

**Group of Experts on
Geographical Names**

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WORKING PAPER

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Item No. 13 of the
Provisional Agenda*

REPORT BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

(Submitted by Dr. Richard Randall**)

At the 8th UNGEEN session in 1979, the United States called for a review of the group's statement of Aims, Functions and Modus Operandi for the purpose of clarifying and improving the work of international names standardization. As a result of this proposal, the UNGEEN at its 9th session in 1981 formed an Ad Hoc Study Group on Aims and Functions. The study group reviewed the existing statement and developed a new paper; paragraph 38 of the report of the 9th session describes the work of the committee and the new statement appears as Annex VI of the report.

Even though the UNGEEN approved the new statement in 1981, there was general agreement to a proposal at the 10th session in 1982 to prepare another document that would combine aims, functions, and modus operandi and to put the topic on the agenda for discussion at the 11th UNGEEN in 1984. Nations were invited to submit papers on the subject.

While further refinements to the statement of aims and functions may be possible, the United States considers it to be a technically sound document and finds no requirement to alter the text as approved in 1981 or to incorporate it into a larger statement which would include modus operandi (which should deal strictly with mechanics and structure of the UNGEEN).

At present there are three statements concerning the activities of the UNGEEN: the aims and functions adopted at the 9th session, the Modus Operandi presented as the appendix to the report of the 10th session, and the "Rules of Procedure" of the UNGEEN presented as Annex III of the same report. In the latter document, Rules 38 and 39 deal with working groups and thus relate to paragraph 11 (Functions) of the statement of aims and functions, but the two statements otherwise differ enough to remain as separate papers.

With the understanding that some revision could be permissible, the US believes that the three statements should be issued as separate documents. Any efforts to merge aims and functions with the other items could result in an undesirable lessening of the clear and forthright language and directions embodied in the aims and functions as adopted.

* WP No. 1

** Executive Secretary, US Board on Geographic Names