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**Eighth United Nations Conference on the  
Standardization of Geographical Names**  
Berlin, 27 August-5 September 2002

Draft resolutions of the Eighth United Nations Conference on the  
Standardization of Geographical Names

02-57644B

Draft Resolution **I**

**Promotion of Minority Group / Indigenous Place Names**

The Conference,

Considering that the preservation of minority / indigenous group culture is recognized as being an important aspect of the work of the standardization of geographical names,

Recalling the intent of the resolutions of earlier Conferences, namely II/36 relating to multilingual <sup>geographical</sup> place names and V/22 relating to the recording and use of Aboriginal / Native place names,

Recognizing that there are many agencies throughout the world actively pursuing the retention/revitalization of minority/indigenous group culture through the recording, recognition and promotion of the toponyms representing such groups,

Recognizing further that the promotion of this work will benefit the place names authorities and the United Nations, as well as providing valuable information for the community in general,

Noting that Australia offers to assist the United Nations Secretariat in the compilation and presentation of this report.

Recommends that place names authorities throughout the world be invited to present a summary of such activities for inclusion in a general report on these activities by the United Nations for subsequent dissemination to all interested parties/ /.

Technical Committee I

~~PROPOSED RESOLUTION~~  
*Draft Resolution II*

Standardization of toponymic commemoration

The Conference,

Noting that use of names of persons or events to designate features for commemorative purposes or as geographical reminders constitutes an active practice,

Recognizing that the attribution of a personal name during the lifetime or shortly after the death of a person is a widespread practice,

Recalling that, during a meeting of 1960, the Group of Experts acknowledged that replacing a geographical name with the name of a living person could be a source of problems,

Recognizing that this practice is generally disadvantageous as this type of designation is subject to subsequent changes, not recommended by the Conference,

Noting that no United Nations resolution exists providing guidance on the practice of adopting a personal name during the lifetime or shortly after the death of a person,

1. Recommends that the competent national authorities discourage the use of personal names to designate a place during the lifetime of the person in question,
2. Recommends that the competent national authorities include in their guidelines clear statements on the length of the waiting period they wish to establish before using a commemorative name.

Technical Committee I

Draft Resolution

**UNGEGN - Working Group on Terminology**

The Conference,

Noting that the new *Glossary of Terms used in the Standardization of Geographical Names* has been prepared by the Working Group on Terminology in the six official languages of the United Nations, viz. English, French, Spanish, Russian, Chinese and Arabic;

Further noting that this glossary is now in the final stages of publication;

Recognizing that changes in terminology will require additions and/or amendments to the definitions of terms;

- 1 Wishes to express its appreciation and thanks to the Working Group on Terminology for having contributed their expertise and time on a personal and voluntary basis in compiling the Glossary,
- 2 Recommends that the Working Group on Terminology be asked to continue to function, with the aim of reviewing the Glossary periodically and updating it as required by a procedure to be agreed upon by the members of the Working Group.

Technical Committee I

Draft Resolution

**UNGEKN Working Group on Exonyms**

The Conference.

Recalling Resolutions II/28, II/29, II/31, II/38, III/18, III/19, IV/20, V/13 as well as Resolutions I/4, I/10, II/35, III/7, IV/4;

Noting that in pursuing the general goal of limiting the use of exonyms, in several countries there has been a tendency to increase the number of exonyms;

Recognizing that measures such as the categorization of exonym use, the publication of pronunciation guides for endonyms, and the formulation of rules ensuring a politically sensitive use of exonyms would help in ~~the step-by-step~~ reduction of exonyms;

Recommends the establishment of an UNGEKN Working Group on Exonyms with the aim of preparing such measures as mentioned above.

Technical Committee I

Draft Resolution

**Joint Meetings: UNGEGN Regional Divisions and Working Groups**

The Conference,

Considering resolution 7 of the first United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names,

Considering further the success achieved at the joint meeting of the East Central and South-East Europe Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) and the UNGEGN Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers,

Noting that the exchange of ideas, experience, and materials at such a joint meeting furthers the accomplishment of the recommendations and resolutions of the present Conference,

Recommends the continued organization of joint meetings of the regional divisions and the working groups of the UNGEGN to address substantively regional needs in the areas of toponymic training, data files and gazetteers, romanization systems, publicity and funding, and terminology.

Technical Committee II

Draft Resolution

**Integration of Geographical Names Data into National and Regional Spatial Data Infrastructures**

The Conference.

Emphasizing that standardized geographical names information is a crucial component for an efficient development of national economies in all countries;

Noting that geographical names serve as a common access to geo-information and spatial data infrastructures;

Recalling that the 15<sup>th</sup> UN Regional Cartographic Conference of Asia & the Pacific (2000) recognized the promotion of national and regional geographical names standardization programmes;

Recalling further that the 7<sup>th</sup> UN Regional Cartographic Conference of the Americas (2001) recognized the importance of standardized and consistent geographical names as a fundamental data set of national and regional spatial data infrastructures;

Recommends that standardized geographical names data should be considered in the establishment of national and regional spatial data infrastructures and included in their constructions.

Technical Committee II

Draft Resolution

**Toponymic Data Exchange Formats and Standards**

The Conference,

Recalling that resolution 6 of the seventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names recommended the digital exchange of nationally standardized geographical names, and establishment of liaison with the Unicode Consortium,

Recalling further that resolution 13 of the seventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names recommended establishment of liaison with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO),

Noting that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names has now established liaison with both the Unicode Consortium and ISO,

Noting further that suitable international standards for digital toponymic data exchange require development,

Recommends that the Group of Experts, through its established liaison relationships with standards organizations, vigorously promote the development of international toponymic data exchange standards.

Technical Committee II



Draft Resolution

**Assistance to the United Nations Geographic Information Working Group  
(UNGIWG)**

The Conference,

Noting that the United Nations Geographic Information Working Group (UNGIWG) endeavours to establish a spatial data infrastructure for the United Nations;

Noting further that UNGIWG has identified standardized geographical names information as a crucial and fundamental component of this infrastructure;

Recognizing the role of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names to assist the United Nations in matters pertaining to geographical names;

Recommends that the Group of Experts collaborate with UNGIWG in the design and construction of the toponymic component of the United Nations spatial data infrastructure;

Recommends further that the Group of Experts, through its structure of Working Groups and Regional Divisions, actively facilitate the provision of standardized geographical names information from competent national authorities to UNGIWG.

Technical Committee II

Place Names as Cultural Heritage

The Conference

Recognizing the emphasis placed by delegates to the 8<sup>th</sup> UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names on the importance of place names as part of a nation's historical and cultural heritage.

Noting that the collection of place names in many countries of the world is made increasingly difficult as a result of the rapid pace of socio-economic change impacting on society and landscape.

Recalling the recommendation made in Resolution 27 of the 2nd UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (cf. VII/5) that measures be taken nationally to ensure that names yet to be collected are recorded through field work according to local usage of name forms.

Urges countries that have not already done so, to undertake both the systematic collection of place names and the promotion of a greater understanding amongst the wider public of the significance of inherited ~~local~~ place names with respect to local, regional and national heritage and identity.

Technical Committee III

## Draft Resolution

### Toponymic Data Collection Procedures

#### The Conference,

Recalling, the importance of field collection of geographical names as expressed in resolution 4, part B of the first United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, and also in resolution 27 of the second conference;

Recognizing, the rapidly developing requirement for highly accurate and complete geographical names and associated information;

Noting, the increasing demand for geographical names of all categories for use in a Geographic Information System (GIS) environment as well as in specialized and multipurpose automated databases;

Urges, governments to expand their existing data collection procedures for geographical names, and to establish procedures for collecting names from all <sup>acceptable</sup> possible sources so as to be responsive to the needs of geographical names users.

Technical Committee III

Draft Resolution

**Working Group on the Pronunciation of Geographical Names**

The Conference,

Noting that a geographical name has both an oral and a written form,

Noting also that the transliteration of geographical names from the script of one language into another script (with or without diacritical marks), such as romanization, does not normally provide a guide to the correct pronunciation of such names by persons who are unacquainted with the source language,

Further noting that already the Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names recommended taking up the subject of pronunciation,

Recommends that a Working Group on the Pronunciation of Geographical Names be established within the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.

Technical Committee III

## PROJET DE RÉSOLUTION

### La normalisation des noms de pays

#### La Conférence,

Rappelant la résolution 8 de la Septième Conférence des Nations Unies sur la normalisation des noms géographiques, qui fait état de l'existence de différences entre les noms de pays diffusés par la Section de documentation, de référence et de terminologie et les formes recommandées par le Groupe d'experts,

Considérant qu'il est souhaitable que les différentes composantes de l'Organisation des Nations Unies utilisent les mêmes noms de pays dans la ou les langues officielles de chacun des pays et dans les langues officielles de l'Organisation,

Considérant aussi qu'en raison de la mission et de la compétence du Groupe d'experts des Nations Unies pour les noms géographiques, un rapprochement et une concertation avec les différentes composantes de l'Organisation des Nations Unies associées aux activités concernant les noms géographiques devraient être recherchés,

Recommande que la Section de documentation, de référence et de terminologie du Secrétariat des Nations Unies et le Groupe d'experts se consultent lors de la mise à jour de leur liste relative à la nomenclature des pays du monde dans les langues officielles de l'Organisation.

Comité Technique III

*Translated from French*

## **Draft resolution**

### **Standardization of names of countries**

*The Conference,*

*Recalling* resolution 8 of the Seventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, which notes certain differences between the names of countries published by the Documentation, Reference and Terminology Section and the forms recommended by the Group of Experts,

*Considering* that it is desirable for the various components of the United Nations to use the same names of countries in the official language(s) of each country and in the official languages of the United Nations,

*Considering further* that because of the mission and competence of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, harmonization and consultation should be sought with the various components of the United Nations involved in activities concerning geographical names,

*Recommends* that the Documentation, Reference and Terminology Section of the United Nations Secretariat and the Group of Experts should consult when updating their lists of the names of the countries of the world in the official languages of the United Nations.

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Proposed Resolution

**Romanization of Thai geographical names**

The Conference,

Recognizing that Resolution 14 of the first United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names had recommended the modified general system of the Royal Institute of Thailand as the international system for the romanization of Thai geographical names,

Recognizing further that in 2000 the government of Thailand officially endorsed the revised version of this system as the national standard, and that it has been implemented,

Recommends that this revised system as set out in document E/CONF.94/INF.41 be adopted as the international system for the romanization of Thai geographical names.

(prepared by the UNGEGN Working Group on Romanization Systems – Technical Committee III)

DRAFT RESOLUTION

**Romanization of Serbian Cyrillic**

The Conference,

Recalling that Resolution 11 of the Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names concerned, inter alia, the romanization of the Serbo-Croatian Cyrillic alphabet of Yugoslavia,

Recognizing that the term "Serbo-Croatian Cyrillic" is no longer appropriate,

Recommends that future documents of the United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names and the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names use the term "Serbian Cyrillic" instead.

Technical Committee III



Draft Resolution

**Support for Training and Publications**

The Conference

Expresses its appreciation to the Federal Republic of Germany, the Netherlands and the United Nations through its Statistics Division for providing funding for participants from developing countries to attend the training courses associated with the Conference.

Stresses the importance of this training and requests the Statistics Division, within existing resources, to continue to provide funding for such training for participants from developing countries.

Recognizes the importance, for the foreseeable future, of both electronic and print versions of documents available in all official languages of the United Nations and in this connection requests the Statistics Division to include in its publication program for 2004-2005 the following publications:

- (1) Romanization Systems, and Formats and Standards for Toponymic data exchange (about 160 pages);
- (2) A Basic Manual on Geographical Names (about 150 pages).

Draft Resolution

**Ninth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names  
and the twenty-second session of the United Nations Group of Experts on  
Geographical Names**

The Conference,

Noting the progress made in the work of the standardization of geographical names, both at the national and international levels, by Member states of the United Nations,

Noting also the essential role played by the present Conference and by the sessions of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names,

Recognizing the necessity of continuing this important work,

1. Recommends to the Economic and Social Council that the Ninth Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names be convened in the second half of 2007;
2. Also recommends to the Economic and Social Council that the twenty-second session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names be convened during ~~the fourth quarter of~~ 2004;

## VOTE OF THANKS

The Conference,

1. Extends its heartfelt thanks to the Government of Germany for the excellent arrangements and services provided for the Conference and for the generous hospitality extended to participants;
2. Expresses, in particular, its gratitude to the Bundesamt für Kartographie und Geodäsie (Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy) for its excellent organization of Conference matters and of the associated technical exhibition;
3. Expresses its gratitude to the President of the Conference for the effective way in which he conducted the meetings;
4. Expresses its appreciation to the officers of the Conference and to the officers and staff of both the Government of Germany and the United Nations for their hard and dedicated work, which greatly facilitated the business of the Conference..