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**Eighth United Nations Conference on the
Standardization of Geographical Names**

Berlin, 27 August-5 September 2002

Item 6 (b) of the provisional agenda*

**Meetings and conferences: divisional and interdivisional
meetings and programmes**

**Second International Symposium on Geographical Names,
GeoNames 2000**

Frankfurt am Main, Germany, 28-30 March 2000

Submitted by Germany**

* E/CONF.94/1.

** Submitted by the Dutch- and German-speaking Division and Ständiger Ausschuss für geographische Namen (StAGN) (Permanent Committee on Geographical Names). Prepared by Jörn Sievers, Chairman, StAGN, Bernd E. Beinstein, Secretary, StAGN, and Helen Kerfoot, Vice-Chair, United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, and Emeritus Scientist, Natural Resources Canada.

Summary

The Second International Symposium on Geographical Names, GeoNames 2000, organized by the Ständiger Ausschuss für geographische Namen (StAGN), was held in Frankfurt am Main in late March 2000. The three-day Symposium was hosted by the Bundesamt für Kartographie und Geodäsie (BKG) and supported by the Dutch- and German-speaking Division of UNGEGN, as well as by six German, Austrian and Dutch agencies and private companies.

The purpose of the Symposium was to endorse and support United Nations efforts to promote the standardization of geographical names and to provide a stepping stone towards the Eighth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names. In association with the Symposium, the Dutch- and German-speaking Division held a meeting. Seventy-seven participants from 23 countries attended the Symposium and 25 presentations were made.

In particular, the Symposium discussed national standardization and names databases, romanization systems and exonyms, as well as the orthographic reform of the German language and the pronunciation database developed for German broadcasting stations. Also covered were current research and practical developments in different parts of the world to address geographical names issues systematically from a linguistic, cartographic and technical perspective. Differing views provided an opportunity for participants to learn from the work of others, particularly in dealing with the complexities of the treatment of multiple languages and multiple writing systems.
