



Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/CONF.91/CRP. 42
19 January 1998

ENGLISH ONLY

SEVENTH UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
New York, 13-22 January 1998
Item 4 of the agenda*

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

- National Report of Nigeria
Paper submitted by Nigeria

* E/CONF.91/1

NATIONAL REPORT OF NIGERIA

I. Introductory Statement

Nigeria's participation at the meetings of experts and conferences on the standardization of geographic names resulted in the establishment of a National Committee on Standardization of Maps and Place Names in the early 70's and the production of three editions of the National Gazetteer of Place Names. The down-turn of the national economy put paid to the take-off and operation of the national committee on standardization of geographical names which was established by a Decree promulgated in 1989. However, it has become obligatory for the national committee to supply a names data base for the GIS. Thus a proposal has been submitted to the Government and it is hoped that the details of the 1998 budget will make financial provision for the take-off of the committee in 1998.

The first assignment of the National Committee will be to study materials already made available at this forum in form of toponymic guidelines, principles, policies and procedures in the treatment of geographic names by other nations, the administrative set-up of various organizations in order to put in place a framework in which the Nigerian situation can be fitted.

11. The National Gazetteer of Place (Geographic) Names

The 1/50,000 scale map series which has 92% map coverage of the country forms the major source of information for the compilation of the National Gazetteer of Place Names, the third edition of which was based on the 19-state administrative structure of the country. Each time political boundaries changed, there was need to identify the state location of geographical features on the field. The staff of federal surveys department in collaboration with the state survey departments are currently involved in the field work. The 4th edition is expected to be published in 1998.

111. Geographic Names Data Base

Although the 4th edition of the National Gazetteer of Geographic Names will form the basic material for the names data base, working materials are expected from the Hydrographer of the Nation, the National Boundary Commission, the university community through its political geographers, linguists, historians, etc., all of whom are represented on the Committee.

The following elements will be put in the data file:

- i) Name of feature;
- ii) Type of feature;
- iii) Geographical coordinates of feature;
- iv) State location;
- v) Short description with reference to the most important settlement on the map sheet;
- vi) Sheet number and scale.

Financial proposals have been made to the Government including the acquisition of hardware and software. The personnel that would work on this have been identified. However, the need to train these at the professional technologist and technician levels cannot be over-emphasized.