

Ninth Session  
New York, 17-27 February 1981  
Agenda Item No. 6

Nigerian National Progress Report to the Group of  
Experts on the Standardization of Geographical Names  
covering the period between the Eighth and Ninth Sessions

(submitted by Mr. O. Adebekun, Nigeria)

1. The National Committee on Standardization of Geographical Names was only able to meet twice between the last meeting of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names and now. At these meetings, the decisions of the meeting of the Group of Experts on Geographical Names held in February-March 1979 were discussed and the implications in so far as Nigeria was concerned were considered and noted. The Committee continued to ensure that place names in maps were properly collected and standardized. The various State Committees on Standardization of Geographical Names had been formed and these were extending their influence to the local government levels with which, place names - their pronunciations and spellings - had to be cleared before being adopted for use on published maps, both at state and national levels.
2. An officer was sent to the U.S. Board on Geographical Names late last year to see the operations of the Board, and to train on the manner of collecting names information, processing them and having such names approved for official use in the United States. This was an international co-operation for which special thanks should go to Mr. R. Randall, Executive Secretary of the U.S. Board on Geographical Names.
3. A new edition of the Nigerian National Gazetteer of Place Names based upon the published sheets at the scale of 1:50,000 scale is under preparation. Previous editions had been manually compiled but an experiment on using the computer to compile the Nigerian National Gazetteer of Place Names had not met with the huge and quick success that would have been expected. This had been due to many human errors in feeding the data into the computer, and physical power cut problems. After several efforts and much persistence, the desired result has been achieved. The new National Gazetteer will be in two volumes to reduce the size and each will be more handy and the contents less erroneous than the bulky previous edition.
4. During the period under review the Nigerian National Atlas was published. This is meant to be a first edition considering the rapid changes which have taken place in the country in recent years. A new edition is contemplated and attempts are being made for the publication of School Atlases. A copy has been presented to the Chief of the Cartography Section of the United Nations.