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English

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**United Nations Group of Experts On**

**Geographical Names**

**2019 session**

New York, 29 April – 3 May 2019

**Item 7 of the provisional agenda \***

**National and international standardization of geographical names**

**Toponymic guidelines for map and other editors for international use**

## **Recommendation for naming public thoroughfares in Germany**

Submitted by Germany\*\*

### Summary:

At the Eighth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, held in Berlin, Germany, in 2002, resolution VIII/2 on commemorative naming practices for geographical features was adopted (see [E/CONF.94/3](#)). The Permanent Committee on Geographical Names, at its 144<sup>th</sup> session, held on 13 November 2018, approved a resolution for naming public thoroughfares in Germany

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\* GEGN2/2019/1

\*\* Submitted by Ständiger Ausschuss für geographische Namen (StAGN, Permanent Committee on Geographical Names)

Prepared by Jörn Sievers, Neu-Isenburg, Germany

## **Recommendation for naming public thoroughfares in Germany**

Having regard to Resolution VIII/2 (Commemorative naming practices for geographical features) of the 8th UN Conference on the Standardising of Geographical Names (Berlin 2002), the Ständiger Ausschuss für geographische Namen (StAGN, Permanent Committee of Geographical Names) has approved the following resolution at its 144th session on 13 November 2018:

### **Recommendation for naming public thoroughfares in Germany<sup>1</sup>**

When naming public thoroughfares (newly naming and renaming) the Ständiger Ausschuss für geographische Namen (StAGN, Permanent Committee on Geographical Names) as the expert committee responsible for standardizing geographical names in Germany, having regard to Resolution VIII/2 (Commemorative naming practices for geographical features) of the 8th UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (Berlin 2002), recommends to observe the following criteria:

- (1) Names of public thoroughfares should primarily serve spatial orientation.
- (2) Well established names should not be changed without compelling reasons.
- (3) When renaming the after-effect of the previous name in practical use should be considered.
- (4) Within a municipality identical or easily confusable names have to be avoided.
- (5) When newly naming field names or other names in local use should be preferred.
- (6) If commemorative names are used, i.e. names commemorating persons or events, this should be done carefully and with discretion.
  - (a) Commercial names, names of enterprises and their products, have to be avoided.
  - (b) Naming after still living persons have to be avoided. A waiting period of five years after the death of the eponymous person is recommended.
  - (c) Persons, after whom a public thoroughfare is named, should have had a relationship to the place or the place should be meaningful to them (e.g. place of birth, place of activity).
  - (d) When a public thoroughfare is named after a person, in general the given and surname should be used, to allow a unique identification of the person (e.g. Marion-Dönhoff-Platz). Deviation from this principle is permissible, if the name would become too long. The usage of titles (Dipl.-Ing., Dr., Prof., etc.) has to be avoided.
  - (e) Having regard to the asymmetry of naming after persons – e.g. concerning gender and origin – it is recommended, to preferentially consider members of so far disadvantaged groupings when assigning new names.

### **Points for discussion**

The Group of Experts is invited to:

- (a) Take note of the recommendation for naming public thoroughfares in Germany;
- (b) Comment and provide input on similar work being carried out in other countries

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<sup>1</sup> Compiled in accordance with the recommendation of the Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Kartographische Ortsnamenkunde (AKO, Working Group of Cartographic Toponymy), Vienna, 4 May 2017, for naming public thoroughfares in Austria, <http://ortsnamen.at/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/AKO-Empfehlung-Verkehrsf%C3%A4chen.pdf>