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REPORTS OF THE WORKING GROUPS

Report of the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation

(Submitted by Republic of Korea)**

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Meeting

A meeting of the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation was held on 7 and 8 August 2002 in Pretoria, South Africa. Documents and correspondence between the convenor, the vice-chair of UNGEGN and other members of the Working Group served as background to the meeting.

Cognisance was taken of progress made to date in the establishment by member states of the United Nations of national names authorities and relevant related matters such as:

- preparation of maps, charts, and atlases;
- gazetteers and lists of names;
- toponymic guidelines for map and other editors;
- establishment of websites and other electronic media.

A draft action plan was drawn up concentrating on drawing together all the Working Groups of the UNGEGN and on the points identified by the Working Group. One of the most urgent steps identified was that a task team is to follow-up and liaise with divisional representatives and chair persons of Working Groups of the UNGEGN.

As recommended by the minutes of the meeting of the 20th Session of the UNGEGN in 2002, a mandate for the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation was prepared.

Mandate

The draft mandate would include:

- a) evaluation of the functioning and efficacy of the Group of Experts (UNGEGN), its structures (Divisions, Working Groups) and representation, communication and infrastructure;
- b) determining ways and means of involving in UNGEGN sessions and UN Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names member states which have hitherto not been able to participate fully in these meetings;
- c) coordinating the activities and functions of the Divisions and Working Groups in a focussed manner to implement an action plan to achieve these objectives;
- d) finding ways and means of effectively implementing relevant resolutions on the standardization of geographical names by these countries.

The Working Group is of the opinion that the structure of the UNGEGN according to Divisions and Working Groups is suitable. What may require further attention is the efficient functioning of the Divisions, especially in developing countries, and the orchestration of the activities of the Working Groups to achieve the objectives of the UNGEGN.

Draft Action Plan

Objectives

To ensure and facilitate establishment of national geographical names authorities in identified countries of need, followed by standardization programme and production of documents (See Helen Kerfoot, Document A) e.g. gazetteers, toponymic guidelines, etc.

Action team

The action team should be drawn from all relevant Divisions and Working Groups of the UNGEGN, including:

- UNGEGN Chair and Vice-Chair;
- UNGEGN Secretariat;
- Convenor of the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation;
- Convenor of the Working Group on Publicity and Funding;
- Convenor of Working Group on Education and Training;
- Chair of the Divisions and representative of country;
- Other relevant experts on geographical names.

Tasks

- Working Groups to work in unison to be effective in the implementation procedures, e.g. drawing together all Working Groups of the UNGEGN and well-known experts in certain fields of expertise;
- find out what the needs are of developing countries, and what the priorities must be, e.g. for putting together a package on geographical names standardization;
- the Working Group on Publicity and Funding should do a costing of what it would cost to draw up all materials, questionnaires, with a diagram of needs, priorities, materials needed etc.

The Working Groups and Divisions are the core structures of UNGEGN and should be represented in the task team, it could also be a small group that identifies countries and invites them to participate in UNGEGN activities. The task team could call meetings with governments to tell them about UNGEGN, set up meetings and visit the countries identified, visit countries in the Divisions of UNGEGN and discuss with them what the UNGEGN does and can do for them. This task team can also draw up a manual to indicate what the Divisions should be doing in each region; draw up a matrix or diagram to identify problem areas.

Documents

- letter to UN Permanent Representative of target country for contacts in government of that country; Divisional Chair country representatives
- UNGEGN brochure
- Letter to government contacts requesting briefing and meetings
- UN Documents containing Statutes, Resolutions, etc.
- Concise manual for establishment of national authority including composition, policies and principles, procedures
- Offer training and guidance also in IT and cartography, gazetteer production.

Where countries cannot participate, and national naming authorities already exist, the Divisional Chair to report on situation, meetings held or whether international consultants should do work in conjunction with the Division and for the governments of countries concerned.

Modus operandi

- 1) Letter via Secretariat to relevant bodies and persons
 - introduce to UNGEGN
 - inform of offer to assist
 - arrange meetings
 - arrange further steps
- 2) Visit of action team to country identified and wishing to participate.