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Standardization of Geographical Names**

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Item 9 (b) of the provisional agenda*

National standardization: office treatment of names

**Problems encountered in the standardization of
names of waters**

Submitted by Poland**

Summary

This paper is devoted to methodological issues encountered in the standardization of names of waters: rivers, canals, lakes, ponds, artificial lakes, etc. It contains a short discussion of the following:

- The definition of standardization and the standardization of geographical names according to United Nations recommendations
- The state of work on the standardization of Polish geographical names, in particular the names of physiographic features
- The names authorities in Poland
- The principle that only one standardized name is assigned to one feature.

The principal groups of issues encountered in standardization work on names of waters are enumerated. These are:

- Issues connected with the natural character of water features (e.g. many source streams) and with human activity (e.g. canals changing a river's natural flow)
- Issues of terminology
- Linguistic issues (e.g. eliminating variant names and the place of dialectic variants and names in minority languages).

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