



**UNITED NATIONS**  
**DEPARTMENT OF TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT**

**UNITED NATIONS**  
**GROUP OF EXPERTS ON**  
**GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES**

*Newsletter*

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I. NEWS FROM HEADQUARTERS

A. The Seventeenth Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

Attached herewith is a copy of the United Nations Secretary-General's Note Verbale announcing the Seventeenth UNGEGN Session. The originals in three languages were mailed to the Permanent Missions of member and non-member states.

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REFERENCE EC/DTCD/GEGN(17)

The Secretary-General of the United Nations presents his compliments to the Permanent Representative of ... to the United Nations and has the honour to invite his/her Government to send an expert to the Seventeenth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names. This session will take place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, from 13 to 24 June 1994.

In accordance with resolution 1314 (XLIV) of its 1529th plenary meeting, the Economic and Social Council recognized the need for a body such as the Group of Experts on Geographical Names and invited the Group to provide the necessary coordination. In addition to approving the terms of reference for the Group of Experts, the Council also took note that such experts should be made available at their Government's expense.

The official languages of the session are Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. English, French and Spanish shall be the working languages of the session. Since the facilities for reproduction of documents at the site of the Conference will be limited, His/Her Excellency's Government is asked to forward to the United Nations Secretariat at its earliest convenience, but not later than 28 March 1994, two copies of any documents in one of the working languages that they may have prepared in support of items on the provisional agenda for the session. It is essential that the documents be kept to a reasonable length: in no case should they exceed 10 pages.

If His/Her Excellency's Government has already appointed experts to serve on this panel and as these experts have attended previous sessions of the Group of Experts, the Secretary-General would be very grateful if they could be made available for the forthcoming seventeenth session.

Enclosed for His/Her Excellency's convenience and information is the provisional agenda for the forthcoming session, as published in the United Nations Document E/GEGN/16, the Report of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names on the work of its Sixteenth session.

12 November 1993

Annex enclosed

S. B.

CORRESPONDENCE UNIT

125 MEMBER STATES plus 4 NON-MEMBERS

ENGLISH

AFGHANISTAN	IRAQ	SAMOA
ANGOLA	IRELAND	SAUDI ARABIA
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA	ISRAEL	SEYCHELLES
ARMENIA	JAMAICA	SIERRA LEONE
AUSTRALIA	JAPAN	SINGAPORE
AUSTRIA	JORDAN	SLOVAKIA
AZERBAIJAN	KAZAKHSTAN	SLOVENIA
BAHAMAS	KENYA	SOLOMON ISLANDS
BAHRAIN	KUWAIT	SOMALIA
BANGLADESH	KYRGYZSTAN	SOUTH AFRICA
BARBADOS	LATVIA	SRI LANKA
BELARUS	LESOTHO	SUDAN
BELIZE	LIBERIA	SURINAME
BHUTAN	LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA	SWAZILAND
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	LIECHTENSTEIN	SWEDEN
BOTSWANA	LITHUANIA	SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC
BRAZIL	MALAWI	TAJIKISTAN
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM	MALAYSIA	THAILAND
BULGARIA	MALDIVES	THE FORMER YUGOSLAV
CANADA	MALTA	REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA
CHINA	MARSHALL ISLANDS	TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
CROATIA	MAURITIUS	TURKEY
CYPRUS	MICRONESIA	TURKMENISTAN
CZECH REPUBLIC	MONGOLIA	UGANDA
DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S	MOZAMBIQUE	UKRAINE
REPUBLIC OF KOREA	MYANMAR	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
DENMARK	NAMIBIA	UNITED KINGDOM
DOMINICA	NEPAL	UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
EGYPT	NETHERLANDS	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
ERITREA	NEW ZEALAND	UZBEKISTAN
ESTONIA	NIGERIA	VANUATU
ETHIOPIA	NORWAY	VIET NAM
FIJI	OMAN	YEMEN
FINLAND	PAKISTAN	YUGOSLAVIA
GAMBIA	PAPUA NEW GUINEA	ZAMBIA
GEORGIA	PHILIPPINES	ZIMBABWE
GERMANY	POLAND	
GHANA	PORTUGAL	
GREECE	QATAR	
GRENADA	REPUBLIC OF KOREA	<u>NON-MEMBER STATES</u>
GUYANA	REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA	KIRIBATI
HUNGARY	RUSSIAN FEDERATION	NAURU
ICELAND	SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS	TONGA
INDIA	SAINT LUCIA	TUVALU
INDONESIA	SAINT VINCENT AND THE	
IRAN	GRENADINES	

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REFERENCE EC/DTCD/GEGN(17)

Le Secrétaire général de l'Organisation des Nations Unies présente ses compliments au Représentant permanent de ... auprès de l'Organisation et a l'honneur d'inviter son gouvernement à détacher un expert à la dix-septième session du Groupe d'experts des Nations Unies pour les noms géographiques. Cette session aura lieu du 13 au 24 juin 1994 au Siège de l'Organisation des Nations Unies à New York.

Dans la résolution 1314 (XLIV), qu'il a adoptée à sa 1529e séance plénière, le Conseil économique et social a reconnu qu'un organisme tel que le Groupe d'experts pour les noms géographiques était nécessaire et a invité ledit Groupe à assurer la coordination nécessaire. Il a en outre approuvé le mandat du Groupe d'experts, notant que les experts devraient être rétribués par leur gouvernement.

Les langues officielles de la session sont l'anglais, l'arabe, le chinois, l'espagnol, le français et le russe, les langues de travail étant l'anglais, l'espagnol et le français. Comme les services de reproduction des documents au lieu où se tiendra la session seront limités, le Gouvernement de Son Excellence est prié de faire parvenir au Secrétariat de l'Organisation des Nations Unies, dès que possible, mais le 28 mars 1994 au plus tard, dans l'une des langues de travail deux exemplaires de tout document qu'il aurait établi au titre de tel ou tel point de l'ordre du jour provisoire de la session. Ces documents devraient être d'une longueur raisonnable et en aucun cas ne devraient-ils dépasser 10 pages.

Puisque le Gouvernement de Son Excellence a déjà nommé des experts à ce groupe d'experts et que ceux-ci ont déjà participé à ses travaux, le Secrétaire général serait très reconnaissant au Gouvernement de Son Excellence de bien vouloir, dans la mesure du possible, envoyer les mêmes à la dix-septième session.

L'ordre du jour provisoire de la prochaine session, tel qu'il a été publié dans le rapport du Groupe d'experts des Nations Unies pour les noms géographiques sur les travaux de sa seizième session (E/GEGN/16), est joint à la présente note pour information.

Le 12 novembre 1993

S. B.

Pièce jointe

CORRESPONDENCE UNIT

38 MEMBER STATES plus 2 NON-MEMBERS

FRENCH

ALBANIA  
ALGERIA  
BELGIUM  
BENIN  
BURKINA FASO  
BURUNDI  
CAMBODIA  
CAMEROON  
CAPE VERDE  
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC  
CHAD  
COMOROS  
CONGO  
COTE D'IVOIRE  
DJIBOUTI  
FRANCE  
GABON  
GUINEA  
GUINEA-BISSAU  
HAITI  
ITALY  
LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

LEBANON  
LUXEMBOURG  
MADAGASCAR  
MALI  
MAURITANIA  
MONACO  
MOROCCO  
NIGER  
ROMANIA  
RWANDA  
SAN MARINO  
SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE  
SENEGAL  
TOGO  
TUNISIA  
ZAIRE

NON-MEMBER STATES

HOLY SEE  
SWITZERLAND

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El Secretario General de las Naciones Unidas saluda atentamente al señor Representante Permanente de ... ante las Naciones Unidas y tiene el honor de invitar a su Gobierno a que envíe un experto al 17º período de sesiones del Grupo de Expertos de las Naciones Unidas en Nombres Geográficos, que tendrá lugar en la Sede de las Naciones Unidas en Nueva York, del 13 al 24 de junio de 1994.

De conformidad con la resolución 1314 (XLIV), aprobada en su 1529a. sesión plenaria, el Consejo Económico y Social reconoció que se necesitaba un órgano como el Grupo de Expertos en Nombres Geográficos e invitó al Grupo a encargarse de la necesaria coordinación. Además de aprobar el mandato del Grupo de Expertos, el Consejo también tomó nota de que tales expertos deberían prestar servicios a expensas de los gobiernos respectivos.

Los idiomas oficiales del período de sesiones son el árabe, el chino, el español, el francés, el inglés y el ruso. Los idiomas de trabajo serán el español, el francés y el inglés. Como los servicios de reproducción de documentos en la sede de la Conferencia serán limitados, se pide al Gobierno de Su Excelencia que envíe a la Secretaría de las Naciones Unidas lo antes posible, a más tardar el 28 de marzo de 1994, dos ejemplares de cualesquiera documentos redactados en uno de los idiomas de trabajo que se hayan preparado en apoyo de los temas del programa provisional del período de sesiones. Es fundamental que los documentos tengan una longitud moderada: bajo ningún concepto deben exceder las 10 páginas.

Si el Gobierno de Su Excelencia ya ha nombrado expertos para formar parte de ese Grupo y esos expertos han asistido a períodos de sesiones anteriores del Grupo de Expertos, el Secretario General agradecería poder contar con ellos en el 17º período de sesiones.

Para conveniencia e información de Su Excelencia se adjunta el programa provisional del próximo período de sesiones, publicado en el documento de las Naciones Unidas E/GEGN/16, el Informe del Grupo de Expertos de las Naciones Unidas en Nombres Geográficos sobre la labor de su 16º período de sesiones.

12 de noviembre de 1993

S. B.

Anexo incluido

CORRESPONDENCE UNIT

21 MEMBER STATES

SPANISH

ANDORRA  
ARGENTINA  
BOLIVIA  
CHILE  
COLOMBIA  
COSTA RICA  
CUBA  
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC  
ECUADOR  
EL SALVADOR  
EQUATORIAL GUINEA  
GUATEMALA  
HONDURAS  
MEXICO  
NICARAGUA  
PANAMA  
PARAGUAY  
PERU  
SPAIN  
URUGUAY  
VENEZUELA

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## ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

CORRIGENDUM

Ref.: Sales No. E/P/S.90.I.21

(E/CONF.79/5/Add.1)

August 1992

OFFICIAL RECORDS

NEW YORK

FIFTH UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE STANDARDIZATION  
OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMESVol. II. Technical papers  
Montreal, 18-31 August 1987CINQUIÈME CONFÉRENCE DES NATIONS UNIES SUR LA NORMALIZATION  
DES NOMS GEOGRAPHIQUESVol. II. Documents techniques  
Montréal, 18-31 août 1987QUINTA CONFERENCIA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS SOBRE LA  
NORMALIZACION DE LOS NOMBRES GEOGRAFICOSVol. II. Documentos técnicos  
Montreal, 18 a 31 de agosto de 1987CorrigendumPage 301

The first three lines of the list should be replaced by the following:

Langue officielle (5)	Pays		Capitale (8)
	Forme courte (6)	Forme longue (7)	
allemand*	Luxemburg	das Grossherzogtum Luxemburg	Luxemburg
français*	le Luxembourg	le Grand-Duché de Luxembourg	Luxembourg
luxembourgeois*	Letzebuerg	de Grand-Duché (+) ou de Groussherzogtum vu Letzebuerg	Letzebuerg

(+): la forme la plus usitée.



C. Report of Attendance of the Eight United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Africa

Peter Raper (South Africa)

**Background**

The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) is one of five Regional Commissions of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The others are the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic Commission for Europe, the Economic Commission for Latin America, and the Economic Commission for Western Asia.

The ECA was established by ECOSOC resolution 671 (XXV) of 20 April 1958. Its membership was determined in accordance with resolution 974 D (XXXVI) to include Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burundi, Cape Verde, the Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, the Congo, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, the Ivory Coast, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, the Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, the Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Republic of Cameroon, the United Republic of Tanzania, the Upper Volta, Zaire, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, and any other State in the area which would subsequently become a Member of the United Nations.

At the 7th United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Africa held at Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, in 1989, the ECA identified the revitalization, harmonization and coordination of toponymic activities in Africa as an issue of special concern. Accordingly, it was decided that the Eighth United Nations Regional Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names would be the best forum to address the issue, and that a session devoted to the standardization of geographical names should be included in the Conference.

In a letter dated 20 January 1993, the Chief of the Natural Resources Division of the ECA invited the Chairman of the UNGEGN to provide assistance in the preparation of a background document on the status and problems of activities on geographical names on the continent, providing proposals for lines of action to the African States.

## **Name, venue and dates**

The Eighth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Africa was held at the Headquarters of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 22 to 27 February 1993, in accordance with resolution 1.1 adopted at the 7th United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, in 1989.

## **Attendance**

The Conference was attended by 126 participants from thirty-one countries and eighteen regional and international organizations.

The countries represented were Algeria, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Gabon, Germany, Kenya, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Morocco, Nigeria, Norway, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Tchad, Tunisia, Russian Federation, Uganda, United Kingdom, United States of America, Zambia and Zimbabwe, South Africa was not represented, since this country had been excluded from the activities of the ECA in 1963.

The regional and international organizations represented were the African Development Bank (ADB); the African Organization for Cartography and Remote Sensing (AOCRS); the European Economic Community (EEC); IFUS (Germany); the International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB); the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS); the Regional Centre for Aerospace Surveys (RECTAS); the Regional Centre for Remote Sensing (CRTO); the Regional Centre for Services in Surveying, Mapping and Remote Sensing (RCSSMRS); Spot Image (France); the Swedish Space Corporation; the Technical University of Berlin (Germany); the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Development (UNDESD); the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA); the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN); and the University of Hannover (Germany).

## **Programme of the Conference**

- (a) Some 248 working papers were dealt with during the Conference.
- (b) The Conference was opened by His Excellency Mr. Tokoste Gebremichael, Minister of Economic Affairs in the Prime Minister's Office, Ethiopia.
- (c) The Officers of the Conference elected were M. L.L. Mollé, Tanzania (Chairman); Mr. M. Benmoussa, Morocco (First Vice-Chairman); Mr. T.A. Abiodun, Nigeria (Second Vice-Chairman); Mr. A.B.N. Mhlanga, Swaziland (Third Vice-Chairman); Mr. A.

- Mouity, Gabon (First Rapporteur); and Mr. Abebe Mandefro, Ethiopia (Second Rapporteur).
- (d) After the adoption of the agenda, reports were presented on progress since the previous Conference by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and by delegates from the different countries.

#### **International Space Year**

- (a) Professor G. Konecny (Germany) presented a paper on remote sensing capabilities for Africa, highlighting problems and proposals for the operational use of satellite imagery in African countries.
- (b) Morocco reported on a symposium on remote sensing which took place from 7 to 9 October 1992 in Rabat as part of the International Space Year.
- (c) Tunisia reported on the SAFISY forum jointly organized by the Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales in France and the Centre National de Teledetection and held in Tunis on 5 and 6 December 1991.

#### **Cartographic data acquisition, manipulation and utilization: geodesy, cadastral surveying, and land tenure**

- (a) The United States of America presented a paper on marine applications of the Global Positioning System (GPS), stating that the GPS was designated for navigation, but also offered infrastructure for a broad range of commercial, governmental and scientific activities, including monitoring of the earth's structure, sea level and currents, and undersea navigation.
- (b) The ECA representative presented a study for providing guidelines for a common geodetic datums for Africa. The advantages of GPS and ADOS in this regard were discussed, and a procedure for reconciling the two systems described.
- (c) The representative of RCSSMRS spoke on post-ADOS activities (i.e after 1986) and the efforts to establish a unified geodetic datums for Africa. Such a datums is necessary so that all surveys and mapping in Africa can be carried out in one system, thereby facilitating the implementation of regional and international projects.
- (d) Two papers were presented on land tenure and cadastral regulation issues, one by the ECA and one by Sweden.

## Cartography and mapping

- (a) Kenya and France reported on the computer-assisted mapping project of the Survey of Kenya, detailing the software employed, the map series already covering the country, the cartographic reference system chosen (UTM), and the possible means of extracting base aperture cards (by aerial survey, layering, by map number, or by use of coordinates).
- (b) The United States gave a review of the latest technology in cartographic data acquisition, manipulation, storage and presentation, with special emphasis on potential applications in developing countries. Automatic cartography, development and application of digital cartographic databases, including digital terrain modelling, were discussed.
- (c) Another presentation by the United States dealt with aeronautical charting.
- (d) The representative of CRTO outlined the problems confronting Africa regarding remote sensing and geographical information systems (GIS). It was pointed out that, with the exception of South Africa with its station at Hartebeesthoek, all other African countries had been covered by receiving stations outside the continent, e.g. SPOT and MSS/TM. This situation posed problems of data availability and dissemination, particularly after the closing of the LANDSAT and SPOT reception at Maspalomas.
- (e) The delegate of the United Kingdom gave an exposition of a project on gridding the Seychelles outer island photomaps. By employing data obtained up to thirty years ago, it had produced Seychelles outer island photomaps. By employing data obtained up to thirty years ago, it had been possible by technical skill and ingenuity to produce new maps for placement on World Geodetic System 1972 Datums, UTM grid, for the purpose of defining the boundary of Seychelles Exclusive Economic Zone.
- (f) A document on the United States Geological Survey Standard for Digital Orthophotos pertained to the collection, processing and quality control of digital orthophoto data entry into the National Digital Cartographic Data Base.
- (g) Ethiopia discussed orthophoto maps, explaining the hardware and the software packages employed by the Ethiopian Mapping Agency, indicating the projects currently in progress, and the uses to which orthophoto maps can be put.
- (h) The delegate from France discussed the coverage of large areas in stereoscopic mode with SPOT satellite, indicating the technical details involved in stereoscopic coverage and the advantages to be derived therefrom.

- (i) Germany reported on practical applications of remote sensing in Sudan since 1981. By using remote sensing, datamaps are developed which serve to aid orientation and the recording of research data in the field, and as the cartographic representation of that research. Image-supported topographic and thematic maps depicting geology, geography, soil science and historical developments of settlements have been produced. Classification of soil types, monitoring of desertification, etc., are the primary aims of the research.
- (j) Ethiopia presented a document on integrated resources investigation using remote sensing and GIS for the inventory and monitoring of natural resources to determine the impact thereon of overpopulation in the Aba Lake region.

#### **Hydrographic and hydrogeological mapping**

- (a) The representative of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) elaborated on IHO publication SP55 on the status of hydrographic surveys and international nautical charting in Africa, concentrating on assistance and training by member countries of the IHO such as Belgium and Italy. Attention was also given by the United States to an international nautical and bathymetric chart around the African continent, and hydrographic surveying and charting of the coast and Geodetic Survey's nautical chart rescheming plan.
- (b) The representative of AOCRS described the programme of the OAU and AOCRS on international hydrogeological mapping in Africa initiated in 1982.

#### **Cartographic special applications:**

##### **Geographic, environmental and land information systems**

- (a) The ECA Secretariat presented a document on remote sensing and geographical information systems and their applications to natural resources development and environmental management in Africa.
- (b) The representative of the RCSSMRS addressed the question of problems and challenges of establishing GIS in Africa, emphasizing the role that the Regional Centre in Nairobi plays and the possibilities presented by training.
- (c) The representative of the International Cartographic Association (ICA) reported on recent and current activities of the ICA in the field of GIS, with special reference to its efforts to develop cartographic activities in Africa and the need to facilitate the participation of African Member States in its activities. Resource constraints were identified as a major obstacle to such participation.

