.14	Ptolemy, the first toponymist (Submitted by Israel)	9
E/CONF.91/L.15	Country report: Finland (Submitted by Finland)	4
E/CONF.91/L.16	Translators and place names in Finland (Submitted by Finland)	5 (c)
E/CONF.91/L.17	Toponymic guidelines for map editors and other editors: Finland (third, revised edition, 1997) (Submitted by Finland)	5 (e)
E/CONF.91/L.18	Database of geographical names from Slovakia (Submitted by Slovakia)	6 (b)
E/CONF.91/L.19	The problem of the obligatory character of standardized geographical names with diacritical marks (submitted by Slovakia)	7
E/CONF.91/L.20	Report on activities in the field of the standardization of geographical names in Slovakia since the Sixth Conference (Submitted by Slovakia)	4
E/CONF.91/L.21	New territorial and administrative divisions of Slovakia (Submitted by Slovakia)	6 (g)
E/CONF.91/L.22	Report of the Working Group on Romanization Systems: Activities from 24 August 1992-12 January 1998 (Submitted by UNGEGN)	12 (a)

<u>No.</u>	<u>Title/Country</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>
E/CONF.91/L.23	The United States Board on Geographic Names gazetteer program: gazetteers and data sets of foreign areas. Progress made since the Sixth Conference (Submitted by United States of America)	6 (g)
E/CONF.91/L.24	Country report: Germany (Submitted by Germany)	4
E/CONF.91/L.25	Ständiger Ausschuss für geographische Namen (StAGN) (Permanent Committee on Geographical Names) (Submitted by Germany)	5 (d)
E/CONF.91/L.26	Toponymic guidelines for map editors and other editors: Federal Republic of Germany (Third edition) (Submitted by Germany)	5 (e)
E/CONF.91/L.27	Digital geographical names database for Germany at the scale of 1:250,000 (Submitted by Germany)	6 (f)
E/CONF.91/L.28	<u>Concise Gazetteer of Germany</u> (Submitted by Germany)	6 (f)
E/CONF.91/L.29	Index of German-language Antarctic place names available on the Internet (Submitted by Germany)	13
E/CONF.91/L.30	List of country names in the German language available on the Internet (Submitted by Germany)	13, 16
E/CONF.91/L.31	Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names/Comité permanent canadien des noms géographiques (Submitted by Canada)	4
E/CONF.91/L.32	Report of the United States/Canada Division, 1992-1997 (Submitted by UNGEGN)	4
E/CONF.91/L.33	Canadian Geographical Names Data Base (Submitted by Canada)	6 (e)

<u>No.</u>	<u>Title/Country</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>
E/CONF.91/L.34	Feature classes established for geographical names records on the Canadian Geographical Names Data Base (Submitted by Canada)	6 (b)
E/CONF.91/L.35	Les Critères des choix des noms géographiques au service des autorités compétentes (Submitted by Canada)	5 (b)
E/CONF.91/L.36	Le CD-ROM multimédia <u>noms et lieux du Québec, 1997</u> (Submitted by Canada)	6 (g)
E/CONF.91/L.37	100 years of official toponymy in Canada, 1897-1997 (Submitted by Canada)	15 (c)
E/CONF.91/L.38	Toponymic fieldwork completed in Canada since 1990 (Submitted by Canada)	5 (a)
E/CONF.91/L.39	An administrative tool for a national names authority: the strategic plan of the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names (Submitted by Canada)	5 (d)
E/CONF.91/L.40	Administering geographical names programmes: collected Canadian references, 1975-1996 (Submitted by Canada)	5 (d)
E/CONF.91/L.41	<u>Concise Gazetteer of Canada, 1997</u> (Submitted by Canada)	6 (f)
E/CONF.91/L.42	United Nations documents on geographical names standardization available from the Canadian Geographical Names World Wide Web site (Submitted by Canada)	13
E/CONF.91/L.43	Accessing Canada's geographical names on the Internet (Submitted by Canada)	13
E/CONF.91/L.44	Country report: Hungary (Submitted by Hungary)	4
E/CONF.91/L.45	Country report: Sweden (Submitted by Sweden)	4

<u>No.</u>	<u>Title/Country</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>
E/CONF.91/L.46	Toponymic guidelines for Cartography: Sweden (Submitted by Sweden)	5 (e)
E/CONF.91/L.47	Dictionaries of the place names of Latvia (Submitted by Latvia)	6 (f)
E/CONF.91/L.48	International training course in toponymy of the Baltic Division (Submitted by UNGEGN)	14 (b)
E/CONF.91/L.49	Country report: Latvia (Submitted by Latvia)	4
E/CONF.91/L.50	Country report: Czech Republic (Submitted by the Czech Republic)	4
E/CONF.91/L.51	Country report: Ukraine (Submitted by Ukraine)	4
E/CONF.91/L.52	Country report: Slovenia (Submitted by Slovenia)	4
E/CONF.91/L.53	Country report: South Africa (Submitted by South Africa)	4
E/CONF.91/L.54	Report on the standardization of geographical names, its state and progress (Submitted by Poland)	4
E/CONF.91/L.55	Database of geographical names in Poland (Submitted by Poland)	6 (b)
E/CONF.91/L.56	Polish geographical names of the world (Submitted by Poland)	10 (c)
E/CONF.91/L.57	Names of countries, their capitals and inhabitants (Submitted by Poland)	16
E/CONF.91/L.58	Country report: Islamic Republic of Iran (Submitted by the Islamic Republic of Iran)	4

<u>No.</u>	<u>Title/Country</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>
E/CONF.91/L.59	Commemorating the thirtieth anniversary of the first United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (Submitted by the Islamic Republic of Iran)	9
E/CONF.91/L.59/Add.1	Maps of the route of Nasser-Khosrow	9
E/CONF.91/L.60	Taking geonames into the next millennium: legislative and administrative changes to geographic naming in Victoria (Submitted by Australia)	5 (d)
E/CONF.91/L.61	Country report: Austria (Submitted by Austria)	4
E/CONF.91/L.62 and Add.1	The consequences of the orthographic reform of the spelling of geographical names in Austria (Submitted by Austria)	5 (b)
E/CONF.91/L.63	The Institute of the Military Geosystem (IMG) (Submitted by Austria)	14 (a)
E/CONF.91/L.64	Symposium on geographical names (Submitted by Austria)	17 (d)
E/CONF.91/L.65 and Add.1	List of country names (Submitted by UNGEGN)	16
E/CONF.91/L.66	Country report: Australia (Submitted by Australia)	4
E/CONF.91/L.67	Report of the Asia, South-East and Pacific, South-West Division (Submitted by UNGEGN)	4
E/CONF.91/L.68	Draft report	
E/CONF.91/L.69	Draft resolutions	
E/CONF.91/INF.1	Documentation for the Conference	
E/CONF.91/INF.2	Provisional list of documents	
E/CONF.91/INF.3	Provisional list of participants	
E/CONF.91/INF.4	Country report: Japan (Submitted by Japan)	4

<u>No.</u>	<u>Title/Country</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>
E/CONF.91/INF.5	The automated management of geographical names (Submitted by Japan)	6 (d)
E/CONF.91/INF.6	Informe Argentino sobre la Normalización de los Nombres Geográficos (Submitted by Argentina)	4
E/CONF.91/INF.7	Country report: United States of America (Submitted by the United States of America)	4
E/CONF.91/INF.8	Geographical names of the United States available on the Internet (Submitted by the United States of America)	13
E/CONF.91/INF.9	The Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) Geographical Names Course on Applied Toponymy (Submitted by the United States of America)	14 (b)
E/CONF.91/INF.10	Principles, policies and procedures: domestic geographic names (Submitted by the United States of America)	5 (b)
E/CONF.91/INF.11	Geographical names data compilation program of the United States of America (Domestic) (Submitted by the United States of America)	5 (b)
E/CONF.91/INF.12	State names authorities of the United States of America (Submitted by the United States of America)	8
E/CONF.91/INF.13	Commemorative naming in the United States (Submitted by the United States of America)	5 (b)
E/CONF.91/INF.14	<u>Digital Gazetteer of the United States of America</u> (Submitted by the United States of America)	6 (f)

<u>No.</u>	<u>Title/Country</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>
E/CONF.91/INF.15	The United States Board on Geographic Names <u>Publications</u> <u>Catalog</u> (Submitted by the United States of America)	6 (g)
E/CONF.91/INF.16	Toponymic guidelines for map editors and other editors: Estonia (Second edition) (Submitted by Estonia)	5 (e)
E/CONF.91/INF.17	Country report: United Kingdom (Submitted by the United Kingdom)	4
E/CONF.91/INF.18	Report of the Working Group on Courses in Toponymy, 1992-1997 (Submitted by UNGEGN)	14 (b)
E/CONF.91/INF.19	The new Austrian Military Map, 1:50,000 (ÖMK50) (Submitted by Austria)	5 (b)
E/CONF.91/INF.20	List of catchment areas of Austria: catchment area of the River Drau (Submitted by Austria)	6 (a)
E/CONF.91/INF.21	Toponymic guidelines for map editors and other editors: Austria (Submitted by Austria)	5 (e)
E/CONF.91/INF.22	International Council of Onomastic Sciences (ICOS) (Submitted by Austria)	15 (b) 17 (d)
E/CONF.91/INF.23	Report on toponymic work in China (Submitted by China)	4
E/CONF.91/INF.24	Report on the Standardization of Geographical Names in China (Submitted by China)	5 (b)
E/CONF.91/CRP.1	Resolutions adopted at the six United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names (1967, 1972, 1977, 1987, 1992) (Submitted by Canada)	8
E/CONF.91/CRP.2	(withdrawn)	
E/CONF.91/CRP.3	Country report: Switzerland (Submitted by Switzerland)	4

<u>No.</u>	<u>Title/Country</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>
E/CONF.91/CRP.4	(withdrawn)	
E/CONF.91/CRP.5	A phonetic sample survey towards improvement of a romanization system (Submitted by Israel)	12 (a)
E/CONF.91/CRP.6	Country report: Republic of Korea (Submitted by the Republic of Korea)	4
E/CONF.91/CRP.7	Korean National Geographic Names Authority (Submitted by the Republic of Korea)	5 (d)
E/CONF.91/CRP.8/ Rev.1	How to name the sea area between the Korean Peninsula and the Japanese Archipelago (Submitted by the Republic of Korea)	11 (b)
E/CONF.91/CRP.9	International Names Meeting in the Republic of Korea (Submitted by the Republic of Korea)	17 (d)
E/CONF.91/CRP.10	Rapport national: France (Submitted by France)	4
E/CONF.91/CRP.11	Report of the Working Group on Toponymic Data Exchange Formats and Standards (Submitted by UNGEGN)	6 (c)
E/CONF.91/CRP.12	Country report: Greece (Submitted by Greece)	4
E/CONF.91/CRP.13	Country report: Netherlands (Submitted by the Netherlands)	4
E/CONF.91/CRP.14	Report of the Dutch and German-speaking Division (Submitted by UNGEGN)	4
E/CONF.91/CRP.15	Country report: Norway (Submitted by Norway)	4
E/CONF.91/CRP.16	Toponymic guidelines for cartography: Norway (Submitted by Norway)	5 (e)

<u>No.</u>	<u>Title/Country</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>
E/CONF.91/CRP.17	Toponymic Guidelines of the Czech Republic (Submitted by the Czech Republic)	5 (e)
E/CONF.91/CRP.18	Standardization of geographical names in the Russian Federation, 1992-1997 (Submitted by the Russian Federation)	4
E/CONF.91/CRP.19	Rapport national: Algérie (Submitted by Algeria)	4
E/CONF.91/CRP.20	Toponymic guidelines for map editors and other editors: Italy (Submitted by Italy)	5 (e)
E/CONF.91/CRP.21	Main provisions of the law of the Russian Federation on naming geographical features (Submitted by the Russian Federation)	5 (b)
E/CONF.91/CRP.22	Toponymic guidelines for map editors and other editors (Submitted by Greece)	5 (e)
E/CONF.91/CRP.23	Country report: The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (Submitted by the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)	4
E/CONF.91/CRP.24	Informe National: Cuba (Submitted by Cuba)	4
E/CONF.91/CRP.25/ Rev.1	Standardization of geographical names in Cyprus (Submitted by Cyprus)	4
E/CONF.91/CRP.26	Rapport national: Maroc (Submitted by Morocco)	4
E/CONF.91/CRP.27	Development of Russia's National Catalogue of Geographical Names (Submitted by Russia)	6 (d)
E/CONF.91/CRP.28	Administrative divisions of Greece: regions, departments, provinces and municipalities (Submitted by Greece)	6 (g)

<u>No.</u>	<u>Title/Country</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>
E/CONF.91/CRP.29	Introduction à la notion d'espace et de limite contenue dans un nom de lieu (Submitted by Algeria)	6 (g)
E/CONF.91/CRP.30	Updated rules for the application of the romanization system for the Cyrillic alphabet in the Russian Federation (Submitted by the Russian Federation)	12 (a)
E/CONF.91/CRP.31	Aperçu sur la recherche toponymique en Algérie (Submitted by Algeria)	14 (a)
E/CONF.91/CRP.32	Toponymie et linguistique (Submitted by Algeria)	14 (a)
E/CONF.91/CRP.33	Toponymie et géographie (Submitted by Algeria)	14 (a)
E/CONF.91/CRP.34	Report of the Working Group on Geographical Names of the Inter-State Council for Geodesy, Cartography, Cadastre and Remote Sensing of the Commonwealth of Independent States (Submitted by the Russian Federation)	15 (a)
E/CONF.91/CRP.35	Ibn Battoutah: aperçu sur la vie du grand voyageur Marocain (Submitted by Morocco)	9
E/CONF.91/CRP.36	<u>Digital Gazetteer of Italy</u> (Submitted by Italy)	6 (f)
E/CONF.91/CRP.37	Historical consideration and position on the wrongfulness of the reference to the sea situated between Korea and Japan as the "Sea of Japan" (Submitted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea)	11 (b)
E/CONF.91/CRP.38	Standardization of geographical names in Croatia (Submitted by Croatia)	4
E/CONF.91/CRP.39	International romanization standards (Submitted by the International Organization for Standardization)	12 (a)

<u>No.</u>	<u>Title/Country</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>
E/CONF.91/CRP.40	Web sites noted in documents of the Seventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (Submitted by Canada)	13
E/CONF.91/CRP.41	Proposed provisional agenda for the Eighth Conference (Submitted by South Africa)	19
E/CONF.91/CRP.42	Country report: Nigeria (Submitted by Nigeria)	4
E/CONF.91/CRP.43	The Nordic Place Names Database (Submitted by Finland)	13
E/CONF.91/CRP.44	Present status of the standardization of geographical names in Romania (Submitted by Romania)	4
E/CONF.91/CRP.45	Informe Nacional de Perú sobre los progresos para la normalización de nombres geográficos (Submitted by Peru)	4

Annex V

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE EIGHTH UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

1. Opening of the Conference.
2. Election of the President of the Conference.
3. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Adoption of the rules of procedure;
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda;
 - (c) Election of officers other than the President;
 - (d) Organization of work;
 - (e) Credentials of representatives to the Conference.
4. Reports by Governments on the situation in their countries and on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names since the Seventh Conference.
5. Reports by divisions of the Group of Experts on Geographical Names on the situation in their divisions and on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names since the Seventh Conference.
6. Meetings and conferences:
 - (a) United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names;
 - (b) Divisional and interdivisional meetings and programmes;
 - (c) National names meetings, conferences and symposia;
 - (d) International names meetings, conferences and symposia.
7. Measures taken and proposed to implement United Nations resolutions on the standardization of geographical names.
8. Economic and social benefits of the national and international standardization of geographical names.
9. National standardization:
 - (a) Field collection of names;
 - (b) Office treatment of names;
 - (c) Treatment of names in multilingual areas;
 - (d) Administrative structure of national names authorities;
 - (e) Toponymic guidelines for map editors and other editors.

10. Exonyms.
11. Reports on programmes to assist with pronunciation of names.
12. Toponymic data files:
 - (a) Data collection procedures;
 - (b) Data elements required;
 - (c) Toponymic data transfer standards and formats;
 - (d) Automated data-processing (ADP) systems;
 - (e) Compatibility and structure of systems;
 - (f) National gazetteers;
 - (g) Other publications.
13. Toponymic Web sites.
14. Terminology in the standardization of geographical names.
15. Features beyond a single sovereignty:
 - (a) Policies, procedures and cooperative arrangements;
 - (b) Features common to two or more nations.
16. Writing systems:
 - (a) Romanization;
 - (b) Conversion into non-Roman writing systems;
 - (c) Writing of names in unwritten languages.
17. Toponymic education and practice and international cooperation:
 - (a) Existing education and practice;
 - (b) Training courses in toponymy;
 - (c) Exchange of advice and information;
 - (d) Exchange of personnel;
 - (e) Technical assistance;
 - (f) Cooperation with national organizations;
 - (g) Cooperation with international organizations;
 - (h) Cooperation with public information media.
18. Country names.

19. Arrangements for the Ninth Conference.
20. Adoption of the report of the Conference.
21. Adoption of resolutions drafted during the Conference.
22. Closing of the Conference.