



STATEMENT/INTERVENTION

Agenda Item Number: 5a	
Agenda Item Title: Cooperation and liaison with other organizations, International organizations	
Title of paper/report: <i>Report of the Joint ICA/IGU Commission on Toponymy</i>	
Statement/intervention provided by: Helen Kerfoot (Canada)	
Statement/intervention: <p>I thank the distinguished delegate for this report. I note that over 20 international conferences/symposiums have been organized in 13 countries by the Joint ICA/IGU Commission on Toponymy since the first event was held in Köln (Cologne) in 2012, and congratulate the Chairs and Steering Board members for their energy and accomplishments. Not only have these gatherings provided opportunities for those involved in toponymy research to present their concepts and ideas, but a variety of resulting publications have made their research more widely available, including to those involved directly with the standardization of geographical names.</p> <p>The symposiums have covered a variety of toponymic issues, and no doubt there is on hand a list of future topics to be considered. Perhaps the following items could suitably be woven into the themes to be selected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local authorities (e.g. municipal governments) and their roles as naming authorities• Street naming – different approaches to selecting new names and changing old ones• Naming features of the sea-floor, past, present and future• Geographical names and the environment (see CRP.125)• Geographical names and sign language <p>Or rather more outside UNGEGN’s immediate interest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Names of imaginary land- or seascapes, or of ones that proved non-existent <p>The members of the Steering Board have all participated in UNGEGN events and can support the Joint Commission’s relevance to UNGEGN’s main tasks of geographical names standardization. Future Steering Board members could also retain the strong link with UNGEGN. In all probability invitations to symposiums are sent to national/regional/local names authorities; perhaps this can be extended as appropriate. Could it be possible to refer particularly relevant papers to the individual UNGEGN Working Group convenor for promotion to their members, as well as making particular recommendations to UNGEGN regarding paths to consider in standardization work?</p> <p>Suggested inclusion in the UNGEGN Decisions from item 6a:</p> <p>Liaison with international academic, scientific and technical groups should continue, be enhanced and/or expanded to the mutual benefit of UNGEGN and the organizations involved. Reports from these organizations, as well as recommendations to UNGEGN, are encouraged.</p>	
Submitted on:	4/23/2021