Department of Technical Co-operation for Development

FIFTH UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

Montreal, 18-31 August 1987

Vol. I. Report of the Conference

UNITED NATIONS

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NOTE

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E/CONF.79/5

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Annexes

CHAPTER I

ORGANIZATION OF THE CONFERENCE

A. Terms of reference

1. The Fifth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names was held at Montreal, Canada, from 18 to 31 August 1987, in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 1983/120 of 26 May 1983.

B. Opening of the Conference

2. The Chairman of the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names made an introductory statement.

3. In opening the Conference, the Minister for External Relations of the Government of Canada welcomed the participants on behalf of her Government. She stressed the need for standardizing geographical names, and outlined the important work done by the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names. She thanked the Secretary-General of the International Civil Aviation Organization for having placed its conference facilities at the disposal of the Canadian Government.

4. The Director of the Natural Resources and Energy Division of the Department of Tehnical Co-operation for Development of the United Nations Secretariat made a statement on behalf of the Secretary-General and of the Under-Secretary-General for Technical Co-operation for Development. He thanked the Government of Canada for its generosity in extending the invitation to convene the Conference at Montreal. He thanked, in particular, the Chairman of the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names and his colleagues for their hard work.

5. The Executive Secretary of the Conference made a statement in which he described the activities of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development in the standardization of geographical names carried out since the Fourth Conference.

C. Attendance

6. The Conference was attended by 106 representatives and observers from 53 countries, 1 specialized agency, and 3 international scientific organizations. The list of participants is contained in annex I below.

D. Adoption of the rules of procedure

7. At its 1st plenary meeting, the Conference adopted the provisional rules of procedure contained in document E/CONF.79/2 (see annex II below).

E. Adoption of the agenda

8.   The Conference adopted the provisional agenda contained in document E/CONF.79/1 (see annex III below).

F. Election of officers

9.   The Conference elected the following officers:

President: Jean-Paul DROLET (Canada)

First Vice-President: Abdelhadi TAZI (Morocco)

Second Vice-President: LI Ximu (China)

Third Vice-President: José María GONZALEZ ABOIN (Spain)

Rapporteur: Alan RAYBURN (Canada)

Editor-in-Chief: Allan ROSTVIK (Sweden)

Assistant Editors: Donald ORTH (United States of America)

P. M. OPIE SMITH (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

Helen KERFOOT (Canada)

G. Organization of work

10.   The Conference established three technical committees. The following officers were nominated and subsequently elected to the technical committees, each of which dealt with specific items of the agenda:

Committee I: national programmes

Chairman: Jean RAMONDOU (France)

Vice-Chairman: Abdul Majid MOHAMED (Malaysia)

Rapporteur/Editor: Jean POIRIER (Canada)

National standardization (item 5)

Exonyms (item 9)

Writing systems and guides to pronunciation: research and experiments in assisting in name pronunciation (item 11 (d))

Committee II: technical programmes

      Chairman: H. A. G. LEWIS (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

      Vice-Chairman: Rolf BOHME (Federal Republic of Germany)

      Rapporteur/Editor: Naftali KADMON (Israel)

Toponymic data files (item 6)

Terminology in the standardization of geographical names (item 7)

Committee III: international programmes

      Chairman: Henri DORION (Canada)

      Vice-Chairman: Josef BREU (Austria)

      Rapporteur/Editor: Gerd QUINTING (United States of America)

                      P. J. WOODMAN (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

Features beyond a single sovereignty (item 10)

Writing systems and guides to pronunciation: romanization; conversion into non-Roman writing systems; writing of names in unwritten languages (items 11 (a), (b) and (c))

Toponymic education and practice and international co-operation (item 12)

11. Items 1-4, 8 and 13-16 were considered in plenary meetings.

H. Documentation

12. A list of the documents submitted to the Conference is given in annex IV below.

I. Credentials of representatives of the Conference

13. The Credentials Committee, composed of the President, the three Vice-Presidents, the Rapporteur and the Executive Secretary ex officio, reported that the credentials of all representatives had been found in order.

J. Vote of thanks

14. At its closing meeting, the Conference adopted a resolution by which it thanked all concerned in the organization of the Conference (for the text, see chap. III below, resolution 26).

Chapter II

SUMMARY OF THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

A. Plenary meetings

Reports by divisions and Governments on the situation in their regions and countries and on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names since the Fourth Conference (item 4)

15. The reports presented by the linguistic/geographical divisions of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names showed that the divisions continued to play an important role in stimulating and promoting the standardization of various aspects of names and naming practices in their respective regions. That was particularly reflected in the reports of the Africa East Division (E/CONF.79/INF.52); the Arabic Division (presented orally); the Asia South-East and Pacific South-West Division (E/CONF.79/INF.33), which had held two meetings since the Fourth Conference in 1982; the Dutch- and German-speaking Division (E/CONF.79/L.9), which had held six regional meetings; the East Central and South-East Europe Division (E/CONF.79/L.72); the Latin America Division (E/CONF.79/L.61 and 62), which had held its first two meetings; the Norden Division (E/CONF.79/L.39); the Romano-Hellenic Division (E/CONF.79/L.13); the United Kingdom Division (E/CONF.79/INF/16); and the United States of America/Canada Division (E/CONF.79/L.14). In their divisional and national reports, China (E/CONF.79/L.74) and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (E/CONF.79/INF/37) gave extensive details on activities in their areas and on measures taken to implement the resolutions of the United Nations conferences on the standardization of geographical names.

16. National reports revealed a number of advances in such areas as the development of toponymic guidelines, the production of gazetteers, the review of transboundary names and the dissemination of toponymic information. The resolutions adopted at the four previous conferences were frequently noted when attention was drawn to particular aspects of national toponymic programmes.

17. Australia reported on the establishment of the Committee for Geographical Names, a national co-ordinating body (see E/CONF.79/L.2).

18. Austria reported that the populated place names on the current 1:50,000 series of maps were identical to those in the official gazetteers and that all other geographical names on that map series had been standardized (see E/CONF.79/L.5).

19. Although the report of Bulgaria (E/CONF.79/L.73) was not formally presented, a question was raised by the representative of Turkey about the Turkish language minority in Bulgaria.

20. A highlight of the report of Canada (E/CONF.79/INF/44) was that an English version of Méthodologie des inventaires toponymiques (A Manual for the Field Collection of Geographical Names) had been published jointly by the Commission de toponymie du Québec and the Ministry of Natural Resources of Ontario; the Commission had also produced a Spanish version; reference was made in the report to the publication of a new booklet on principles and procedures for geographical

naming, a new publication on generic terms in use in Canada's geographical names and a number of interregional meetings on native names, alternate names and automation.

21. The report of Chile (E/CONF.79/INF/29) drew attention to three organizations in that country involved in various aspects of name standardization and noted the publication in 1983 of a gazetteer containing 65,000 geographical names.

22. China's national report (E/CONF.79/L.74) indicated that considerable progress had been made in field investigation, office treatment of names, production of gazetteers and the development of laws and regulations relating to the management of geographical names (see also E/CONF.79/L.75); extensive efforts had been made in China to correct names with misspellings, misapplications and inaccurate transliterations; in 1984 the National Archives on Geographical Names had been established and plans were under way to produce a 31-volume dictionary with up to 100,000 names, which was expected to be completed in 1991.

23. Cuba reported on various developments in the standardization of geographical names in that country (see E/CONF.79/L.32).

24. Cyprus (see E/CONF.79/INF/55) reported that a gazetteer containing 67,000 entries based on automated data processing had been completed; geographical names in its territory under foreign military occupation could not be verified and unfortunately names in that area were being changed in contravention of resolution 16 of the Third Conference. 1/ The representative of Turkey expressed displeasure at the report's lack of information on the Turkish toponyms in Cyprus and commented on the de facto situation in that country: he stated that it was not an act of occupation, but a military operation to restore peace. The representative of Cyprus rejected that statement; he said that, far from being a peace operation, the invasion was an act of aggression and occupation; he also said that the names of all communities in Cyprus had been fully respected. The representative of Turkey objected strongly to the statement made by the representative of Cyprus.

25. The report of Czechoslovakia (E/CONF.79/INF/64) referred to several matters relating to the standardization of names, especially the publication of names lists, toponymic guidelines and a list of States of the world.

26. The report of Ethiopia (E/CONF.79/INF/32) highlighted the collection of geographical names using a new recording system. A geographical names office had been set up in the national mapping agency, and work on a national gazetteer had commenced.

27. A very active programme of name collection, office treatment and toponymic publishing was described in the report of Finland (E/CONF.79/L.67).

28. The report of France (E/CONF.79/L.12) mentioned the establishment in 1985 of the National Council for Geographical Information, which had brought together a

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1/ Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, Athens, 17 August-7 September 1977, vol. I, Report of the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.79.I.4), chap. III.

number of public and private producers and users involved in geographical information; in the next four years the National Geographical Institute was planning to produce a gazetteer with more than 2 million names based on maps on the scale 1:25,000.

29. The report of the German Democratic Republic (E/CONF.79/L.56) referred to the work carried out on the national and international standardization of names and mentioned that a gazetteer of exonyms and other geographical names had been published in German.

30. The report of the Federal Republic of Germany (E/CONF.79/INF/28) noted developments related to automated data files, names lists and various publications; it mentioned that a systematic review of the implementation of resolutions had been undertaken and outlined activities in setting up a data file for German names in Antarctica.

31. The report of Greece (E/CONF.79/INF/59) briefly mentioned some developments related to mapping on the scale 1:5,000, an automated names data base, the gazetteer of Greece with 90,000 names and the endorsement by the Government of the ELOT 743 system for the romanization of geographical names in the Greek alphabet and the publication of maps using that system. In referring to maps produced by Greece, the representative of Turkey noted that the indication of administrative boundaries in the Aegean Sea might be misinterpreted politically, and should therefore be avoided.

32. The report of Indonesia (E/CONF.79/INF/71) noted that the country was composed of some 17,000 islands, about 7,000 of which were uninhabited; of those, only a few had official names; the report also noted that the field collection and office treatment of names were in line with recommendations made at the training course held at Cisarua in 1982, but Indonesia had not as yet established a names authority.

33. An extensive report by the Islamic Republic of Iran (E/CONF.79/INF/60) referred to the field collection of names, the national gazetteer, changes in names, interregional activities and the composition of the Asia South-West Division (other than Arabic). The representative of Israel pointed out that in resolution 4 of the Second Conference, 2/ the current composition had been established, but noted that the recommendation to create a Hebrew Division, made at the twelfth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, would resolve the problem referred to by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

34. In the report of Israel (E/CONF.79/INF/51) a number of points were made relating to education, romanization and automation. In matters concerning international co-operation, the representative of Israel said that his Government would promote the development of national typographic guidelines for geographical names at the forthcoming meeting of the International Cartographic Association at Morelia, Mexico.

2/ Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, London, 10-31 May 1972, vol. I, Report of the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.74.I.2), chap. II.

35. The report of Japan (E/CONF.79/INF/7) mentioned several state agencies and organizations involved in the treatment of geographical names.

36. The report of Kenya (E/CONF.79/L.38) made special mention of a country-wide project to update information on the names of administrative units and of the co-operation between Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania in standardizing names along their common border.

37. The report of Morocco (E/CONF.79/INF/40) referred to the co-ordination between Moroccan universities and the Academy of the Kingdom of Morocco in the standardization of geographical names and the continuing co-operation between those bodies and the national commission on geographical names.

38. The report of Norway (E/CONF.79/L.55) referred to a number of developments that had taken place, in particular the preparation of a law on the standardization of geographical names.

39. Pakistan presented an extensive report (E/CONF.79/INF/35) on the field collection and office treatment of names and other matters of names standardization.

40. The report of Poland (E/CONF.79/INF/66) referred to a number of developments in that country, in particular the new gazetteer containing 20,000 geographical names and the list of country names and terminology equivalents.

41. A highlight of the report of the Republic of Korea (E/CONF.79/INF/68) was that new guidelines for the romanization of Korean had been adopted in 1984.

42. Romania presented a report (E/CONF.79/INF/69) on progress in geographical names standardization in that country.

43. The reports of South Africa (E/CONF.79/L.34 and 35) noted in particular the preparation of gazetteers using automated methods and the development of toponymic guidelines; special efforts were being made to assist in the implementation of United Nations resolutions and recommendations; possibilities of assisting neighbouring States in organizing national toponymic programmes were being investigated.

44. Spain reported on various aspects of geographical names, including the formation of a national toponymic file to standardize the names on the map on the scale 1:50,000 (see E/CONF.79/L.37).

45. The report of Sweden (E/CONF.79/INF/21) noted the establishment of a Place Names Advisory Board administered by the National Land Survey, the Swedish place names authority, and also mentioned that toponymic guidelines would be revised later in the year.

46. Thailand reported on several aspects of name standardization, including romanization, automated processing, gazetteer production and regional co-operation (see E/CONF.79/L.31).

47. Turkey reported that it expected that a gazetteer of 30,000 names would be published in the near future (see E/CONF.79/L.76).

48. The report of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (E/CONF.79/INF/37) drew attention to the compilation of gazetteers and toponymic guidelines and mentioned the adoption of a romanization system for the Russian Cyrillic alphabet.

49. The report of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (E/CONF.79/INF/15) drew attention to the production of a privately printed gazetteer based on names shown on Ordnance Survey maps and mentioned the installation of a 640 kilobyte computer, a 28 megabyte disc drive and a dot matrix printer at the office of the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names.

50. The report of the United States of America (E/CONF.79/L.15) mentioned a number of the activities of the Board on Geographic Names and its committees relating to domestic and foreign names, alphabetization, boundary names and undersea feature names; special note was made of the six-week training course offered by the Board at Washington, D.C.

51. According to the report of Yugoslavia (E/CONF.79/L.78), several significant developments had taken place in recent years, including the setting up of provincial names authorities in the Republics of Slovenia and Macedonia and the convening of a conference on the standardization of names and terminology at Sarajevo.

52. The Conference requested the Secretariat to publish as part of the proceedings of the Conference documents issued during the Conference for information under agenda item 4.

Measures taken and proposed to implement United Nations resolutions on the standardization of geographical names (item 8)

53. The representative of Australia raised a number of points concerning the difficulties of recognizing and showing cartographically the names of physiogeographical regions. He said that such names should be widely used and, when discrepancies were resolved, information on the names and their precise application disseminated and monitored. He mentioned that none of the states in Australia was currently able to pursue the matter.

54. The representative of Canada said that emphasis should be placed on measures to be taken to implement the resolutions on the standardization of geographical names. Increased efforts were needed to persuade all kinds of public and private agencies (e.g., schools, industries, transportation companies) to reduce the use of exonyms; the use of the local names of places should be reinforced outside their regions.

55. The representative of Morocco strongly recommended that each State Member of the United Nations should be encouraged to establish a national names authority and provide it with the means to accomplish its task, in accordance with resolution 4 of the first Conference. 3/

3/ United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, Geneva, 4-22 September 1967, vol. I, Report of the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.68.I.9), chap. III.

56. It was recommended that, in future, national reports should follow a similar structure and format. The Executive Secretary agreed to include a suitable outline for national reports with invitations to conferences.

Meetings and conferences (item 13)

United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

57. The representative of the Netherlands, in his capacity as Chairman of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, introduced a draft resolution on the divisional structure of the Group. The Conference adopted the draft resolution (for the text, see chap. III below, resolution 3).

58. He also introduced a draft resolution on the revised statute of the Group, to which the rules of procedure of the Group were attached. The Conference adopted the draft resolution (for the text, see chap. III below, resolution 2).

Economic and social benefits of the national and international standardization of geographical names (item 14)

59. The representative of Canada said that a survey of the economic benefits of the Commission de toponymie du Québec had been undertaken by the government of Quebec. It had been concluded that if the functions and responsibilities of the Commission were distributed among the various government departments the costs of the same services and toponymic outputs would double. The government had therefore reaffirmed the mandate and objectives of the Commission.

60. The Executive Secretary emphasized the importance of such surveys in providing national names authorities with appropriate data enabling them to request proper funding for their activities. He requested countries that had conducted such surveys to make them available to the Secretariat for dissemination. He drew the attention of the Conference to volume XVIII of World Cartography, 4/ which was devoted to the standardization of geographical names and contained a chapter on the social and economic benefits of standardization.

61. The representative of the United States of America noted that the processing and manipulation of large quantities of geographical names through automation greatly enhanced the dissemination of standardized names by toponymic authorities and resulted in incalculable savings to Governments, private industry and the general public - for example, savings of resources and goods when names data bases were made available to fire-fighting and rescue teams and other disaster-control operations.

62. The representative of the United Kingdom emphasized the absolute necessity of accurate nomenclature on reliable maps when famine relief and other natural disaster recovery operations were undertaken. In that connection, there was a need to provide countries with economic aid in order to develop standardized nomenclature.

4/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.I.23.

63. The representative of South Africa urged the establishment of links among national data bases of geographical names as an important economic benefit.

64. The representative of Sweden noted the economic advantage of inter-agency co-operation on the automation of geographical names.

Action taken by the Conference

65. The Conference adopted nine draft resolutions (for the texts, see chap. III below, resolutions 1-7, 9 and 10.

B. Committee I: national programmes

National standardization (item 5)

66. Most countries described the progress achieved during the past five years in the field of national standardization in their reports submitted to the Conference under agenda item 4.

67. More specifically, Canada drew attention to the publication Principes et directives pour la dénomination des lieux/Principles and Procedures for Geographic Naming, issued on the occasion of the Conference.

68. The United States of America submitted Principles, Policies and Procedures: Domestic Geographic Names, published by the United States Board on Geographic Names (see E/CONF.79/L.20).

69. China had carried out a nation-wide investigation of geographical names, on the basis of which many place names were standardized.

70. National standardization in Cuba had involved the establishment of lists of standardized names for coastal features, populated places and major geographical entities.

Field collection of names (item 5 (a))

71. The report submitted by Canada (E/CONF.79/L.43) mentioned a number of rules relating to various aspects of standardization and referred to Méthodologie des inventaires toponymiques, a work translated into English and intended in particular for training courses in toponymy. The Spanish version had been distributed to Spanish-speaking countries.

72. In its report (E/CONF.79/L.3), Australia mentioned that research on aboriginal names had been undertaken since the 1960s and that an upsurge in activities in that field had occurred in recent years.

Office treatment of names (item 5 (b))

73. China reported that a set of rules for the treatment of its geographical names had been adopted on 23 January 1986 (see E/CONF.79/L.75).

74. Canada published annually a list of current toponymic research projects in CANOMA 5/ and suggested that all countries should make their projects known by similar means. On the subject of the treatment of names of communication routes, the Province of Quebec had prepared a Guide odonymique (see E/CONF.79/L.48).

Treatment of names in multilingual areas (item 5 (c))

75. Malaysia said that geographical names appeared in Malay on its maps. In the border area, the names were written in Malay and Thai. The legends on maps were written in Malay and English.

76. In Finland (see E/CONF.79/L.68), the 41 bilingual municipalities used both Finnish and Swedish. On large-scale topographical maps, toponyms were written in both languages, those of the ethnic majority appearing first. On smaller-scale maps, toponyms were also written in both languages but in different characters. The same principles applied to names on road and street signs. Although Lappish did not have official language status, an effort was made to use a large number of Lappish names on maps for national use.

77. The United Kingdom had published a world atlas in Welsh for use in schools.

78. The 27 resolutions adopted by the Symposium on Native Geographical Names (see E/CONF/79/L.41), sponsored by the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names related, among other things, to the compilation of a handbook for the collection and treatment of names. Canada was prepared to work with the United States and Mexico in that field.

Administrative structure of national names authorities (item 5 (d))

79. It was agreed that the official structures entrusted by Governments with the task of standardizing geographical names were the source of the success achieved in that work and the key to progress in international standardization; considerable progress had been made since the Fourth Conference.

80. China outlined the structure of its geographical names committees at various administrative levels, highlighting the national guidelines that regulated the management of place names.

81. For two years, Portugal had been carrying out preliminary studies. One of the difficulties to be resolved was that of deciding upon the competent administrative department.

82. In that connection, the representative of Israel stated that, in his country, the committee was responsible to the Prime Minister's office and had a firm legal basis.

5/   A monthly publication containing news and views about Canadian toponymy, compiled by the Secretariat of the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names and published by the Surveys and Mapping Branch of the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources.

83. In France, the establishment in July 1985 of a National Council for Geographical Information had made it possible to establish as one of the standing committees of the Council, a national committee on toponymy comprising all parties concerned. One of its first objectives was to complete a study of the files of toponyms established by the cadastral survey and the National Geographical Institute.

84. In Japan, no specific governmental authority was entrusted with toponymic decisions, but several authorities were involved. Consistent standardization had resulted from their activities.

85. In Sweden, a Place Names Advisory Board had been established in 1985 as an advisory body to the National Land Survey, which was the Swedish place names authority.

86. Canada intended to recommend that a list of national authorities be established.

87. The United States reported on the structure of the United States Board on Geographic Names which was composed of 24 members from 9 Federal agencies appointed to carry out the work of the various committees created by the Board.

Toponymic guidelines for map and other editors (item 5 (e))

88. Twenty-five States had produced toponymic guidelines: Austria, Canada, China, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, South Africa, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, USSR, United Kingdom and United States. The Co-ordinator urged countries that had not already compiled them to begin to do so as soon as possible. Such guidelines were useful both domestically and internationally. Guidelines should distinguish between descriptive terms and geographical names. In order to avoid delays in publication, the Secretariat would circulate as soon as possible the various guidelines available as part of World Cartography.

Exonyms (item 9)

89. The representative of Turkey said that the interest of his country in traditional names (exonyms) was explained by history, those names being scattered over the territories of the former Ottoman Empire; the short list of exonyms set out in document E/CONF.79/L.29 should be viewed as a modest contribution to geographical history; he would be grateful for any corrections suggested by other participants. The representative of Greece questioned the validity of the principles adopted in compiling the list and asked whether the circulation of such lists truly served the aims of international standardization and the reduction of exonyms.

90. The representative of the United Kingdom felt that the definition of the word "exonym" given in Glossary No. 330/Rev.2 was unsatisfactory - a distinction had to be drawn between exonyms, foreign names and traditional names, that is names adopted into another language with different pronunciations and spellings.

91. The representative of Austria said that the definition given in the Glossary was adequate and should not be altered; he also said that a great amount of work had been done based on the definitions contained in the Glossary.

92. The representative of Cuba agreed that the definition should not be altered and explained that "Madrid" was not an exonym because the spelling was identical in Spain and Cuba; local forms were given with their exonyms in parentheses if known.

93. The representative of Morocco said that a list of exonyms and endonyms had been prepared. He felt that a flexible approach should be taken in reducing the number of exonyms; it was not necessary to change everything. Morocco had encountered no difficulty in retaining the toponym "Volubilis", for example; however, he said that the name "Casablanca" was being replaced by its original Arabic name "Dâr el Beida".

94. Italy had prepared a report, "Gli esomini italiani - Impostazione metodologica e primo contributo a una rassegna sistematica: gli esonimi delle città europee" ("Italian exonyms - Methodological organization and first contribution to a systematic review: exonyms of European cities"), in which the following classifications were considered:

    (a) Valid exonyms;

    (b) Obsolete exonyms;

    (c) Exonyms completely out of use;

    (d) Exonyms used only in some literary works;

    (e) Exonyms used only in historical works with reference to geographical entities that in the past had other names.

95. The report submitted by France (E/CONF.79/L.27) dealt with the question of place names "adapted" as a result of factors other than the nature of the French language itself: historical factors, geographical factors or simply random factors stemming from alterations, corruptions or approximate translations fostered by essentially oral transmission.

96. The representative of China pointed out that "Peking" was an inexact transcription for "Beijing" but that that had been corrected.

97. In Finland the following types of exonyms were rejected:

    (a) Those not well known;

    (b) Those not sanctioned by usage;

    (c) Those lacking a cultural or historical aspect;

    (d) Those whose forms, as officially standardized by the country in question, were not the source of undue difficulty for Finns. The creation of new exonyms for national use would be regarded unfavourably in Finland.

98. The representative of Canada recalled that the goal was to reduce the use of exonyms. Moreover, one might wonder whether the publication of lists of exonyms truly served that purpose. Perhaps, on the contrary, they added to the knowledge and dissemination of those names. Agreement had to be reached on what action was to be taken, and the Austrian report (E/CONF.79/L.6) contained good suggestions. The use or omission of exonyms in cartography depended greatly on the categories of exonyms and their dissemination. There were three possibilities for the names of cities in national cartography: (a) the exonym alone; (b) the exonym with the local name in parentheses; (c) the local name with the exonym in parentheses; the second one was generally gaining ground. In international cartography, as the representative of Austrian noted, the goal was to exclude all exonyms.

99. In order to reduce the use of exonyms, concrete operational resolutions were required with respect to international atlases and airline schedules.

<u>Research and experiments in assisting in name
pronunciation (item 11 (d))</u>

100. In Canada, several toponymic authorities taped the local pronunciation of native geographical names. Three to five different speakers were asked about each name, since the pronunciation of geographical names might differ from speaker to speaker. The tapes were then given to a group of native interpreters who transcribed the names into the Roman alphabet.

101. The United States of America, France, Canada and Morocco took into account certain characteristics of native informants, such as age, place of origin and the like, when transcribing the pronunciation of names.

102. In the United Kingdom, the status of informants was taken into account, as was the use of the name beyond its immediate locality.

103. The representative of Morocco explained that in Morocco names were recorded on the spot when surveying but that speakers' pronunciation varied from one region to another. The names were transcribed into Arabic; it was more difficult to indicate the correct pronunciation when the names were transcribed into the Roman alphabet.

104. The representative of Austria said that the pronunciation of names was not, strictly speaking, of concern when mapping. Maps gave only the written form of geographical names. But the pronunciation should be indicated in gazetteers by means of the international phonetic alphabet (IPA) for the benefit of those non-Roman-writing countries that needed to know the pronunciation of toponyms for their script conversion procedures.

105. The representative of the Netherlands said that agenda item 11 (d) should be studied in the light of resolution 7 of the Third Conference 6/ on aids to pronunciation prior to the transfer of names from one writing system to another. As the development of any conversion system was the task of specialists who might be expected to be acquainted with IPA, that alphabet was suitable for the purpose.

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6/ <u>Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, Athens, 17 August-7 September 1977</u>, vol. I, <u>Report of the Conference</u> (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.79.I.4), chap. III.

106. The Chairman said that pronunciation was the key to transcription systems.

Action taken by the Conference

107. The Conference adopted five draft resolutions (for the texts, see chap. III below, resolutions 11-15).

C. Committee II: technical programmes

Toponymic data files (item 6)

108. The Chairman complimented Canada and the United States of America on the work done on automatic data processing (ADP) in toponymy, as exhibited at the Conference. He spoke of the progress made in a number of countries: in China with computerization using Pinyin; in Denmark with the Jutland gazetteer; in the Federal Republic of Germany with the gazetteer based on maps on the scale 1:500,000 and the planned expansion to include names shown on maps on the scale 1:200,000; in Israel with the automated transliteration/transcript/translation system; in Sweden and South Africa with data bases; and in Finland, Malaysia and Australia.

109. The representative of the United Kingdom reported that the country's 1:50,000 microfiche gazetteer had been in use for two years and that a hardback edition, containing some 250,000 names and giving latitude and longitude, had been published.

Data collection procedures (item 6 (a))

110. The United States of America had published National Geographic Names Data Base: Phase II Instructions (see E/CONF.79/L.22), which was a comprehensive manual to be used for the collection of geographical names in the United States. The representative of Canada informed the Conference that the Quebec and Ontario toponymic authorities had published A Manual for the Field Collection of Geographical Names in English, French and Spanish.

Data elements required (item 6 (b))

111. The representative of Canada mentioned the National Toponymic Data Base (NTDB) and several provincial toponymic data systems, which had been described in the 1986 issues of CANOMA. 5/ He informed the Conference that some provinces had individual toponymic data systems and that links with the national data base were being studied. He confirmed that the TOPOS data management system of Quebec also stored formerly used names. He referred to a proposal made at the twelfth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names that ADP-assisted gazetteer samples and formats from different countries be collected and presented to the next Conference for comparison and comment; the proposal was felt to be still valid and a resolution would be submitted. The representative of Canada informed the

Conference about the publication of a 300-page English/French glossary of generic terms used in Canadian toponyms, 7/ copies of which were circulated.

112. The representative of Israel informed the Conference that the automated gazetteer of Israel was based on all names legally confirmed by the Government Names Commission, whether or not they appeared on maps. He reported on the precision of location of places using the original Israel Topographic Grid, as well as the Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) Grid, for which the co-ordinates were directly computed by the system. He said that names remained in the system even if eliminated from maps and that historical names from older maps were being added. With reference to optical scanning, he stressed the need for the implementation of paragraph 55 of the report of the twelfth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (ESA/RT/C/GN/10).

113. The representative of the United States of America reported that software had been developed for use by researchers communicating with the central system. The data base would be completed in five to eight years, except for road and highway names, which would be dealt with in Phase III data collection. He said that no information was deleted from the domestic automated names system even if such information were removed from maps. The United States also actively collected and encoded historical names and variant names for inclusion in the automated system. The United States reported on optical scanning difficulties arising from diversity of typefaces and colours.

114. The representative of Norway reported on three national names listings that were being prepared: a concise gazetteer of 500,000 entries, based on 1:50,000-scale mapping, to be completed towards 1990; a listing of 1.5 million names from large-scale mapping; and, as a long-term project, a complete inventory of 4 million to 5 million geographical names, including pronunciation and information on name usage.

115. The representative of the Federal Republic of Germany said that his country's national data base recorded even long names that had to be shortened for small-scale mapping. The representative of the United Kingdom said that historical names in the United Kingdom were kept in country archives, separate from the national gazetteer programme, except where the historical names appeared on the 1:50,000-scale maps. Discussion of the positioning of rivers, other linear features and areas revealed that treatment varied from country to country. For example, the position of the source or the position of the name itself might be used to provide a reference for rivers. The Chairman said that much depended on whether or not the names data were directly derived from cartographic sources. Further consideration of the subject was referred to the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.

116. The representative of Canada stressed that it would be of interest to make available to countries, particularly those about to be equipped with an ADP system, a document indicating the types of data recorded for each geographical name in the main existing data bases. Referring to document E/CONF.79/L.47, he suggested that the Secretariat disseminate the information on this subject gathered by the Group of Experts.

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7/ Generic Terms in Canada's Geographical Names, Terminology Bulletin 176 (Ottawa, Canadian Government Publishing Centre, 1987).

117. The representative of the United States of America commented on the Data Users Guide for the Geographic Names Information System (see E/CONF.79/L.21) and the report concerning the current state of the system (E/CONF.79/L.16). He said that updated information was added quarterly, but could be added continuously if necessary. Research was centred on the possibility of data storage on a compact disc-ROM for distribution to reference organizations; 2 million names would fit on two six-inch compact discs.

118. The Chairman introduced the "Bibliography for automated data processing in the preparation of gazetteers and names lists" (E/CONF.79/INF/50) and thanked Canada for the assistance in its preparation.

119. The representative of Sweden said that a data base was being developed to include about 500,000 names shown on the National Topographic Map series related to the Swedish National Grid.

120. The representative of Israel introduced the report on biscriptual versus bilingual automated gazetteers (E/CONF.79/L.65). He said that, in view of wide popular demand in Israel for the automated gazetteer, it was being published in book form with an updating service available. Furthermore, a new file of name origins was being prepared, to be merged with the original data base. In answer to a question from the Chairman, the representative of Israel said that the computerized translation of some 2,000 generic terms into Hebrew was done by character string recognition via a terminology table. Although reversibility was not required, it could be applied for transliteration-ingested languages such as Arabic. Vowel indication was used only where it prevented ambiguity.

121. The listing of biscriptual names was discussed and the representative of Canada said that the development of a data base in two scripts, Roman and syllabic, was being considered.

122. The representative of Sweden reported on the creation on an EDP-based system for storing, processing and presenting real estate data. Currently the register contained about 50 per cent of the estimated 2.7 million property units and when completed it would contain approximately 100,000 geographical names. Before the names were stored in the base they were approximately examined and standardized.

123. The representative of Malaysia reported that the personal-computer-based toponymic system was operational. The Federal Republic of Germany reported on the Antarctic toponymic base (see E/CONF.79/INF/25), which included data on about 600 names of German origin. It was reported that the Japanese gazetteer based on 1:500,000-scale maps included location by latitude and longitude, as well as feature code, elevation and area data.

124. The representative of China reported on an atlas of China, which contained about 50,000 entries; the index was being prepared by micro-computer. He said that the Chinese provincial gazetteers were still being developed, except for the volume on Liaoning Province, which was complete. It contained Han characters and Pinyin romanization. Latitude and longitude were being included only for state-level gazetteers and related to the name placement only. Gazetteer listings could be organized according to the number of character strokes, order of drawing, shape or pronunciation. The toponymic data base, which contained names shown on maps on the

scale 1:1 million would be expanded to include names on maps on the scale 1:250,000. Names shown on maps on the scale 1:50,000 would then be processed. He said that no further simplification of Chinese characters was planned and that historical names were retained in the place-name records, but stored quite separately from contemporary names; Pinyin provided a simpler method for locating Chinese characters than the radicals and strokes. He confirmed that the Standard Telegraphic Codes were still current but were due to be revised.

Compatibility and structure of ADP systems (item 6 (d))

125. It was agreed that the question of compatibility and structure of ADP systems would be discussed informally, along the lines proposed by Canada in document E/CONF.79/L.47. The representative of the United Kingdom stressed the difficulty of obtaining such information in a comparable format. The representative of Canada said that compatibility between ADP systems used by federal and provincial toponymic authorities was currently being investigated.

National gazetteers (item 6 (e))

126. The representative of France introduced the report entitled "Pays et capitales du monde" (E/CONF.79/L.26). Several delegations expressed reservations regarding the report. The representatives of France and Morocco agreed on modifications to be made in a future edition. The representative of Cameroon objected to the administrative division of South Africa related to the bantustans (black homelands); the representatives of Kenya and Uganda agreed with the representative of Cameroon. The Chairman pointed out that the report in question was a French national report and that the only official United Nations document was Terminology Bulletin No. 333. 8/

127. The representative of Canada said that the new gazetteer of Quebec, published in mid-1987, had been prepared in accordance with directives of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names; it comprised about 100,000 names and updates would be prepared annually. He proposed that the Group of Experts discuss the standardization of geographical referencing for gazetteers. Sweden was planning a gazetteer of Lappish names with cross references between old and new spellings.

128. The representative of the United States said that gazetteers had been published for four states and that gazetteers for the remaining states were in the process of compilation or publication. Most of the gazetteers were being compiled in co-operation with state governments and universities. A one-volume concise national gazetteer containing about 40,000 entries would be published soon. He referred to products derived from the data base, such as microfiche, bound name lists and magnetic tapes. Gazetteers of foreign countries were being produced, in co-operation with the countries involved whenever possible.

129. The representative of Israel noted the increasing involvement of a number of countries in ADP-assisted treatment of geographical names and proposed that the Group of Experts consider the development of standardized structures to ensure compatibility.

130. The representative of Australia reported on the new gazetteer being compiled by the Division of National Mapping from official collections of states. It would include names shown on maps on the scale 1:100,000 in outback areas and on maps on the scale 1:50,000 or even 1:25,000 in settled areas. The total number of entries would be about 500,000. The work would

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8/   Names of Countries and Adjectives of Nationality (United Nations publication, Sales No. E/F/S.85.I.25).

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take from 5 to 10 years. A gazetteer of names shown on maps on the scale 1:250,000 already existed, but it provided no data on the official status of names.

131. The representative of Austria spoke of a detailed nine-volume automated gazetteer of populated place names published between 1984 and 1986 by the Austrian Central Statistical Office. He said that the typographic quality was inferior to that of gazetteers produced manually.

132. The representative of Cyprus introduced its National Gazetteer containing 67,000 entries. The data names were directly derived from cartographic sources and cadastral plans.

133. The representative of Thailand reported on the six-volume national gazetteer of Thai geographical names already published. He said that a gazetteer based on maps on the scale 1:50,000 was being compiled by the Royal Thai Survey Department.

Terminology in the standardization of geographical names (item 7)

134. The Chief of the Documentation, Reference and Terminology Section of the Department of Conference Services of the United Nations Secretariat expressed interest in the proceedings of the Conference. He introduced an updated version of the glossary entitled Technical Terminology Employed in the Standardization of Geographical Names (ST/CS/SER.F/330/Rev.2). He referred to the terminology bulletins containing names of countries and adjectives of nationality (ST/CS/SER.F/333) and information on currency units (ST/CS/SER.F/334). He assured the Conference that those publications would be kept up to date. With regard to computer technology, his section was establishing a multilingual terminology data bank and had encountered many of the technical problems mentioned by participants. He referred to romanization, Pinyin, computer alphabetization and problems with multi-script publications. He noted systems described by various participants and hoped to make use of technological innovations, particularly CD-ROM and multilingual laser printing.

Action taken by the Conference

135. The Conference adopted two draft resolutions (for the texts, see chap. III below, resolutions 16 and 17).

D. Committee III: international programmes

Features beyond a single sovereignty (item 10)

136. The report submitted by the United States of America (E/CONF.79/L.17) contained information on principles and policies for the treatment of transboundary geographical names, in co-operation with Canada on the one hand, and Mexico on the other.

137. The report submitted by Canada (E/CONF.79/INF/49) dealt with transboundary names standardization from a different vantage point: geographical naming should not be viewed as only a technical, scientific and practical exercise; toponymy as a field of study should encompass the historical and cultural reality inherent in

names. The study of transboundary names was seen as an example of that type of inquiry. Name differences at the boundary between the United States and Canada occurred because of procedural discrepancies, cultural dissimilarities or philosophical differences.

138. The Chairman asked whether other countries could report on collaborative efforts with neighbouring States regarding the issue of transboundary name differences. The representatives of Norway, France, Israel, Morocco, Kenya, and Spain spoke about their experiences in that field. Particular attention was drawn to a future fixed link between Spain and Morocco. Morocco stated that detailed documents on the scale 1:10,000 had been developed for the sea floor of the Strait of Gibraltar, where each feature had to be named. The Chairman stressed the desirability of having, wherever possible, one approved name for an international feature, to be used by all countries concerned. He said that the Conference provided a proper forum for co-operation in that area and called on individual countries to prepare reports, for submission to the Sixth Conference and to the Group of Experts at its next session on projects on international feature naming in which neighbouring States participated.

139. With regard to maritime and undersea features, the Chairman said that the recommendations contained in resolution 12 of the Fourth Conference 9/ had been implemented. The Group of Experts' Liaison Officer to the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) gave a comprehensive report on recent activities (see E/CONF.79/L.18). He had participated in a meeting at IHO headquarters in Monaco in 1985, where names for the sixth edition of the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO) had been approved and had recommended that the International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB) combine two publications dealing with geographical names in a single volume; the publications were entitled Standardization of Undersea Feature Names and List of Geographical Names of Undersea Features Shown on the GEBCO 5th Edition and on the Small Scale IHO International Chart Series. He said that a revised issue of IHO special publication No. 23, Limits of Oceans and Seas was nearing completion. The publication, which contained names and maps of major and subsidiary water bodies, had been compiled as an aid to navigation. The entire current names file of the Advisory Committee of the Undersea Features of the United States Board on Geographic Names had been established in an automated data base. Furthermore, a third edition of the Board's Undersea Features Gazetteer was planned. He said that if IHB would include the standardization of maritime feature names in its programme, a satisfactory conclusion to the problem of maritime features could be reached.

140. A brief report prepared by IHO (E/CONF.79/L.77) contained an important decision recommending that member States adhere to the guidelines contained in Standardization of Undersea Feature Names in new official naming of undersea features.

141. In its report (E/CONF.79/L.64), Canada noted that the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names (CPCGN) had approved the limits of the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the Labrador Sea in 1984; the Advisory Committee on Names for Undersea and Maritime Features (ACNUMF) maintained a relationship with both the

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9/ Fourth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, Geneva, 24 August-14 September 1982, vol. I, Report of the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.83.I.7), chap. III.

Advisory Committee on Undersea Features of the United States Board on Geographic Names and the Greenland Language Commission. The second edition of the Gazetteer of Undersea Feature Names would be published later in 1987; it was anticipated that in subsequent editions, information on the origin and usage of each name and descriptive notes on the size and location of each feature would be included. ACNUMF was intending to implement the recommendations of the United Nations Conferences to the greatest extent possible.

142. The representative of Greece commented on the report of Turkey (E/CONF.79/INF/58). He said that the features included in the list were imcompatible with the Group of Experts' guidelines - some of the features were in the area outside Turkish sovereignty. The representative of Turkey said that the names on the list were the standardized names for undersea and maritime features used in Turkey. The Chairman pointed out that the delimitation of territorial boundaries was a political issue and therefore outside the scope of the Conference. He then asked what steps in regard to naming maritime and undersea features should be taken during the period between the Fifth and Sixth Conferences.

143. The representative of the United States suggested that one-on-one collaboration and reference to IHO publications would be useful and that differences of opinion should be resolved; as for IHO, the United States and Norway agreed that, if another body was created or the Working Group on Undersea and Maritime Features was re-established, then the current state of affairs and past agreements should be reviewed. The United Kingdom said that it would be best for the Group of Experts to discuss whether or not the Working Group should be re-established.

144. With regard to extraterrestrial features, the representative of the United States said that the naming of those features was done by the International Astronomical Union (IAU) and that a member of the Group of Experts had been appointed as a liaison officer with that body; furthermore, it appeared that the question required minimal attention. The Committee felt, however, that it would be important to obtain exact information on what was being done in that field. The representative of the United States suggested that interested countries could write to IAU directly or request the Group of Experts' liaison officer to transmit comments. The Chairman said that for the Sixth Conference, the appropriate agencies should be contacted in order to urge them to attend the conferences or IAU should be urged to submit written reports on its activities in standardization.

Toponymic education and practice and international co-operation
(item 12)

145. The discussion of this topic was based on resolution 18 of the Second Conference, 10/ resolution 15 of the Third Conference, 11/ resolutions 5 and 6 of the Fourth Conference. 9/

10/ Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, London, 10-31 May 1972, vol. I, Report of the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.74.I.2), chap. III.

11/ Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, Athens, 17 August-7 September 1977, vol. I, Report of the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.79.I.4), chap. III.

146. In resolution 18 of the Second Conference, it was suggested that a pilot training course on the collection and treatment of names be given; in resolution 6 of the Fourth Conference, the success of the first pilot course in toponymy, held at Cisarua, Indonesia, in 1982 was acknowledged. A follow-up training course had been held at Rabat, Morocco, in 1985. Resolution 15 of the Third Conference stressed that technical assistance should be given by countries with experience to those countries requesting such assistance. The representative of Canada gave as an example the Douala (Cameroon) project, sponsored by the Canadian International Development Agency, dealing with the standardization of odonyms of a metropolitan area. Resolution 5 of the Fourth Conference stipulated that each country attempt to provide training at the academic level. At the twelfth session of the Group of Experts, two types of courses were proposed: an elementary course and a more advanced one (possibly including data processing); it was recommended that a syllabus should be provided for each course.

147. The representative of the United Kingdom suggested that the manual on national standardization (see E/CONF.79/CRP.3) and Technical Terminology Employed in the Standardization of Geographical Names (Glossary No. 330/Rev.2) be considered as instructional tools.

148. The Chairman reported that he had contacted a number of countries to assess the situation in the teaching of toponymy and that a number of replies had been received. He said it was important to identify courses with a practical orientation. It was planned to distribute the information at the next session of the Group of Experts. He suggested that interested countries submit information on their training needs either to the United Nations Secretariat or to him directly.

149. The Chairman requested the Working Group on Courses in Toponymy to identify basic documents for future courses. He proposed a documents kit containing a modular syllabus (to which other elements could be added as needed), a basic bibliography on different regions where the prospective course could be held (possibly with an index), Glossary No. 330/Rev.2, the above-mentioned manual on national standardization, a list of definitions of generics, basic information on data bases - that is, a description of existing systems - and a sample of gazetteer formats reflecting the criteria recommended by the United Nations. The forthcoming session of the Group of Experts was mentioned as a target date for completing the task.

150. The representative of Morocco thanked the United Nations for the assistance given for the training course held at Rabat and expressed the view that it was necessary to create toponymic commissions in the countries concerned. The representative of Norway said that the existing system of training courses should be extended throughout the country, but that a lack of funds and shortage of manpower precluded the achievement of that goal (see E/CONF.79/L.55). The representative of the United States described the objectives of the training programme in office procedures of the Board on Geographic Names and stated that the course continued to be open to interested countries (see E/CONF.79/L.24). The representative of Israel presented the syllabus of an advanced course in toponymic education offered at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (see E/CONF.79/L.66), in conformity with the recommendation made by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names at its twelfth session. The representative of Finland said that a course in toponymy was mandatory for teachers of Finnish (see E/CONF.79/L.67). The representative of Canada stated that a course in applied toponymy had been

introduced in the Geography Department at Laval University in Quèbec (see E/CONF.79/L.52). The representative of Malaysia said that at the last meeting of the Asia South-East and Pacific South-West Division, a proposal to hold a training course in a member country had been made, and he inquired about possible United Nations support. The representative of Cuba asked whether a member country of the Latin America Division could act as host for a course sponsored by the United Nations. The Chairman said that resolution 6 of the Fourth Conference 9/ specifically recommended the establishment of such courses.

151. A brief report was given by the United States on its work with the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), including the progress made by the Working Group on Gazetteers and Geographical Names. The Working Group had produced national gazetteers based on a common PAIGH map series on the scale 1:250,000; PAIGH-funded training courses would be held in Panama in 1987 (see E/CONF.79/INF/47 and 54).

152. The representative of Kenya reiterated intention of his Government, expressed at the twelfth session of the Group of Experts, to hold a training course. The representative of Canada informed the Committee of the proposal for a training course for French-speaking trainees to be conducted by the Commission de toponymie du Québec in 1988 (see E/CONF.79/L.53).

153. The Committee requested the United Nations Secretariat to disseminate information on standardization efforts made in various countries and on developments in that field. It was suggested that that could be done by means of a brief bulletin, issued twice a year.

154. In order to cope better with the financial difficulties associated with the exchange of personnel, the Chairman asked if countries could inform the Secretariat about the possibility of their providing technical personnel or other kinds of support to the United Nations.

Writing systems and guides to pronunciation (item 11)

Romanization (item 11 (a))

155. The Chairman recalled resolution 9 of the first Conference, 12/ which called for the achievement of a single romanization system for each non-Roman alphabet or script, and resolution 16 of the Fourth Conference, 9/ which noted that suitable consultations within the Group of Experts were necessary before arriving at a single system agreeable to all countries. He reminded the Conference of resolution 15 of the Fourth Conference, 9/ which recommended that any country proposing a romanization system for its own non-Roman alphabet or script should have already implemented the system adequately, particularly in its cartographic publications; the resolution was based on the principle that international standardization should be based on national standardization.

12/ United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, Geneva, 4-22 September 1967, vol. I, Report of the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.68.I.9), chap. III.

156. The Chairman was of the opinion that those three resolutions formed the background to the current discussion. Particular note was taken of resolution 16 of the Fourth Conference; the question should not be whether to choose a particular donor system or receiver system, but rather that efforts should be made to reconcile the two approaches. Each side had its own interests, which had to be taken into account.*

157. The Vice-Chairman said that there were several documents of a general nature to be considered before the discussion could move on to individual cases. The report of the United States of America (E/CONF.79/L.23) was introduced by the representative of that country. The report considered the role to be played by donors and receivers and stressed the need for countries concerned to resolve differences through mutual co-operation and agreement at an early stage, otherwise receiver countries, particularly those producing many maps and charts, would be faced with serious practical difficulties. The degree of establishment and range of application of existing effective systems had to be considered - those systems had often provided a large body of reference material and a high degree of continuity. The costs of conversion were real and should not be taken lightly. To disallow an existing system in favour of a new donor system could cause confusion and practical disruption, thereby retarding rather than advancing the goal of standardization. Donor systems might also be susceptible to future change. Certainly, any system proposed should be based on sound technical linguistic principles.

158. The Vice-Chairman felt that the difficulty was the existence of a single source non-Roman alphabet or script on the one hand, but many target Roman alphabets on the other. The entire Roman-script community was involved and its many alphabets differed widely in the phonemic values of the letters and in the use of diacritical marks and special letters. Generally speaking, he felt it had proved easier for a unified system to originate from a single central source, namely, the donor. The various receivers had often long-established systems suited to the needs of their own individual alphabets, so that it was frequently difficult for them to agree on a single system. Further, the formulation of a donor system could be considered as a matter of national standardization, and both the Group of Experts and the United Nations conferences had long considered that national standardization should form the basis for international standardization.

159. The report of the Dutch-and German-speaking Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (E/CONF.79/L.10) was introduced by the Chairman of the Division. It provided a definition of the concept of "scientific principles" as related to romanization. In drawing up a romanization system, consideration should be given to such factors as simplicity of graphemic representation, pronounceability, whether transliteration or transcription was preferred, whether or not a non-Roman script, such as Cyrillic, should be treated uniformly, and the nature of the alphabet used for romanization. The Chairman of the Division recognized that certain countries faced practical difficulties if a change in system were involved, but such difficulties should be secondary considerations; the primary aim was to seek systems based on scientific principles.

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* The Vice-Chairman, in his capacity as _ad hoc_ Convenor of the Working Group on a Single Romanization System for each non-Roman Writing System, took the Chair.

160. The representative of the United Kingdom considered it unwise to use part of a dictionary definition for the particular purpose of defining "scientific" in this highly specialized instance. Rather, practical linguistic principles should be employed to determine systems that would be useful in practice for the largest possible number of users, non-specialists as well as specialists. In a recent case involving economic aid for famine relief, the United Kingdom had had experience of aid workers being unable to use maps because an unusual romanization system that was difficult to interpret had been used. The Chairman of the Division stated that the dictionary definition mentioned was appropriate for general use and that an adequate definition of "scientific principles" had been given in the fifth and sixth paragraphs of the report (E/CONF.79/L.10). The representative of the United States said he agreed with that statement. There was no final agreement on the definition.

161. The representative of the United Kingdom introduced document E/CONF.79/INF/17. Although the Group of Experts and the conferences had accomplished a great deal since 1967, full implementation of the resolutions adopted had by no means been achieved. For example, although great progress had been made in applying the romanization system for Arabic, approved by the United Nations, the Arab world still had much to accomplish before the system was fully implemented. Despite the existence of a resolution on a romanization system for Persian, implementation could not be completed because of a lack of detailed information concerning the location of places whose names had been altered. With regard to China, fuller implementation of Pinyin depended upon the increased availability of such source materials as had been mentioned in the national report of China. Consideration should therefore be given to the full implementation of what had been agreed in the past, before further romanization systems were added, which would only increase the burden involved.

162. The representative of the United States said that attention should be given to the exact meaning of the term "international use" as used, for example, in resolution 15 of the Fourth Conference. 9/ An accurate definition depended on such factors as the type and scale of the product and the nature of the users. The Vice-Chairman felt that the term covered products intended for the international public, such as international atlases, international timetables, the International Map of the World on the Millionth Scale (IMW), and the world map on the scale 1:2,500,000 edited by the countries of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA). The United Kingdom objected to the inclusion of the International Map of the World on the Millionth Scale in the list of international products on the ground that it was moribund. 13/ While agreeing with the representative of the United Kingdom that the provision of geographical names for the world map on the scale 1:2,500,000 edited by CMEA countries and for international atlases was not part of the functions of United Nations conferences or the Group of Experts, the Chairman of the Division nevertheless considered that the term "international use" covered products such as IMW and the world map on the scale 1:2,500,000. There was no final agreement on a definition.

163. The Committee then considered individual scripts and alphabets.

13/ See Eleventh United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, 5-16 January 1987, vol. I, Report of the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.87.I.13), chap. VII, resolution 15.

1. Greek

164. The representative of Greece introduced document E/CONF.79/INF/38 and expressed pleasure at being able to submit, with Cyprus, the ELOT 743 romanization system for approval as the international system for the romanization of Greek geographical names. The system had been developed over a period of many years, and extensive discussions during that period within the Group of Experts had helped to influence its final form. Greece considered the system to be scientifically sound and suited to cartography – it had already been implemented by the donor countries in maps of Greece and in maps and gazetteers of Cyprus. The system had been officially sanctioned by the Governments of Greece and Cyprus, though full implementation would take some time.

165. The representative of Cyprus endorsed the statement made by Greece. The representatives of both Italy and Cuba said they supported the system. In response to a question raised by the representative of the United Kingdom, the representative of Greece explained that the transcription option should be used for cartographic purposes, whereas the option of transliteration was intended for users, such as librarians, who might need the facility of reversibility, which that option afforded. The representative of the United Kingdom affirmed the importance of maintaining the tonic stress on the original Greek-script name, leaving users the choice about whether or not to include it in the romanized form. The representative of Italy agreed. The representative of Greece said that in all official publications the stress mark would be included in the romanized form.

166. In response to a question raised by the representative of Cuba, the representative of Greece reported that ELOT 743 would not be obligatory for classicists, who might prefer to continue using traditional names.

167. The representatives of the United Kingdom and the United States said that the ELOT 743 system was an excellent example of a system adopted through co-operation between donors and receivers over a long period of time. Such co-operation was essential if a spirit of consensus and harmony was to be felt. The representative of the United Kingdom spoke about the changes currently taking place within the Greek language itself, from katharévousa to dimotiki, and noted that Greece had promised the maximum assistance to receivers by providing source materials for ELOT 743.

2. Serbocroatian and Macedonian Cyrillic

168. The representative of Yugoslavia reported that there was no change. Resolution 11 of the Third Conference remained valid. 11/

3. Bulgarian Cyrillic

169. In the absence of a representative of Bulgaria, the Vice-Chairman expressed the opinion that implementation of resolution 10 of the Third Conference 11/ was well under way in Bulgaria.

170. In introducing document E/CONF.79/INF/37, the representative of the USSR said that since 1983 the GOST system had been used for the romanization of Cyrillic script geographical names in the USSR. The GOST system was obligatory in that country for cartographic purposes and had been formulated in accordance with scientific principles. A draft system prepared in 1982 had been widely discussed at the Fourth Conference and subsequent modifications to introduce digraphs had resulted from discussions with other countries. Implementation of the system could be seen in a 1:8,000,000-scale map of the USSR, in railway timetables and on road signs, and it would also be used in the romanized version of the third edition of Atlas Mira, which was in the process of preparation.

171. In response to questions from the representatives of the United States and the United Kingdom, the Vice-Chairman said that the General CMEA Standard existed side by side with the GOST 1983 system, but that only the latter was intended for cartographic purposes. Both the United Kingdom and the United States considered the existence of parallel systems to be a potential cause of confusion, since textual and cartographic references to a given single geographical name could be quite different. There was still a great deal of confusion about the variants of the system and further clarification was essential. The representative of the USSR said that there were no variants of the GOST 1983 system. The representative of the United Kingdom considered the GOST system to be inappropriate for English-speaking users, who together spoke the most widely used language in the world, and any attempt at applying it might even encourage the creation of new English-language exonyms. Any Conference recommendation should be practical, at least in terms of the working languages of the United Nations.

172. The representative of France said that France had used the USSR Academy of Sciences system for many years, but had used the GOST system since its adoption by the USSR. The representative of Italy considered the GOST system to be the best submitted so far, but understood that certain receiver countries would face enormous expense and difficulties in converting from existing systems. Italy therefore suggested that there should be an optional variant transliteration of certain letters to allow for English-language conventions.

173. The representative of Cuba said that the GOST 1983 system should be adopted because it did not favour any one particular receiver language and because it had been implemented within the USSR. The representative of the German Democratic Republic said that the system had also been adopted by the countries members of CMEA; it was a sound system, appropriate for international use. The representative of Czechoslovakia said that the East Central and South-East Europe Division of the Group of Experts had adopted the system. It was noted that Finland and certain institutions in Italy already used the system, and Sweden reported that it would also use it if it were approved by the present Conference. The Vice-Chairman said that the GOST 1983 system was similar to the International Standardization System 1SO-R9 of 1954, which was used in Soviet libraries, and that similar systems using the same diacritical signs were used in libraries of central Europe; the list of country names prepared by the Group of Experts used the GOST 1983 system.

5. Other non-Roman alphabets of the USSR

174. No new developments were reported.

6. Mongolian

175. No new developments were reported.

7. Arabic

176. The Vice-Chairman reminded the Conference of the importance of resolution 11 of the first Conference, 12/ dealing with diacritical marks in Arabic.

177. The representative of Morocco said that, by resolution 8, the Second Conference 10/ had approved the Amendment Beirut System, but that there was still some concern about the romanization of several letters. Discussions among Arab countries were well advanced and a satisfactory outcome was anticipated in the near future. The representative of Saudi Arabia hoped that any change would be very minor, because the current system had already been implemented widely over a period of 15 years. Ninety-five per cent of field-collected names, as well as the resulting maps, used this system. The representative of Italy noted the difficulties of achieving standardization in the romanization of Arabic; different countries had different traditions; moreover, full standardization depended on the presence of vowel points in the original Arabic.

8. Persian and Dari

178. No new developments were reported.

9. Urdu

179. The representative of Pakistan introduced document E/CONF.79/INF/35. He said that the Hunterian system, in use for many decades, remained operative. It was a straightforward system, using only one diacritical mark (a macron on three vowels) and it adequately met the national requirements of Pakistan.

10. Pashto

180. No new developments were reported.

11. Hebrew

181. The representative of Israel said that resolution 13 of the Third Conference 11/ remained valid. Although the system could perhaps be improved in theory, it was already widely used officially, in particular in all official maps, which were all fully vowelled. On a general level, Israel considered that countries that were visited by many tourists and had different language backgrounds should proceed with caution when preparing single romanization systems.

12. Amharic

182. The representative of Ethiopia introduced document E/CONF.79/INF/32. He said that resolution 7 of the Second Conference 10/ remained valid, but that the system should be changed in the future to make it suitable for all receiver languages. Field collection of names was undertaken in Amharic, the national language of Ethiopia, but romanization was necessary to assist foreign map users.

13. Languages of the India Division

183. In the absence of a representative of India, the Vice-Chairman said that resolution 12 of the Third Conference 11/ had not been implemented in that country. He drew attention to the report submitted by India (E/CONF.79/INF/65), in which it was mentioned that the Hunterian system was still in use in large-scale mapping and was still the only romanization system employed. Production of Hindi editions of large-scale maps was still at an experimental stage. The representative of Pakistan said that the romanization information contained in the report showed a few minor differences compared with Pakistan, though both countries used the Hunterian system.

14. Burmese

184. No new developments were reported.

15. Thai

185. The representative of Thailand introduced documents E/CONF/79/INF/39 and E/CONF.79/L.31. Resolution 14 of the first Conference 12/ remained valid, but consideration was being given in Thailand to certain modifications and the opinions of other countries would be welcomed. Thailand explained the background to the General and Precise Systems of the Royal Institute and the need to improve them to arrive at a system based on sounder linguistic principles. The task was not yet finally concluded but, after further consultation, a revised system would be presented to the International Standardization Organization and the Sixth Conference.

186. In response to questions raised by the representatives of Italy and Spain, the representative of Thailand said that tone marks were not used in cartography and that the use of diacritical marks was optional.

187. The representative of the United Kingdom congratulated Thailand on the detailed study it was undertaking and said that Thailand's approach to the question was a classic example of proper co-operation between donor and receivers.

16. Lao

188. No new developments were reported.

17. Khmer

189. No new developments were reported.

18. Chinese

190. The representative of China said that resolution 8 of the Third Conference 11/ remained valid. Pinyin, which was the romanization system in use in China, was being implemented more and more widely.

19. Japanese

191. The representative of Japan introduced document E/CONF.79/INF/8, reporting no change in the situation since the Fourth Conference. Two systems, Kunrei-siki and Modified Hepburn, remained in parallel use, the former on international maps and charts, the latter on certain other maps. The Geographical Survey Institute of Japan had adopted Kunrei-siki for basic maps. There was currently no prospect of unification.

20. Korean

192. The representative of the Republic of Korea introduced document E/CONF.79/INF/68. The system followed by the Ministry of Education, first promulgated in 1959, had been in use until modified by new guidelines adopted in 1984. The system had been modified to avoid confusion in the romanization of Korean, since another system, the McCune-Reischauer system established in 1939, had been used in parallel. The Republic of Korea expressed the desire that the new Ministry of Education system be applied by foreign countries, as well as domestically, to promote the establishment of uniform geographical names in that country. The Vice-Chairman said that it would be useful to have information from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, since the same language was used in both countries.

Conversion into non-Roman writing systems (item 11 (b))

193. In introducing document E/CONF.79/INF/56, the representative of Israel said that geographical names were being converted from many scripts into Hebrew, using a computerized toponymic transliteration/transcription/translation system. That was achieved via Roman script using the index of some 225,000 names contained in The Times Atlas of the World. About 2,000 generic terms had been fed into the computers; they were automatically translated into Hebrew on recognition.

194. The Vice-Chairman recommended, as a highly authoritative work in the field, The Conversion of Scripts by Hans Wellisch, 14/ which dealt with romanization and the conversion from Roman script to other scripts. The USSR had published a series of manuals dealing with conversion into Russian Cyrillic.*

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* The Chairman returned to the Chair.

14/ New York, John Wiley and Sons, Inc., 1978.

Writing of names in unwritten languages (item 11 (c))

195. The Chairman referred to the many Amerindian languages in Canada and said that indigenous or native writing systems had been adopted for almost all of them. Geographical names of written but not standardized languages had to be considered relevant. A recent native languages conferences in Canada had dealt with the question of standardization in those systems.

196. The representative of Morocco said that there were many names of Maghrebian origin in that country. The language was ancient and did not exist in written form. Arabic script was therefore used to record those names, though that inevitably meant that some names of Moroccan origin could not be perfectly represented.

Action taken by the Conference

197. The Conference adopted nine draft resolutions (for the texts, see chap. III below, resolutions 8 and 18-25).

Chapter III

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE

1. Sixth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names

The Conference,

Noting the positive results of the work accomplished on the standardization of geographical names at both the national and international levels by States Members of the United Nations,

Noting also the essential role played by the present Conference in the co-ordination of those efforts,

Recognizing the necessity of continuing this important work,

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Government of Morocco for its offer to act as host for the Sixth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names;

2. Recommends to the Economic and Social Council that the Sixth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names be convened in Morocco in the second half of 1992.

2. Statute of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

The Conference,

Noting that, by resolution 22, the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names 1/ recommended that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names examine the possibility of preparing a single document defining the structure and activities of the Group,

Noting also that, at its twelfth and thirteenth sessions, the Group adopted the statute of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, 2/

Considering that the statute was prepared in accordance with the recommendation made by the Fourth Conference in its resolution 22,

Recommends that the statute of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names should henceforth be the basic document governing the work of the Group.

1/ Fourth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, Geneva, 24 August-14 September 1982, vol. I, Report of the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.83.I.7), chap. III.

2/ See annex V to the present report.

3. Creation of a Celtic Division and an East Mediterranean
   Division (other than Arabic)

The Conference,

Considering that the composition of the linguistic/geographical divisions
should enhance the work of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical
Names,

Noting the preferences expressed by the Group at its eleventh and twelfth
sessions, 3/

Noting also the proposals made by the Group to establish a Celtic Division and
to divide the present Asia South-West Division (other than Arabic) into two
divisions, namely, an Asia South-West Division (other than Arabic) and an East
Mediterranean Division (other than Arabic),

Recommends that the number of linguistic/geographical divisions in the United
Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names be increased by two, as follows:

Celtic Division;

East Mediterranean Division (other than Arabic).

4. Work performed by the United Nations Group of Experts on
   Geographical Names and its future activities

The Conference,

Recognizing the positive results achieved by the United Nations Group of
Experts on Geographical Names,

Considering that during the period between United Nations conferences on the
standardization of geographical names the Group is the only body within the United
Nations system dealing with problems relating to geographical names at the
international level,

Wishing to ensure that the activities of the Group are maximized at all times,
and to consolidate those programmes that most effectively promote national and
international standardization,

1. Recommends that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names
continue to pursue actively its responsibilities as defined in its statute and in
accordance with the resolutions adopted by the present Conference;

2. Recommends also that a working group be established within the Group to
(a) evaluate the activities of the Group and investigate fresh approaches and new
avenues to achieve its goals and objectives in the most efficient manner;
(b) review the resolutions adopted by the United Nations conferences on the
standardization of geographical names and report on their implementation; and
(c) report on its findings to the Group at its fourteenth session.

3/   See ESA/RT/C/GN/9 and 10.

5. Bilateral and multilateral meetings

The Conference,

Noting that between United Nations conferences on the standardization of geographical names countries are involved in intensive activities connected with the standardization of geographical names,

Noting also that the exchange of ideas and materials substantially contributes to the solution of problems regarding two or more countries belonging to the same geographical area,

Recommends the organization of bilateral and multilateral meetings in the spirit of the recommendations and resolutions of the present Conference.

6. Promotion of national and international geographical names standardization programmes

The Conference,

Recognizing the importance of geographical names as significant elements of the cultural heritage of nations, and the economic advantage of standardizing national geographical names,

Recommends that State authorities be encouraged to provide appropriate support to standardization activities and that the standardization of geographical names be recognized as an important part of their programmes of international co-operation and technical assistance.

7. National reports

The Conference,

Recognizing that the national reports submitted by each country to the United Nations conferences on the standardization of geographical names contain much information that is useful for the consideration of the various items of the agenda of the conferences,

Bearing in mind that, in order to make an adequate evaluation of the progress made by all participating countries, it is important that the documents relating to each item of the agenda be made available to the conferences on time and, when necessary, by each participating country,

1.   Recommends that the United Nations Secretariat, when sending invitations to Member States to participate in the conferences, attach a detailed plan (model) for the drafting of national reports, providing specific guidelines for countries to follow in reporting on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names since the preceding conference;

2.   Also recommends that the necessary steps be taken to ensure that all the national reports to be discussed at a conference are distributed to participating countries at least one month before the conference is due to begin.

8. __Reports of international organizations concerned with the__
   __standardization of geographical names__

The Conference,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1314 (XLIV) of 31 May 1968,
by which the Council requested the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical
Names, inter alia, to collect information issued by international organizations
dealing with the standardization of geographical names,

Considering that, in order to avoid duplicating the work done by various
international organizations on the standardization of geographical names, the Group
deems it advisable that those organizations themselves develop standardization
activities, in co-ordination with the Group,

Recommends that all officers responsible for maintaining liaison with those
international organizations prepare written reports on the activities of the
organizations for submission to each United Nations conference on the
standardization of geographical names and each meeting of the Group and that, in
the absence of such liaison officers, the Secretariat request the organizations
themselves to provide such reports.

9. __United Nations publications__

The Conference,

Reaffirming the need for the international exchange of information on
achievements in the field of national and international standardization of
geographical names,

1. Notes with satisfaction the publication by the United Nations of
volume XVIII of World Cartography, 4/ devoted to the subject of geographical names,
which has been distributed throughout the world and greatly acclaimed by Member
States;

2. Recommends that the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development
of the United Nations Secretariat be encouraged to increase its involvement in the
preparation and co-ordination of United Nations publications that facilitate the
exchange of information and transfer of knowledge in the field of geographical
names.

10. __Co-operation with the Pan American Institute of__
    __Geography and History__

The Conference,

Recognizing that other international organizations have an interest in
programmes concerning the standardization of geographical names,

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4/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.I.23.

Aware that the programmes of the United Nations Group of Experts on
Geographical Names concerning undersea features and extra-terrestrial features have
been effectively transferred to the International Hydrographic Organization and the
International Astronomical Union, respectively, and that the interests of the Group
are represented by a liaison officer with both organizations,

Aware also that the Pan American Institute of Geography and History has
formally expressed support for the programme of the Working Group on Gazetteers and
Geographical Names of its Cartography Commission,

Recommends that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names:

(a) Recognize the potential of the Pan American Institute of Geography and
History for accomplishing worthwhile objectives in its areas of operation;

(b) Establish liaison with the Institute to ensure optimal collaboration
between the two bodies.

11. Differentiation of toponyms from other map text

The Conference,

Noting the difficulties and misunderstandings that may arise in distinguishing
toponyms from non-toponymic text on maps,

Recognizing that users whose native language is different from that used on a
map may have particular difficulties in this area,

Recognizing also that the automated scanning of maps by optical electronic
means may facilitate the automated recording of toponyms,

1. Recommends that a clear typographical distinction be made on national
topographical maps between toponyms and text that serves other purposes;

2. Also recommends that the methods of differentiation be explained in
national toponymic guidelines for map and other editors.

12. Collection of basic information on the national standardization of geographical names

The Conference,

Recognizing that basic information on the structure of authorities responsible
for standardizing geographical names is both necessary and useful,

Also recognizing that the United Nations Secretariat ensures liaison and plays
a key role in the area of information and documentation,

Recommends that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names
prepare and the United Nations Secretariat distribute a questionnaire to be
completed by national names authorities and make the results available to Member
States; the questionnaire would deal with:

(a) The structure and functions of national names authorities;

(b) Toponymic data banks;

(c) The content and presentation of gazetteers.

13. Precedence of national official forms of geographical names

The Conference,

Recalling resolution 28 of the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names 5/ and resolution 20 of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, 1/

Noting that progress has been made in reducing the use of exonyms in cartography and related fields,

Observing that the reduction in the use of exonyms is being carried out at different rates in different countries,

Considering that many public and private organizations other than names authorities play a significant and effective role in the dissemination of foreign place names,

1. Recommends a further reduction in the use of exonyms;

2. Recommends, more specifically, that countries intensify their efforts to persuade private and public organizations, such as educational institutions, transport companies and the media, to reduce the use of exonyms in their publications or, at least, to increase the use of geographical names in their local standardized form (that is, endonyms);

3. Also recommends that, where exonyms are used in publications, maps and other documents, precedence be given to national official names.

14. Publication of toponymic guidelines

The Conference,

Recalling resolution 4 on the publication by countries of toponymic guidelines for map and other editors, adopted by the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, 1/

Noting that, while some countries have already complied with that resolution, many have not yet done so,

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5/ Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, London, 10-31 May 1972, vol. I, Report of the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.74.I.2), chap. III.

Considering the key role played by such publications in attaining the objectives of national standardization as the basis for international standardization,

Recommends that countries be strongly encouraged to publish and keep up to date toponymic guidelines for map and other editors dealing, inter alia, with the items listed in resolution 4 of the Fourth Conference, and that the United Nations Secretariat provide appropriate assistance for the publication and dissemination of such guidelines.

15. Establishment of national geographical names authorities

The Conference,

Recalling resolution 4, recommendation A, of the first United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, 6/

Noting that a number of countries do not yet have national geographical names authorities,

Urges those countries that do not yet have national geographical names authorities to proceed without delay to establish them, with the status, composition, function and procedures specified in resolution 4, recommendation A, of the first United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, using, where appropriate, the information collected in pursuance of resolution 12 of the present Conference and seeking, whenever necessary, technical assistance from countries of the region and from the United Nations.

16. Publication of geographical names in their national official form

The Conference,

Considering that a great amount of knowledge and experience has been accumulated in the field of the standardization of geographical names,

Noting that the resulting material must be collated and disseminated to all countries,

Aware that several countries may already have published comprehensive national gazetteers,

1.   Recommends that each country prepare maps, as well as lists of standardized names, in accordance with resolution 35 of the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names; 5/

6/   United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, Geneva, 4-22 September 1967, vol. I, Report of the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.68.I.9), chap. III.

2. **Also recommends** that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names co-ordinate national efforts along the lines recommended in resolution 35 of the Second Conference, and report on progress made at future conferences.

17. Direct exchange of toponymic information between various computer systems

The Conference,

Noting the progress made by several countries in the field of computer-assisted processing of geographical names,

Also noting the considerable effort invested in developing such methods, and assuming that an increasing number of countries will avail themselves of those methods,

Recommends that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, in consultation with countries that have already developed such methods, investigate the possibility of preparing guidelines for direct communication with, and exchange of toponymic information between, various computer systems.

18. Romanization of the Russian alphabet for geographical names

The Conference,

Noting that the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics has officially adopted a system for romanizing geographical names of that country written in the Russian Cyrillic alphabet,

Noting also that this system has been applied on maps produced in the Soviet Union for international use,

Recommends that the GOST 1983 system of the Main Administration of Geodesy and Cartography, set out in the annex to the present resolution, be adopted as the international system for the romanization of geographical names in the Russian Cyrillic alphabet.

TRANSLITERATION TABLE

for transferring Russian Cyrillic characters (R.C.)
into Roman letters (R.)

R.C.	R.	Examples		R.C.	R.	Examples	
а	a	Анапа	Anapa	с	s	Сасово	Sasovo
б	b	Бабушкин	Babuškin	т	t	Татта	Tatta
в	v	Вавилово	Vavilovo	у	u	Уржум	Uržum
г	g	Гагарин	Gagarin	ф	f	Фофаново	Fofanovo
д	d	Дудинка	Dudinka	х	h	Хохлома	Hohloma
е	e	Елисеевка	Eliseevka	ц	c	Цветково	Cvetkovo
ё	ë	Ёлкино	Ëlkino	ч	č	Чечельник	Čečel′nik
		Псёл	Psël	ш	š	Шишкино	Šiškino
ж	ž	Жужа	Žuža	щ	šč	Щукино	Ščukino
з	z	Звёздный	Zvëzdnyj	ъ	"	Подъячево	Pod″jačevo
и	i	Идрица	Idrica	ы	y	Ыныкчанский	Ynykčanskij
й	j	Зарайск	Zarajsk	ь	′	Параньга	Paran′ga
к	k	Коканд	Kokand			Казань	Kazan′
л	l	Лалвар	Lalvar			Щучье	Ščuč′e
м	m	Маймак	Majmak	э	è	Элиста	Èlista
н	n	Нежин	Nežin	ю	ju	Юрино	Jurino
о	o	Ободовка	Obodovka			Юхнов	Juhnov
п	p	Пап	Pap			Юрюзань	Jurjuzan′
р	r	Ребриха	Rebriha	я	ja	Ямал	Jamal
						Язъяван	Jaz″javan
						Яя	Jaja
						Вязьма	Vjaz′ma

19. Romanization of the Greek alphabet for geographical names

The Conference,

Noting that the conversion of the Greek alphabet into Roman letters has been extensively discussed at earlier United Nations conferences on the standardization of geographical names and sessions of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names,

Noting also the positive opinion, expressed at the Fourth Conference, on Standard No. 743 (ELOT 743) of the Greek Standardization Organization, prepared by Greece and Cyprus,

Recognizing that this system is linguistically sound and suitable for the transcription and transliteration of Greek names,

Recognizing also that this system has been officially sanctioned by the Governments of Greece and Cyprus for cartographic and administrative purposes, and that it has been used for maps of Greece and maps and gazetteers of Cyprus,

Recognizing further that a suitable transitional period will be required before the system can be fully implemented and that donor countries should provide practical assistance to receiver countries for that purpose,

Recommends that the ELOT 743 conversion system set out in the annex to the present resolution be adopted as the international system for the romanization of geographical names in the Greek alphabet.

ELOT 743

CONVERSION TABLE

Greek character and combination of caracters	Conversion into the latin alphabet		Remarks	Pronunciation according to the International Phonetic Alphabet [7]
	Transcription	Transliteration		
A,α	a	a		α
(ΑΙ,αι) [6]	ai	ai		ε
(ΑΪ,άι)	áï	áï		αi
(ΑΪ, αϊ)	aï	aï		αi
ΑΥ, αυ [9]	(av,	av	(1)	αv
	af	af	(2)	αf
Β,β	v	v		v
Γ,γ	g	g		γ
ΓΓ,γγ	ng	ng		ŋg
(ΓΚ,γκ)	gk	gk		(g / ŋg [4] [5]
ΓΞ,γξ	nx	nx		ŋx
ΓΧ,γχ	nch	nch		ŋx
Δ,δ	d	d		ð
Ε,ε	e	e		ε
(ΕΙ,ει)	ei	ei		i
(ΕΪ,έι)	éï	éï		εi
(ΕΪ,εϊ)	eï	eï		εi
ΕΥ,ευ [9]	(ev	ev	(1)	εv
	ef	ef	(2)	εf
Ζ,ζ	z	z		z
Η,η	i	i		i
ΗΥ,ηυ [9]	(iv	iv	(1)	iv
	if	if	(2)	if
Θ,θ	th	th		θ
Ι,ι	i	i		i
Κ,κ	k	k		k
Λ,λ	l	l		l
Μ,μ	m	m		m
ΜΠ,μπ	(b	b	(3) (5)	b
	mp	mp	(4)	mb
Ν,ν	n	n		n
(ΝΤ,ντ)	nt	nt		d [3], nd [4] [5]
Ξ,ξ	x	x		x
Ο,ο	o	o		o
(ΟΙ,οι)	oi	oi		i
(ΟΪ,όι)	óï	óï		oï
(ΟΪ,οϊ)	oï	oï		oï
ΟΥ,ου [9]	ou	ou		u
Π,π	p	p		p
Ρ,ρ	r	r		r
Σ,σ,ς	s	s		s,z [8]
Τ,τ	t	t		t
Υ,υ	y	y		i
(ΥΙ,υι)	yi	yi		i
Φ,φ	f	f		f
Χ,χ	ch	ch		x
Ψ,ψ	ps	ps		ps
Ω,ω	o	o		o

REMARKS

(1) Before the consonants θ, γ, δ, ζ, λ, μ, ν, ρ and all vowels.

(2) Before the consonants θ, κ, ξ, π, σ, τ, φ, χ, ψ and at the end of the word.

(3) At the beginning of the word.

(4) In the middle of the word.

(5) At the end of the word.

(6) The combinations in parentheses are included in the table for the sake of clarity because they are converted according to the conversion rules of each character they consist of.

(7) For information only. It is not part of the standard.

(8) Before the consonants β, γ, δ, ζ, λ, μ, ν, ρ.

(9) The are converted according to the conversion rules of each character when the vowel before υ has an accent or when υ has the diaeresis sign.

(10) When the character combinations ευ, αυ, ηυ, are stressed in Greek and the accent is transcribed, then in the latin script the accent is set on the vowel (ie, év, óf, áv, áf, ív, íf).

20. Romanization of the Korean alphabet for geographical names

The Conference,

Recognizing the desirability of a single romanization system for each non-roman-alphabet language,

Recognizing also that the subject of romanization, as referred to in resolution 15 of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, 1/ is of paramount concern to the conferences,

Noting the adoption of new guidelines for the romanization of Korean by the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Korea, following Ministry Directive number 84-1 of 13 January 1984,

Noting also that the guidelines have been applied since that date in the maps and gazetteers published by the Korean authorities,

Recommends that the guidelines, 7/ be referred to the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names for consideration as the single international system for the romanization of Korean geographical names.

21. Education and training

The Conference,

Taking account of the success and usefulness of the courses in toponymy held at Cisarua, Indonesia, in June 1982 and Rabat, Morocco, in December 1985,

Taking account also of the needs and resources, as discussed during the present Conference,

1.   Recommends that courses and seminars in toponymy be held in other geographical divisions, with appropriate financial support from the United Nations, particularly in the linguistic/geographical divisions of Africa East, Latin America and the United States of America-Canada, for English-, Spanish- and French-speaking participants, respectively;

2.   Also recommends that a syllabus for toponymic training courses, adaptable to the needs of the countries concerned, be prepared by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, to be disseminated with appropriate documents relating to Conference resolutions, national toponymic guidelines, definitions of terms, indexes, data banks, the structure of names authorities and methods of preparing toponymic inventories.

7/   E/CONF.79/INF/68.

22. Aboriginal/native geographical names

The Conference,

Aware that groups of aboriginal/native people exist in many countries throughout the world,

Also aware that these groups have their own languages, cultures and traditions,

Recognizing that the geographical names of these groups are a significant part of the toponymic traditions of every area or country in which they live,

Recognizing also that aboriginal/native people have an inherent interest in having their geographical nomenclature recognized as important,

1.   Recommends that all countries having groups of aboriginal/native people make a special effort to collect their geographical names along with other appropriate information;

2.   Recommends also that, whenever possible and appropriate, a written form of those names be adopted for official use on maps and other publications;

3.   Recommends further that regional and international meetings be held to discuss the methodology for collecting and recording aboriginal/native geographical names.

23. National standardization manual

The Conference,

Noting that the need for a manual of simplified guidelines to assist Member States with the national standardization of geographical names has repeatedly been expressed,

Noting also that a manual entitled "Organization and function of a national geographical names standardization programme" has been compiled under the direction of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names,

Recommends that the United Nations publish the manual - perhaps as a volume of World Cartography - as soon as possible, and distribute it widely.

24. Semi-annual information bulletin

The Conference,

Noting the need for a world information network relating to geographical names,

1.   Recommends that countries provide the United Nations Secretariat with information on their activities related to geographical names;

2.   Recommends also that a semi-annual information bulletin be prepared and disseminated by the United Nations Secretariat to geographical names authorities

and cartographic agencies, giving information on (a) activities, such as training courses, new publications and regional meetings, and (b) significant decisions on geographical names.

25. Features beyond a single sovereignty

The Conference,

Recalling resolution 25 of the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, 5/

Considering that it would be useful to know and compare the practical experience acquired by neighbouring countries in the standardization of names of geographical features extending across their common borders,

1.   Recommends that Member States systematically inform future United Nations conferences on the standardization of geographical names of their achievements in this field;

2.   Recommends to that end that those national geographical names authorities that have not yet done so establish with neighbouring authorities joint or interrelated programmes for the collection and treatment of names of features extending across their common borders.

26. Vote of thanks

The Conference,

1.   Extends its heartfelt thanks to the Government of Canada for the excellent arrangements and services provided for the Conference and for the generous hospitality extended to the participants;

2.   Expresses its gratitude to the Commission de toponymie du Québec and to the Ministère des relations internationales et des affaires culturelles du Québec for their hospitality;

3.   Expresses its thanks to the International Congress of Onomastic Sciences for inviting the Conference to take part in a joint session;

4.   Expresses its gratitude to the President of the Conference for the excellent way in which he conducted the meetings and looked after the interests of the participants;

5.   Expresses its appreciation to the Officers of the Conference and to the officers and staff of both the Government of Canada and the United Nations for their hard work.

Annex I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

A. **States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies**

ARGENTINA

Representative

Mr. José García GHIRELLI, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

AUSTRALIA

Representative

Mr. Paul H. TREZISE, Senior Surveyor, Division of National Mapping

Adviser

Mr. John Francis ATCHISON, Chairman, Committee for Geographical Names

AUSTRIA

Representative

Mr. Josef BREU, Oesterreichisches Ost- und Suedosteuropa Institut, Vienna

BRAZIL

Representative

Mr. Murillo LOBO, Chief, Division of Planning and Technical Support, Directorate of Geosciences, Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics

Alternate

Ms. Maryani Bravo LEITE, Ministry of Foreign Relations

BULGARIA

Representative

M. Verner RAYNOV, Direction générale de géodesie, cartographie et cadastre, Sofia

CAMEROON

Chef de délégation

M. Paul MOBY ETIA, Directeur adjoint de l'Institut des sciences humaines

Suppléant

M. Lazare MPOUEL BALA, Premier Secrétaire, Ambassade du Cameroun à Ottawa

CANADA

Representative

Mr. Jean-Paul DROLET, Chairman, Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names

M. Henri DORION, President, Commission de toponymie du Québec

Alternates

Mr. Alan RAYBURN, Executive Secretary, Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names

Ms. Helen KERFOOT, Secretariat, Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names

Mrs. Thérèse JOLICOEUR, Head, Nomenclature Section, Canadian Hydrographic Service

Mr. Laurent FILLION, Translator, Department of Secretary of State

Mr. Randolph FREEMAN, Territorial Toponymist, Northwest Territories Department of Culture and Communication

Mr. Gerald HOLM, Surveys and Mapping Branch, Manitoba Department of Natural Resources

Ms. Aphrodite KARAMITSANIS, Historic Sites Service, Alberta Department of Culture

Mr. Jean POIRIER, Commission de toponymie du Québec

Mr. Michael SMART, Secretary, Ontario Geographic Names Board

CHILE

Jefe de delegación

Sr. Gabriel Uranga MONTERO, Jefe, Departamento Cartográfico, Instituto Geográfico Militar

Representative

Mr. LI Ximu, Vice-Chairman, China Geographical Names Committee, Adviser, National Bureau of Surveying and Mapping

Alternates

Mr. DU Xiangming, Deputy Director, Division of Toponymy, Research Institute of Surveying and Mapping, National Bureau of Surveying and Mapping

Mr. CHEN Genliang, Deputy Director, National Archives of Geographical Names, China Geographical Names Committee

Advisers

Mr. BAI Bo, Deputy Director, Division for Foreign Affairs, National Bureau of Surveying and Mapping

Mr. ZHAO Weihong, Department of Laws and Treaties, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

CUBA

Jefe de delegación

Sr. Idelis Velázquez GARCIA, Secretario Ejecutivo de la Comisión Nacional de Nombres Geográficos, Vice Presidente del Grupo de Expertos de las Naciones Unidas en Nombres Geográficos y Presidente de la División de América Latina del Grupo de Expertos.

CYPRUS

Representative

Mr. Andreas KOTSONIS, Director, Department of Lands and Surveys, Ministry of Interior

Alternates

Mr. Andreas G. SKARPARIS, Political Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Menelaos CHRISTODOULOU, Linguist, Cyprus Research Centre, Ministry of Education

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Representative

Mr. Dusan FICOR, Slovak Office of Geodesy and Cartography, Bratislava

ECUADOR

<u>Jefe de delegación</u>

Sr. Luis MORENO, Consular General, Consulado General del Ecuador, Montreal, Canada

ETHIOPIA

<u>Representative</u>

Mr. Asfaw FANTA, General Manager, Ethiopian Mapping Agency, Addis Ababa

<u>Alternate</u>

Mr. Kassaye YOSEF, Head, Thematic Mapping, Ethiopian Mapping Agency, Addis Ababa

FINLAND

<u>Representative</u>

Ms. Eeva Maria NARHI, Assistant Director, Finnish Research Centre for Domestic Languages

FRANCE

<u>Chef de la délégation</u>

M. Jean RAMONDOU, Ingénieur en chef géographe, Institut géographique national

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

<u>Representative</u>

Mr. Erfried HAACK, Scientific Adviser, Ministerium des Innern, Verwaltung, Vermessungs-und Kartenwesen

GERMANY, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF

<u>Representative</u>

Mr. Karl Erich ROMBACH, Acting Consul General, Consulate General, Montreal, Canada

<u>Alternate</u>

Mr. Rolf Böhme, Scientific Director, Institut für Angewandte Geodäsie, Frankfurt

GREECE

Representative

Mr. Evangelos KOFOS, Special Counsellor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Alternates

Lt. Col. Spyridon KALANTZIS, Surveying Engineer, Hellenic Military Geographical Service

Mr. Achileas-Spyros GAZIS, Surveying Engineer-Cartographer, Hellenic Navy Hydrographic Service

GUATEMALA

Jefe de delegación

Ms. Maria Mercedes ANDRADE SIGUI, Consul-General, Consulate General of Guatemala, Montreal, Canada

HOLY SEE

Representative

Rev. Pierre GOUIN, S.J., Seismological Observatory, Montreal, Canada

HONDURAS

Jefe de delegación

Ms. Ileana Ulloa DE THUIN, Consul-General, Embassy of Honduras, Montreal, Canada

INDONESIA

Representative

Mr. Jacub RAIS, Chairman, National Co-ordination Agency for Surveys and Mapping, Jakarta

IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF)

Representative

Mr. Rassol SARBAZI, Head, Army Geographical Department

Alternates

Mr. Kourosh Farhadi SANG SEFIDI, Legal Expert, Department for Border Affairs and Acquisition, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Mohammad Hassan GANJI, retired professor

Mr. Ebrahim ANVARI-TEHRANI, Director, Department for Border Affairs and Acquisition, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

IRAQ

Representative

Mr. Hisham AL-SHAWI, Ambassador of Iraq to Canada, Embassy of Iraq, Ottawa

ISRAEL

Representative

Mr. Naftali KADMON, Professor of Cartography, Geography Department, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Alternate

Mrs. Tova LEVY, Consul, Consulate-General of Israel, Montreal, Canada

ITALY

Representative

Mr. Alessandro TONIOLO, Geocartographic Editor-in-Chief, Touring Club Italiano, Milan

JAPAN

Representative

Mr. Koichi TSUKAHARA, Map Information Office, Map Management Department, Geographical Survey Institute, Ministry of Construction

Alternate

Mr. Yoshiharu KAMIJO, Consul, Consulate-General of Japan, Montreal, Canada

JORDAN

Representative

Mr. Hani KHALIFEH, Ambassador of Jordan to Canada, Embassy of Jordan, Ottawa

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Alternate

Mr. Rajab SUKAYRI, First Secretary, Embassy of Jordan, Ottawa

Observer

Mr. C. Alexander BROWN, Embassy of Jordan, Ottawa

KENYA

Representative

Mr. Alexandriano Kiamati NJUKI, Assistant Director of Survey, Ministry of Lands and Settlement

MALAYSIA

Representative

Mr. Abdul Majid MOHAMED, Director-General of Survey and Mapping, Kuala Lumpur

MOROCCO

Chef de délégation

M. Abdelhadi TAZI, Président de la Commission nationale des noms géographiques, Président de la Division arabe du Groupe d'experts des Nations Unies sur les noms géographiques

Suppléants

M. Abdelmjid HAKAM, Ingénieur en chef, Chef de la Division de la cartographie

M. Lahoussine AQUEDE, Ingénieur, Chef du service de la topographie

NETHERLANDS

Representative

Mr. Dirk P. BLOK, University Professor

NORWAY

Representative

Mr. Botolv HELLELAND, Research Associate, Institute for Name Research, University of Oslo

PAKISTAN

Representative

Mr. Mohammad ASHRAF, Deputy Surveyor General

PERU

Jefe de delegación

Sr. José Samanez CASAS, Asesor cartográfico de la Dirección de Limites y Fronteras, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores

Suplente

Sr. Diomedes LEON, Sub Director Technico, Instituto Geográfico Nacional

POLAND

Representative

Mr. Janusz KARSKI, Consul-General, Consulate of the Polish People's Republic, Montreal, Canada

Alternate

Mr. Andrzej BORS, Consul, Consulate of the Polish People's Republic, Montreal, Canada

PORTUGAL

Representative

Mrs. María de Graça CALDEIRA, Gabinete de Toponímia e Informaçao Cartográfica, Instituto Geográfico e Cadastral, Ministerio das Finanças, Lisbon

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Representative

Mr. Won Hwa PARK, Consul, Consulate General of the Republic of Korea, Montreal, Canada

ROMANIA

Representative

Mr. Marian ROTARU, Chief, Romanian Military Topographic Department

Alternate

Mr. Catalin BEBU, Assistant Trade Commissioner, Romanian Consulate, Montreal, Canada

SAN MARINO

Representative

Mr. Bernard LETTE, Il Dipartimento Affari Esteri della Repubblica di San Marino, Ufficio Generale Affari Politico-Diplomatici

Alternate

Ms. Sheila FRASER, Il Dipartimento Affari Esteri della Repubblica di San Marino, Ufficio Generale Affari Politico-Diplomatici

SAUDI ARABIA

Representative

Mr. Soleman ALROBAISHY, Deputy Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources for Aerial Surveys

SOUTH AFRICA

Representative

Mr. P. E. RAPER, Head, Onomastic Research Centre, Human Sciences Research Council, Pretoria

SPAIN

Jefe de delegación

Sr. D. Luis MESON BADA, Representante de España en la Organización de Aviación Civil International, Montreal, Canada

Suplente

Sr. D. José María GONZALEZ ABOIN, Ingeniero Geógrafo, Director de Programas del Instituto Geográfico Nacional, Madrid

SWEDEN

Representative

Mr. Allan ROSTVIK, Director, Institute of Place-Name Research, Uppsala

Ms. Ann-Christin MATTISSON, Chief of Division, Central Office of the National Land Survey, Gävle

Mr. Hans RINGSTAM, Chief of Division, Central Office of the National Land Survey, Gävle

SWITZERLAND

Representative

M. M. Théodore PORTIER, Consul Général, Consulat Général de Suisse, Montreal, Canada

THAILAND

Representative

Col. Prasong CHINGCHAI, Assistant Chief of Geography Division, Royal Thai Survey Department, Ministry of Defence

Alternate

Col. Bencha THONGNUT, Chief, Terrain Analysis Section, Geography Division, Royal Thai Survey Department, Ministry of Defence

TURKEY

Representative

Mr. Sirri ERINC, Director, Institute of Marine Sciences and Geography, Istanbul University

UGANDA

Representative

Mr. K. B. S. MUBBALA, Deputy Commissioner for Surveys and Mapping

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

Representative

Mr. Vjaceslav DMITROCENKOV, Main Administration of Geodesy and Cartography, Council of Ministers

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

Representative

Mr. H. A. G. LEWIS, Chairman of the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names for British Official Use, London

Alternates

Mr. P. J. WOODMAN, Secretary, Permanent Committee on Geographical Names for British Official Use, London

Miss P. M. OPIE SMITH, Research Assistant, Permanent Committee on Geographical Names for British Official Use, London

Miss N. EGGINTON, Map Research Officer, Mapping and Charting Establishment

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Representative

Ms. Sandra H. SHAW, Chairman, Board on Geographic Names, Acting Deputy Director, Office of the Geographer, Bureau of Intelligence and Research, Department of State

Alternate

Mr. Richard R. RANDALL, Executive Secretary, Board on Geographic Names Defense Mapping Agency, Department of Defense

Advisers

Mr. Donald ORTH, Board on Geographic Names, United States Geological Survey, Department of Interior

Mr. Roger PAYNE, Chief, Geographical Names Information Section, United States Geological Survey, Department of Interior

Mr. Gerd QUINTING, Defense Mapping Agency, Department of Defense

YUGOSLAVIA

Representative

Mr. Miroslav PETERCA, Head, Military-Geographic Institute, Belgrade

B. Specialized agencies

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

Mr. John C. PRICE, Chief, Aeronautical Information and Charts Section, Air Navigation Bureau

Mr. D. HUDDLESON, Chief, Cartographic Unit, Aeronautical Information and Charts Section, Air Navigation Bureau

C. Other organizations

INTERNATIONAL CARTOGRAPHIC ASSOCIATION

Mr. L. M. SEBERT

INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL UNION

Mr. Henri DORION, President, Commission de Toponymie du Québec

Mr. R. N. DRUMMOND, Geography Division, McGill University, Montreal, Canada

ORGANISATION ISLAMIQUE POUR L'EDUCATION, LES SCIENCES ET LA CULTURE

M. Abdelhadi TAZI, Président de la Commission nationale des noms géographiques du Maroc et Président de la Division arabe du Groupe d'experts des Nations Unies sur les noms géographiques

D. United Nations Secretariat

Department of Conference Services

Mr. Nigel CASSAR, Chief, Terminology Section

E. Secretariat of the Conference

Representative of the Secretary-General

Mr. Nicky Beredjick, Director, Natural Resources and Energy Division, Department of Technical Co-operation for Development

Executive Secretary

Mr. Max C. de Henseler, Chief, Cartography Unit Department of Technical Co-operation for Development

Deputy Executive Secretary

Mr. Dmitry S. Votrin, Cartography Unit, Department of Technical Co-operation for Development

RULES OF PROCEDURE

Chapter I

REPRESENTATION AND CREDENTIALS

Rule 1

Each State participating in the Conference shall be represented by an accredited representative. If more than one representative is appointed, one of them shall be designated as head of the delegation. Each delegation may also include such alternate representatives, advisers and experts as may be required.

Rule 2

The credentials of representatives, and the names of alternate representatives, advisers and experts shall be submitted to the Executive Secretary, if possible not later than 24 hours after the opening of the Conference. The credentials shall be issued either by the Head of the State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Rule 3

A Credentials Committee shall be appointed at the beginning of the Conference. It shall consist of five members who shall be appointed by the Conference on the proposal of the President. It shall examine the credentials of representatives and report without delay.

Rule 4

Pending a decision of the Conference regarding an objection to the participation of a delegation, the latter shall be entitled to participate provisionally in the Conference.

Chapter II

AGENDA

Rule 5

The provisional agenda drawn up by the Secretariat and communicated to the Governments invited to the Conference by the Secretary-General of the United Nations shall form the provisional agenda for the Conference. Any representative of a State participating in the Conference may propose any item for inclusion in the provisional agenda.

Chapter III

OFFICERS

Rule 6

The Conference shall elect a President, three Vice-Presidents, a Rapporteur and an Editor-in-Chief from among the representatives of the States participating in the Conference.

Rule 7

The President shall preside over the plenary meetings of the Conference. He shall not vote but may designate another member of his delegation to vote in his place.

Rule 8

If the President is absent from a meeting or any part thereof, a Vice-President designated by him shall preside. A Vice-President acting as President shall have the same powers and duties as the President.

Chapter IV

SECRETARIAT

Rule 9

The Executive Secretary of the Conference appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations shall act in that capacity in all meetings of the Conference. He may appoint a deputy to take his place at any meeting.

Rule 10

The Executive Secretary or his representative may at any meeting make either oral or written statements concerning any question under consideration.

Rule 11

The Executive Secretary shall provide and direct such staff as is required by the Conference. He shall be responsible for making all necessary arrangements for meetings and generally shall perform all other work which the Conference may require.

Chapter V

CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Rule 12

A majority of the representatives participating in the Conference shall constitute a quorum.

Rule 13

In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him elsewhere by these rules, the President shall declare the opening and closing of each plenary meeting of the Conference, shall direct the discussion at such meetings, accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote and announce decisions. He shall rule on points of order and, subject to these rules of procedure, shall have complete control over the proceedings.

Rule 14

The President may, in the course of the discussions, propose to the Conference the closure of the list of speakers or the closure of the debate. He may also propose the suspension or the adjournment of the meeting or the adjournment of the debate on the item under discussion. He may also call a speaker to order if his remarks are not relevant to the matter under discussion.

Rule 15

The President, in the exercise of his functions, remains under the authority of the Conference.

Rule 16

During the discussion on any matter, a representative may at any time raise a point of order, and the point of order shall be immediately decided by the President in accordance with these rules of procedure. A representative may appeal against the ruling of the President. The appeal shall be immediately put to the vote and the President's ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of representatives present and voting. A representative may not, in raising a point of order, speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

Rule 17

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move the adjournment of the debate on the item under discussion. Any such motion shall have priority. In addition to the proposer of the motion, one representative shall be allowed to speak in favour of, and one representative against, the motion.

Rule 18

During the course of the debate, the President may announce the list of speakers and with the consent of the Conference declare the list closed. The President may, however, accord the right of reply to any representative if, in his opinion, a speech delivered after he has declared the list closed makes this desirable. When the debate on an item is concluded because there are no other speakers, the President shall declare the debate closed. Such closure shall have the same effect as closure by the consent of the Conference.

Rule 19

A representative may at any time move the closure of the debate on the item under discussion, whether or not any other representative has signified his wish to speak. Permission to speak on the closure of debate shall be accorded only to two speakers opposing the closure, after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote.

Rule 20

The Conference may limit the time allowed for each speaker.

Rule 21

Proposals and amendments shall normally be introduced in writing and handed to the Executive Secretary of the Conference, who shall circulate copies to the delegations. As a general rule, no proposal shall be discussed or put to the vote at any meeting of the Conference unless copies of it have been circulated to all delegations not later than the day preceding the meeting. The President may, however, permit the discussion and consideration of amendments or motions as to procedure even though those amendments or motions have not been circulated or have only been circulated the same day.

Rule 22

A proposal or a motion may be withdrawn by its proposer at any time before voting on it has commenced, provided that the motion has not been amended. A motion which has thus been withdrawn may be reintroduced by any representative.

Rule 23

When a proposal has been adopted or rejected, it may not be considered unless the Conference, by a two-thirds majority of the representatives present and voting, so decides. Permission to speak on the motion to reconsider shall be accorded only to two speakers opposing the motion, after which it shall be immediately put to the vote.

Chapter VI

VOTING

Rule 24

Each State represented at the Conference shall have one vote, and the decisions of the Conference shall be made by a majority of the representatives of States participating in the Conference present and voting.

Rule 25

For the purpose of these rules, the phrase "representatives present and voting" means representatives present and casting an affirmative or negative vote. Representatives who abstain from voting shall be considered as not voting.

Rule 26

The Conference shall normally vote by show of hands, but any representative may request a roll call. A roll call shall be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the delegations at the Conference, beginning with the delegation whose name is drawn by lot by the President.

Rule 27

After the President has announced the beginning of the vote, no representative shall interrupt the vote except on a point of order in connection with the actual conduct of the voting. Explanations of their votes by representatives may, however, be permitted by the President either before or after the voting. The President may limit the time to be allowed for such explanation.

Rule 28

Parts of a proposal shall be voted on separately if a representative requests that the proposal be divided. Those parts of the proposal which have been approved shall then be put to the vote as a whole; if all the operative parts of a proposal have been rejected the proposal shall be considered rejected as a whole.

Rule 29

When an amendment is moved to a proposal, the amendment shall be voted on first. When two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the Conference shall first vote on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal and then on the amendment next furthest removed therefrom, and so on, until all the amendments have been put to the vote. When, however, the adoption of one amendment necessarily implies the rejection of another amendment, the latter amendment shall not be put to the vote. If one or more amendments are adopted, the proposal shall then be voted upon. A motion is considered an amendment to a proposal if it merely adds to, deletes from or revises part of that proposal.

Rule 30

If two or more proposals relate to the same question, the Conference shall, unless it decides otherwise, vote on the proposals in the order in which they have been submitted. The Conference may, after each vote on a proposal, decide whether to vote on the next proposal.

Rule 31

All elections shall be decided by secret ballot unless otherwise decided by the Conference.

Rule 32

1.   If, when one person or one delegation is to be elected, no candidate obtains the required majority in the first ballot, a second ballot shall be taken, which shall be restricted to the two candidates obtaining the largest number of votes. If, in the second ballot, the votes are equally divided, the President shall decide between the candidates by drawing lots.

2.   In the case of a tie in the first ballot among the candidates obtaining the second largest number of votes, a special ballot shall be held for the purpose of reducing the number of candidates to two. In the case of a tie among three or more candidates obtaining the largest number of votes, a second ballot shall be held; if a tie results among more than two candidates, the number shall be reduced to two by lot.

Rule 33

If a vote is equally divided upon matters other than elections, a second vote shall be taken after an adjournment of the meeting for 15 minutes. If this vote also results in equality, the proposal shall be regarded as rejected.

Chapter VII

OFFICIAL AND WORKING LANGUAGES

Rule 34

Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish shall be the official languages and English, French and Spanish shall be the working languages of the Conference.

Rule 35

Speeches made in an official language shall be interpreted into the other official languages of the Conference.

Rule 36

Any representative may make a speech in a language other than an official language of the Conference. In this case, he shall himself provide for interpretation into one of the official languages of the Conference.

Chapter VIII

RECORDS

Rule 37

1. There shall be neither verbatim nor summary records of meetings.

2. Sound recordings of meetings of the Conference and of any committees shall be made and kept in accordance with the practice of the United Nations.

Chapter IX

PUBLICITY OF MEETINGS

Rule 38

The plenary meetings of the Conference and the meetings of its committees shall be held in public unless the body concerned decides that exceptional circumstances require that a particular meeting be held in private.

Chapter X

COMMITTEES

Rule 39

The Conference may establish such committees as may be necessary for the performance of its functions. Items relating to the same category of subjects shall be referred to the committee dealing with that category of subjects. Committees shall not introduce any item on their own initiative.

Rule 40

Each committee shall elect its own Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur.

Rule 41

So far as they are applicable, the rules of procedure of the Conference shall apply to the proceedings of the committees. A committee may dispense with certain language interpretations.

Chapter XI

OTHER PARTICIPANTS AND OBSERVERS

Rule 42

Representatives designated by the United Nations Council for Namibia (representing Namibia) may participate in the deliberations of the Conference and its committees, in accordance with the relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly.

Rule 43

Representatives designated by organizations that have received a standing invitation from the General Assembly to participate in the sessions and work of all international conferences convened under its auspices have the right to participate as observers, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference and its committees.

Rule 44

Representatives designated by national liberation movements invited to the Conference may participate as observers, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference and its committees on any matter of particular concern to those movements.

Rule 45

Representatives designated by the specialized agencies a/ may participate, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference and its committees on questions within the scope of their activities.

Rule 46

Representatives designated by other intergovernmental organizations invited to the Conference may participate as observers, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference and its committees on questions within the scope of their activities.

Rule 47

1. Non-governmental organizations invited to the Conference may designate representatives to sit as observers at public meetings of the Conference and its committees.

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a/ For the purpose of these rules, the term "specialized agencies" includes the International Atomic Energy Agency and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

2. Upon the invitation of the presiding officer of the Conference body concerned, and subject to the approval of that body, such observers may make oral statements on questions in which they have special competence.

Rule 48

Written statements submitted by the designated representatives referred to in rules 42 to 47 shall be distributed by the Secretariat to all delegations in the quantities and in the languages in which the statements are made available to the Secretariat for distribution, provided that a statement submitted on behalf of a non-governmental organization is on a subject in which it has a special competence and is related to the work of the Conference.

Chapter XII

AMENDMENTS

Rule 49

These rules of procedure may be amended by a decision of the Conference.

AGENDA

1. Opening of the Conference.

2. Election of the President of the Conference.

3. Organizational matters:

    (a) Adoption of the rules of procedure;

    (b) Adoption of the agenda;

    (c) Election of officers other than the President;

    (d) Organization of work;

    (e) Credentials of representatives to the Conference.

4. Reports by divisions and Governments on the situation in their regions and countries and on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names since the Fourth Conference.

5. National standardization:

    (a) Field collection of names;

    (b) Office treatment of names;

    (c) Treatment of names in multilingual areas;

    (d) Administrative structure of national names authorities;

    (e) Toponymic guidelines for map and other editors.

6. Toponymic data files:

    (a) Data collection procedures;

    (b) Data elements required;

    (c) Automatic data processing (ADP) systems;

    (d) Compatibility and structure of systems;

    (e) National gazetteers;

    (f) Other publications.

7. Terminology in the standardization of geographical names.

8. Measures taken and proposed to implement United Nations resolutions on the standardization of geographical names.

9. Exonyms:

    (a) Categories and degree of use of exonyms;

    (b) Principles in reducing exonyms;

    (c) Provisional list of exonyms.

10. Features beyond a single sovereignty:

    (a) Policies, procedures and co-operative arrangements;

    (b) Features common to two or more nations;

    (c) Maritime features;

    (d) Undersea features;

    (e) Extraterrestrial features.

11. Writing systems and guides to pronunciation:

    (a) Romanization;

    (b) Conversion into non-Roman writing systems;

    (c) Writing of names in unwritten languages;

    (d) Research and experiments in assisting in name pronunciation.

12. Toponymic education and practice and international co-operation:

    (a) Existing education and practice;

    (b) Training courses in toponymy;

    (c) Exchange of advice and information;

    (d) Exchange of personnel;

    (e) Technical assistance;

    (f) Co-operation with international organizations;

    (g) Co-operation with public information media.

13. Meetings and conferences:

    (a) United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names;

    (b) Divisional and interdivisional meetings and programmes;

(c)   National names meetings, conferences and symposia;

(d)   International names meetings, conferences and symposia.

14.   Economic and social benefits of the national and international standardization
of geographical names.

15.   Adoption of the report of the Conference.

16.   Closing of the Conference.

Annex IV

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Document number	Agenda item	Title or description
E/CONF.79/1	3 (b)	Provisional agenda
E/CONF.79/2	3 (a)	Provisional rules of procedure
E/CONF.79/3		[Symbol not used]
E/CONF.79/4 and Add.1-5	15	Draft report of the Conference
E/CONF.79/CRP.1 (English only)	8	List by subject of resolutions adopted at the various conferences on the standardization of geographical names
E/CONF.79/CRP.2 (English only)	13 (d)	Bibliography of technical papers on surveying and mapping presented to various United Nations conferences and United Nations seminars (United Nations Secretariat)
E/CONF.79/CRP.3 (English only)	5	Organization and function of a national geographical names standardization programme (United Nations Secretariat)
E/CONF.79/INF/1	-	Documentation for the Conference: note by the Secretariat
E/CONF.79/INF/2	-	Advance information regarding general arrangements of interest to the participants
E/CONF.79/INF/3/Rev.1	3 (d)	Provisional list of documents
E/CONF.79/INF/4/Rev.1 (English only)	3 (d)	Provisional list of participants
E/CONF.79/INF/5 (English only)	3 (d)	Annotated provisional agenda
E/CONF.79/INF/6 (English only)	5 (e)	Toponymic guidelines for map and other editors for international use: Netherlands
E/CONF.79/INF/7 (English only)	4	Report on the state of the standardization of geographical names in Japan

Document number	Agenda item	Title or description
E/CONF.79/INF/8 (English only)	11 (a)	The state of romanization in Japan
E/CONF.79/INF/9 (English only)	5	National standardization of geographical names in Japan
E/CONF.79/INF/10 (English only)	6 (b)	Automated data processing in Japan
E/CONF.79/INF/11 (English only)	5 (e)	Toponymic guidelines for map and other editors (Japan)
E/CONF.79/INF/12 and Add. 1 (English only)	5 (c)	Treatment of names in multilingual areas (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
E/CONF.79/INF/13 (English only)	7	Terminology in the standardization of geographical names: proposed additions and amendments to Glossary No. 330/Rev.1 (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
E/CONF.79/INF/14 (English only)	7	Exonyms and endonyms (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
E/CONF.79/INF/15 (English only)	4	Report on the progress of standardization of geographical names (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
E/CONF.79/INF/16 (English only)	4	Report of the United Kingdom Division
E/CONF.79/INF/17 (English only)	11 (a)	Review of progress in romanization (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
E/CONF.79/INF/18 (English only)	6 (e)	Toponymic data files (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
E/CONF.79/INF/19 (English only)	4	Report of the Netherlands, 1982-1987
E/CONF.79/INF/20 (English only)	8	State of implementation of recommendations of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names in the Netherlands
E/CONF.79/INF/21 (English only)	5 (d), 4	The Swedish Names Authority and its work
E/CONF.79/INF/22 (English only)	6	Toponymic data files (Sweden)

Document number	Agenda item	Title or description
E/CONF.79/INF/23 (English only)	12 (a)	Toponymic education and practice in Sweden
E/CONF.79/INF/24 (English only)	11	Writing systems and guides to pronunciation (Sweden)
E/CONF.79/INF/25 (English only)	6 (c)	The Digital Name Data Base Antarctic as a component of a landscape data base of the Antarctic (Federal Republic of Germany)
E/CONF.79/INF/26 (English only)	7	Definitions of various kinds of gazetteers (Federal Republic of Germany)
E/CONF.79/INF/27 (English only)	8	Measures taken by the Federal Republic of Germany to implement United Nations resolutions on the standardization of geographical names
E/CONF.79/INF/28 (English only)	4	Report of the Federal Republic of Germany
E/CONF.79/INF/29 (Spanish only)	4	Normalización de los nombres geográficos en el Instituto Geográfico Militar de Chile
E/CONF.79/INF/30 (Spanish only)	5	Informe sobre el proyecto de organización de la toponimia de la comunidad autónoma vasca (Spain)
E/CONF.79/INF/31 (English only)	2, 3 (c)	Officers of the Conference
E/CONF.79/INF/32 (English only)	4	Standardization of geographical names in Ethiopia
E/CONF.79/INF/33 (English only)	4	Report of the Asia South-East and Pacific South-West Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names
E/CONF.79/INF/34 (English only)	6 (c)	Development of a computerized gazetteer system (Malaysia)
E/CONF.79/INF/35 (English only)	4	National report on the standardization of geographical names (Pakistan)
E/CONF.79/INF/36 (English only)	8	Information on the implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations conferences on the standardization of geographical names in the USSR

Document number	Agenda item	Title or description
E/CONF.79/INF/37 (English only)	4	Standardization of geographical names in the USSR, 1982-1986
E/CONF.79/INF/38 (English only)	11 (a)	Conversion of the Greek alphabet into Latin characters (Greece and Cyprus)
E/CONF.79/INF/39 (English only)	11 (a)	The romanized transliteration of Thai
E/CONF.79/INF/40 (French only)	4	Rapport du Maroc
E/CONF.79/INF/41 (French only)	1	Opening statement by the Minister for External Relations of Canada
E/CONF.79/INF/42 (English only)	1	Opening statement by the Director of the Natural Resources and Energy Division, Department of Technical Co-operation for Development of the United Nations Secretariat
E/CONF.79/INF/43 (English only)	1	Statement by the Executive Secretary of the Conference
E/CONF.79/INF/44 (English only)	5 (a), 4	A manual for the field collection of geographical names (Canada)
E/CONF.79/INF/45 (French only)	6 (e)	Tableau des répertoires des noms de lieux (Canada)
E/CONF.79/INF/46 (French only)	13	L'activité internationale des Nations Unies dans le domaine de la toponymie (United Nations Secretariat)
E/CONF.79/INF/47 (English and Spanish only)	12 (f)	Directory of agencies in the Americas involved with geographical names (Pan American Institute of Geography and History)
E/CONF.79/INF/48 (English only)	5 (c)	Geographical naming in Alberta, Canada: The mapping of cultural heritage and an emerging civilization
E/CONF.79/INF/49 (English only)	10 (b)	Geographical naming in Alberta, Canada: transboundary names and the case against cultural standardization

Document number	Agenda item	Title or description
E/CONF.79/INF/50 (English only)	6 (c) and (f)	Bibliography for automated data processing in the preparation of gazetteers and names lists (United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names)
E/CONF.79/INF/51 (English only)	4	National report of Israel
E/CONF.79/INF/52 (English only)	4	Report of the Africa East Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names
E/CONF.79/INF/53 (English only)	5 (e)	Toponymic guidelines in the USSR
E/CONF.79/INF/54 (Spanish only)	12 (f)	Informe sobre el Grupo de Trabajo en Gacetillas y Nombres Geográficos del Instituto Panamericano de Geografía e Historia
E/CONF.79/INF/55 (English only)	4	Report of Cyprus
E/CONF.79/INF/56 (English only)	6 (c), 11 (b)	A computerized toponymic transliteration/transcription/translation system (Israel)
E/CONF.79/INF/57 (English only)	6 (e)	United States Board on Geographic Names Alphabetizing and Sequencing Rules for Geographic Names Files (United States of America)
E/CONF.79/INF/58 and Corr.1 (English only)	10 (c) and (d)	A short list of standardized names of undersea and maritime features around Turkey
E/CONF.79/INF/59 (English only)	4	National report of Greece
E/CONF.79/INF/60 (English only)	4	Report of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran
E/CONF.79/INF/61 (English only)	11 (a)	Information on the romanization system for Russian Cyrillic geographical names (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)
E/CONF.79/INF/62 (English only)	5 (e)	Toponymic guidelines for the use of geographical names (Czechoslovakia)

Document number	Agenda item	Title or description
E/CONF.79/INF/63 (English only)	8	Information on the implementation of United Nations resolutions on the standardization of geographical names in Czechoslovakia
E/CONF.79/INF/64 (English only)	4	Report on work on the standardization of geographical names in Czechoslovakia, 1982-1986
E/CONF.79/INF/65 (English only)	11 (a)	Standardization of geographical names in India: adoption of a modified table of transliteration from Devanagari to Roman (submitted by the ad hoc Chairman of the Working Group on Romanization of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names)
E/CONF.79/INF/66 (English only)	4	Report of Poland
E/CONF.79/INF/67 (English only)	6, 13 (a)	The case for a Hebrew geographical-linguistic division (Israel)
E/CONF.79/INF/68 (English only)	4, 11 (a)	Report on the state of standardization of geographical names and romanization (Republic of Korea)
E/CONF.79/INF/69 (English only)	4	Report of Romania
E/CONF.79/INF/70 (English only)	11 (a)	Romanization system of Pakistan
E/CONF.79/INF/71 (English only)	4	Indonesia national report
E/CONF.79/INF/72 (French only)	12 (c)	L'apport de la recherche onomastique à la gestion des noms géographiques (Canada)
E/CONF.79/L.1	3 (d)	Provisional allocation of agenda items and schedule for the Conference
E/CONF.79/L.2 (English only)	4	Nomenclature in Australia
E/CONF.79/L.3 (English only)	5 (a)	Traditional aboriginal place names: their recording and use (Australia)
E/CONF.79/L.4 (English only)	8	The naming of regions (Australia)

Document number	Agenda item	Title or description
E/CONF.79/L.5 (English only)	4	Report of Austria
E/CONF.79/L.6 (English only)	9 (a)	Exonyms in cartography (Austria)
E/CONF.79/L.7 (English only)	5 (e)	Report of the co-ordinator of the toponymic guidelines for map and other editors (Austria)
E/CONF.79/L.8 (English/German only)	7	Proposed German translation of the technical terminology employed in the standardization of geographical names (Austria)
E/CONF.79/L.9 (English only)	4	Report of the Dutch- and German-speaking Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names
E/CONF.79/L.10 (English only)	4	Scientific principles applied in the conversion of scripts (Dutch- and German-speaking Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names)
E/CONF.79/L.11 (English only)	13 (b)	Rules of procedure for the activities of the Dutch- and German-speaking Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names
E/CONF.79/L.12 (French only)	4	Rapport d'activité (France)
E/CONF.79/L.13 (French only)	4	Rapport d'activité de la division romano-hellénique du Group d'experts des Nations Unies sur les noms géographiques
E/CONF.79/L.14 (English only)	4	Report of the United States of America/Canada Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names
E/CONF.79/L.15 (English only)	4	Work of the United States of America since the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names
E/CONF.79/L.16 (English only)	6 (c)	Update on the Geographic Names Information System (United States of America)

Document number	Agenda item	Title or description
E/CONF.79/L.17 (English only)	10 (b)	International boundary names: United States of America, Canada and Mexico (United States of America)
E/CONF.79/L.18 (English only)	10 (c) and (d)	Report of the UNGEGN Liaison to the International Hydrographic Bureau (United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names)
E/CONF.79/L.19 (English only)	5 (e)	Toponymic guidelines for map and other editors (United States of America)
E/CONF.79/L.20 (English only)	5	Principles, policies and procedures: domestic geographic names (United States of America)
E/CONF.79/L.21 (English only)	6 (c)	Geographic Names Information System: Data Users Guide (United States of America)
E/CONF.79/L.22 (English only)	6	The national geographic names data base: phase II instructions (United States of America)
E/CONF.79/L.23 (English only)	11 (a)	Romanization systems and the donor principle (United States of America)
E/CONF.79/L.24 (English only)	12 (b)	Report on training in office procedures offered by the United States Board on Geographic Names (United States of America)
E/CONF.79/L.25 (French only)	9 (a) and (c)	Essai de classification des exonymes (France)
E/CONF.79/L.26 (French only)	6 (e) and (f)	Pays et capitales du monde (France)
E/CONF.79/L.27 (French only)	9 (a)	Les noms français en pays étranger (France)
E/CONF.79/L.28 (French only)	5 (d)	Création d'une commission nationale de toponymie (France)
E/CONF.79/L.29 (English only)	9	A short list of widely used Turkish exonyms in South-East Europe (Turkey)
E/CONF.79/L.30 (English only)	5 (e)	Toponymic guidelines for map and other editors (Italy)
E/CONF.79/L.31 (English only)	4	Country report on geographical name activities in Thailand

Document number	Agenda item	Title or description
E/CONF.79/L.32 (Spanish only)	4	Informe de Cuba
E/CONF.79/L.33 (Spanish only)	5	Listado de nombres geográficos uniformados del litoral marítimo (litónimos) de la provincia de Las Tunas (Cuba)
E/CONF.79/L.34 (English only)	4	Report of South Africa
E/CONF.79/L.35 (English only)	5 (e)	Toponymic guidelines for map and other editors for international use (South Africa)
E/CONF.79/L.36 (English only)	4	Report of Switzerland
E/CONF.79/L.37 (Spanish only)	6 (e), 4	Indice toponímico de España
E/CONF.79/L.38 (English only)	4	Report of Kenya
E/CONF.79/L.39 (English only)	4	Report of the Norden Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names
E/CONF.79/L.40 (English only)	5 (d)	Developments in Canadian toponymy
E/CONF.79/L.41 (English only)	5 (c)	Resolutions adopted at the native geographical names symposium (Canada)
E/CONF.79/L.42 (English only)	5 (d)	The development of a toponymy programme for Canada's Northwest Territories
E/CONF.79/L.43 (French only)	5 (a) and (b)	Liste des outils de normalisation nationale au Québec (pour la cueillette et le traitement) (Canada)
E/CONF.79/L.44 and Add.1 (English only)	11 (a)	The treatment of Chinese geographical names in the English language media of the western world (Canada)
E/CONF.79/L.45 (French only)	5 (b)	La recherche toponymique au Québec: une activité au service de la sanction officielle des noms de lieux (Canada)
E/CONF.79/L.46 (French only)	6 (b) and (c)	TOPOS, le système automatisé de gestion de la toponymie québécoise (Canada)

Document number	Agenda item	Title or description
E/CONF.79/L.47 (French only)	6 (d)	Description technique du système de gestion des toponymes (Canada)
E/CONF.79/L.48 (French only)	6 (e)	La normalisation de l'odonymie à la Commission de toponymie du Québec (Canada)
E/CONF.79/L.49 (French only)	6 (e)	Répertoire toponymique du Québec 1987 (Canada)
E/CONF.79/L.50 (French only)	7	Terminologie géographique de la toponymie québécoise (Canada)
E/CONF.79/L.51 (French only)	8	Etat de la situation au Québec (Canada)
E/CONF.79/L.52 (French only)	12 (a)	Cours: Introduction à la toponymie (Canada)
E/CONF.79/L.53 (French only)	12 (b)	Stage de formation en toponymie à Québec (Canada)
E/CONF.79/L.54 (French only)	14	Etat de la situation au Québec (Canada)
E/CONF.79/L.55 (English only)	4	Report of Norway
E/CONF.79/L.56 (English only)	4	Report on progress made in the standardization of geographical names in the German Democratic Republic since the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names
E/CONF.79/L.57 (English only)	9 (a)	Concerning questions of the formation of categories of exonyms and their usage (German Democratic Republic)
E/CONF.79/L.58 (Spanish only)	5, 6 (f)	Listado de nombres geográficos uniformados de los lugares habitados de Cuba con oficina de correos (Cuba)
E/CONF.79/L.59 (Spanish only)	6 (e) and (f)	Experiencia en la elaboración del listado de nombres de paises y sus capitales (Cuba)
E/CONF.79/L.60 (Spanish only)	5, 6 (e)	Nombres geográficos de las grandes unidades del relieve de Cuba

Document number	Agenda item	Title or description
E/CONF.79/L.61 (Spanish only)	4	Informe de la Primera Reunión Regional de la Division de América Latina del Grupo de Expertos de las Naciones Unidas en Nombres Geográficos
E/CONF.79/L.62 (Spanish only)	4	Informe de la Segunda Reunión Regional de la Division de América Latina del Grupo de Expertos de las Naciones Unidas en Nombres Geográficos
E/CONF.79/L.63 (English only)	7	Proposed additional terms to the glossary of technical terminology employed in the standardization of geographical names (Czechoslovakia)
E/CONF.79/L.64 (English only)	10 (c) and (d)	Twenty years of evolution in the naming of undersea features by Canada
E/CONF.79/L.65 (English only)	6 (c)	Biscriptual vs. bilingual automated gazetteers (Israel)
E/CONF.79/L.66 (English only)	12 (b)	Toponymy courses at the University of Jerusalem (Israel)
E/CONF.79/L.67 (English only)	4	Progress report on the standardization and treatment of geographical names in Finland, 1982-1987
E/CONF.79/L.68 (English only)	5 (c)	Treatment of names in bilingual areas in Finland
E/CONF.79/L.69 (English only)	8	Review of the implementation of United Nations resolutions on the standardization of geographical names in Finland
E/CONF.79/L.70 (English only)	9	Exonyms in Finnish
E/CONF.79/L.71 (English only)	12 (b)	Training courses in toponymy at the universities in Finland
E/CONF.79/L.72 (French only)	4	Rapport sur les travaux de la Division de l'Europe de l'Est, du Centre et du Sud-Est pour la période entre la quatrième et la quinzième Conférences des Nations Unies sur la normalisation internationale des noms géographiques, 1982-1987

Document number	Agenda item	Title or description
E/CONF.79/L.73 (English only)	4	National report of Bulgaria concerning its work on the standardization of geographical names for the period 1982-1987
E/CONF.79/L.74 (English only)	4	Development in the standardization of geographical names in China since the Fourth United Nations Conference on Standardization of Geographical Names
E/CONF.79/L.75 (English only)	5 (b) and (d)	Regulations on the management of geographical names in China promulgated by the State Council of the People's Republic of China
E/CONF.79/L.76 (English only)	4	Activities of Turkey in the field of geographical names standardization
E/CONF.79/L.77 (English only)	10 (d)	Brief report on the main IHO activities concerning geographical names of undersea features since the twelfth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (International Hydrographic Organization)
E/CONF.79/L.78 (English only)	4	Report of Yugoslavia
E/CONF.79/L.79	13	Draft rules of procedure of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names
E/CONF/79/L.80	13	Draft statute of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names
E/CONF.79/L.81 and Add.1-3	15	Draft report of the Conference

STATUTE AND RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE UNITED NATIONS
GROUP OF EXPERTS ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

STATUTE OF THE UNITED NATIONS GROUP OF EXPERTS
ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES*

The United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names was established in pursuance of Economic and Social Council resolutions 715 A (XXVII) of 23 April 1959 and 1314 (XLIV) of 31 May 1968 and the decision taken by the Council at its 1854th meeting, on 4 May 1973, to further the standardization of geographical names at both the national and international levels.

I. AIMS

The basic aims of the Group of Experts shall be:

(a)   To consider principles and methods for solving problems in the national and international standardization of geographical names;

(b)   To collect information on the work of national and international bodies on the standardization of geographical names and disseminate it to States Members of the United Nations;

(c)   To promote the sharing of experience of national bodies on the standardization of geographical names;

(d)   To encourage the supply of scientific and technical help to developing countries in the national standardization of geographical names.

II. PRINCIPLES

1.   The Group of Experts shall act as a collegiate, consultative body; accordingly, agreement on non-procedural matters shall be reached by consensus and not by voting.

2.   The decisions of the Group of Experts shall be of a recommendatory character.

3.   Questions involving national sovereignty shall not be discussed by the Group of Experts.

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*   Adopted by the Group of Experts at its twelfth and thirteenth sessions and endorsed by the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, subject to review and approval by the Economic and Social Council.

4.   The Group of Experts in its activities shall adhere to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and to the following provisions:

(a)   The standardization of geographical names must be based on the achievements of science in relation to both language treatment and the technical means of processing and generating toponymic data;

(b)   International standardization of geographical names must be carried out on the basis of national standardization.

III.   FUNCTIONS

To further the aims stated above, the functions of the Group of Experts shall be:

(a)   To provide liaison between countries in their work on geographical names;

(b)   To co-ordinate between countries their efforts in the standardization of geographical names;

(c)   To undertake the preparatory work for the periodic international conferences on the standardization of geographical names;

(d)   To provide continuity of action between conferences;

(e)   To assist in the implementation of resolutions adopted at conferences;

(f)   To consider the formation of linguistic/geographical divisions as rational bases for furthering work at the national level;

(g)   To co-ordinate the activities of the divisions;

(h)   To maintain liaison with other international organizations dealing with related subjects;

(i)   To encourage the divisions and countries to take a more active role in standardization programmes; to this end, divisions should formulate their own working procedures and co-ordinate them with the Group of Experts to ensure uniform content and principles;

(j)   To encourage divisions, wherever feasible, to participate in United Nations regional or other cartographic conferences; by convening a divisional meeting in conjunction with a conference, the divisions may take advantage of conference facilities.

IV.   COMPOSITION

1.   Linguistic/geographical divisions

1.   The Group of Experts shall be composed of experts from linguistic/geographical divisions designated by Governments. The Group of Experts shall be headed by elected officers who shall guide the activities of the Group during and between its sessions.

2.   The Group of Experts shall be supported in its activities by the following linguistic/geographical divisions:

Africa Central Division;

Africa East Division;

Africa West Division;

Arabic Division;

Asia East Division (other than China);

Asia South-East and Pacific South-West Division;

Asia South-West Division (other than Arabic);

Celtic Division;

China Division;

Dutch- and German-speaking Division;

East Central and South-East Europe Division;

East Mediterranean Division (other than Arabic);

India Division;

Latin America Division;

Norden Division;

Romano-Hellenic Division;

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics Division;

United Kingdom Division;

United States of America/Canada Division.

3.   The number of linguistic/geographical divisions and their composition may be revised, if necessary.

4.   A country shall decide for itself the division to which it wishes to belong.
A country may be a member of another division provided the nature of its
participation does not change the linguistic/geographical character of the
division(s) concerned. An expert may be invited to attend meetings of other
divisions in the capacity of observer or consultant.

5.   Each division, if composed of more than one sovereign State, shall select, by
methods of its own choosing, an expert to represent the division (Division
Chairman) as a whole at the meetings of the Group of Experts.

6.   In order to guarantee the continuity of the work, each division having more
than one sovereign State shall select an alternative representative; the divisional
representative shall act in close contact with his alternate.

7.   The divisional representative shall stimulate activities in the
standardization of geographical names within his division by all appropriate means
(correspondence with national bodies on the standardization of geographical names
and national surveying and mapping agencies; organization of meetings of the
divisional experts).

8.   The divisional representative shall be responsible for ensuring that the work
of the Group of Experts and its potential for technical assistance are brought to
the attention of the individual countries in his division and for reporting to the
United Nations any special problems in his division.

9.   To discuss technical and procedural matters, a division may organize regional
meetings during United Nations conferences on the standardization of geographical
names and meetings of the Group of Experts, or at any other appropriate time.

2. Officers

1.   The Group of Experts shall elect the following officers: a Chairman, a
Vice-Chairman and a Rapporteur.

2.   All provisions regarding the election and functioning of the officers are
given below in the rules of procedure of the Group.

3. Working groups

1.   Working groups shall be disbanded upon completion of their appointed tasks.
The expediency of extending the term of their activities shall be considered at the
sessions of the Group of Experts. If necessary, new working groups may be
appointed and their tasks determined.

2.   The convenor and the co-convenor of a working group shall be elected at the
meetings of the working group by methods of its own choosing.

RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE UNITED NATIONS GROUP OF EXPERTS
ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

I. DEFINITIONS

Meaning of terms

Rule 1

For the purposes of these rules, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

(a) "Group" on "Group of Experts" means the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names established in pursuance of Economic and Social Council resolutions 715 A (XXVII) of 23 April 1959 and 1314 (XLIV) of 31 May 1968 and the decision taken by the Council at its 1854th meeting, on 4 May 1973;

(b) "Member" means an expert participating in a session of the Group, whether or not he/she represents a division;

(c) "Division" means one of the major linguistic/geographical divisions of the world, as defined in section IV of the statute of the Group;

(d) "Secretary-General" means the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

II. MEMBERSHIP AND COMPOSITION

Rule 2

1.   The Group of Experts shall consist of experts in the field of cartography/linguistics designated by Governments of States members of the respective divisions.

2.   The expert who represents a division shall be a full member of the Group, with voting rights. In addition, States Members of the divisions may appoint national experts who may participate, without the right to vote, in the discussions at meetings of the Group. Attendance at Group meetings by the latter experts shall be co-ordinated with the expert representing the division in question, who shall have the right to vote on behalf of the division.

3.   All experts participating in sessions of the Group shall serve in their personal capacity as individuals of recognized competence and experience in their respective fields.

III. SESSIONS

Rule 3

The Group shall normally hold one session every two years, at such times as it determines; provided that in years when a United Nations conference on the standardization of geographical names is held, the Group shall meet, as required,

on dates immediately preceding the opening date of the conference and immediately following the closing date of the conference.

IV. AGENDA

Rule 4

The provisional agenda drawn up by the Group at its previous session and communicated to the Governments invited by the Secretary-General to send experts to participate in the session shall constitute the provisional agenda for the session. Experts participating in the session may propose additional items for inclusion in the provisional agenda.

V. OFFICERS

Election and term of office

Rule 5

The Group shall elect the following officers from among the experts representing divisions: a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman and a Rapporteur.

Rule 6

The officers shall be elected immediately following the closing date of the respective United Nations conferences on the standardization of geographical names. The officers shall serve until their successors are elected immediately after the next conference.

Replacement

Rule 7

1. If the Chairman is to be absent from a meeting or part thereof, or if he ceases to be able to perform his functions, the Vice-Chairman or, in his absence, the Rapporteur shall act as Chairman.

2. The Vice-Chairman or Rapporteur when acting as Chairman shall have the same powers and duties as the Chairman.

3. If either the Vice-Chairman or the Rapporteur is unable to perform the functions of his office, the Chairman shall appoint an expert to complete the unexpired portion of either term of office.

VI. SECRETARIAT

Duties of the secretariat

Rule 8

The Secretary of the Group, appointed by the Secretary-General, shall act in that capacity in all meetings of the Group. He may designate a member of the secretariat to take his place at any meeting.

Rule 9

The Secretary shall as far as possible provide and direct such staff as is required by the Group. He shall be responsible for making all necessary arrangements for meetings and generally shall perform all other work which the Group may require.

Statements by the secretariat

Rule 10

The Secretary or his representative may at any meeting make either oral or written statements concerning any questions under consideration.

VII. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Quorum

Rule 11

A majority of the representatives of divisions participating in the session shall constitute a quorum.

General powers of the Chairman

Rule 12

In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him elsewhere by these rules, the Chairman shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the Group, direct the discussion at such meetings, ensure the observance of these ·rules, accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote and announce decisions. He shall rule on the points of order and, subject to these rules, shall have complete control over the proceedings of the Group and over the maintenance of order at its meetings.

Rule 13

The Chairman may, in the course of the discussions, propose to the Group the closing of the list of speakers or the adjournment or closure of the debate. He

may call a speaker to order if his remarks are not relevant to the matter under discussion. The Chairman may also propose the suspension or the adjournment of the meeting.

Rule 14

The Chairman, in the exercise of his functions, remains under the authority of the Group.

Points of order

Rule 15

During the discussion of any matter, a member may at any time raise a point of order, which shall be immediately decided by the Chairman in accordance with these rules. A member may appeal against the ruling of the Chairman. The appeal shall be immediately put to the vote and the Chairman's ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the representatives of divisions present and voting. A member may not, in raising a point of order, speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

Time-limit on speeches

Rule 16

The Group may limit the time allowed to each speaker and the number of times a member may speak on any question. When the debate is limited and a member exceeds his allotted time, the Chairman shall call him to order without delay.

Closing of list of speakers

Rule 17

During the course of a debate, the Chairman may announce the list of speakers and, with the consent of the Group, declare the list closed. The Chairman may, however, accord the right of reply to any member if, in his opinion, a speech delivered after he had declared the list closed makes this desirable. When there are no more speakers, the Chairman shall, with the consent of the Group, declare the debate closed. Such closure shall have the same effect as closure pursuant to rule 19.

Adjournment of debate

Rule 18

During the discussion of any matter, a member may move the adjournment of the debate on the item under discussion. Any such motion shall have priority. In addition to the proposer of the motion, one member shall be allowed to speak in favour of, and one member against the motion, after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote.

Closure of debate

Rule 19

A member may at any time move the closure of the debate on the item under discussion, whether or not any other member has signified his wish to speak. Permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded to only two speakers opposing the closure, after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote.

Withdrawal of proposals or motions

Rule 20

A proposal or a motion may be withdrawn by its sponsor at any time before voting on it has commenced, provided that it has not been amended. A proposal or a motion thus withdrawn may be reintroduced by any member.

Reconsideration of proposals

Rule 21

When a proposal has been adopted or rejected, it may not be reconsidered at the same session unless the Group, by a two-thirds majority of the representatives of divisions present and voting, so decides. Permission to speak on a motion to reconsider shall be accorded to only two speakers opposing the motion, after which it shall be immediately put to the vote.

Invitations to specialists (technical advisers)

Rule 22

A person with specialized knowledge of particular aspects of the standardization of geographical names may be invited to place before the Group of Experts his/her specialized knowledge. Such a person will be invited only when official approval of the invitation has been obtained from his/her Government.

VIII. DECISION-MAKING

Consensus

Rule 23

1. On all except procedural matters, the Group of Experts, its linguistic/geographical divisions and its working groups shall arrive at decisions by consensus. In the event that a consensus is not achieved, the matter shall be deferred for reworking and resubmission.

2. In the absence of a consensus on procedural matters, the Chairman may, and at the request of any member shall, put the proposal to the vote.

Voting rights and majority required

Rule 24

1.   Each expert representing a division shall have one vote, and decisions of the Group shall, subject to rule 23, be taken by a majority of the divisional representatives present and voting.

2.   If a vote is equally divided, a second vote shall be taken after an adjournment of the meeting for 15 minutes. If this vote is also equally divided, the proposal or motion shall be regarded as rejected.

Meaning of the phrase "representatives of divisions present and voting"

Rule 25

For the purpose of these rules, the phrase "representatives of divisions present and voting" means representatives of divisions casting an affirmative or negative vote. Representatives of divisions who abstain from voting shall be considered as not voting.

Roll-call votes

Rule 26

A roll-call vote, if requested, shall be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the divisions, beginning with the division whose name is drawn by lot by the Chairman.

Conduct during voting

Rule 27

After the Chairman has announced the commencement of voting, no member shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order in connection with the actual conduct of the voting. Explanations of their votes by members may, however, be permitted by the Chairman either before or after the voting. The Chairman may limit the time to be allowed for such explanations.

Division of proposals

Rule 28

Parts of a proposal shall be voted on separately if a member requests that the proposal be divided. Those parts of the proposal that have been approved shall then be put to the vote as a whole; if all the operative parts of the proposal have been rejected, the proposal shall be considered rejected as a whole.

Order of voting on amendments

Rule 29

When an amendment is moved to a proposal, the amendment shall be voted on first. When two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the Group shall first vote on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal and then on the amendment next furthest removed therefrom, and so on, until all the amendments have been put to the vote. When, however, the adoption of one amendment necessarily implies the rejection of another amendment, the latter amendment shall not be put to the vote. If one or more amendments are adopted, the amended proposal shall then be voted upon. A proposal is considered an amendment to another proposal if it merely adds to, deletes from or revises part of that proposal.

Order of voting on proposals

Rule 30

1.   If two or more proposals relate to the same question, they shall, unless the Group decides otherwise, be voted on in the order in which they are submitted. The Group may, after each vote on a proposal, decide whether to vote on the next proposal.

2.   Revised proposals shall be voted on in the order in whch the original proposals were submitted, unless the revision substantially departs from the original proposal. In that case, the original proposal shall be considered as withdrawn and the revised proposal shall be treated as a new proposal.

3.   A motion requiring that no decision be taken on a proposal shall have priority over that proposal.

Elections

Rule 31

1.   All elections shall be held by secret ballot unless the Group decides otherwise.

2.   When candidates are to be nominated, each nomination shall be made by only one member, after which the Group shall immediately proceed to the election.

Balloting

Rule 32

1.   When one or more elective places are to be filled at one time under the same conditions each member may cast a vote for as many candidates as there are places to be filled, and those candidates, in a number not exceeding the number of such places, obtaining in the first ballot a majority of the votes cast and the largest number of votes shall be elected.

2.   If the number of candidates so elected is less than the number of places to be filled, additional ballots shall be held to fill the remaining places. From such ballots the candidates obtaining the least number of votes in the previous ballot may be eliminated on the proposal of the Chairman.

3.   In the case of a tie among candidates obtaining a majority of the votes cast, a second ballot shall be held among them. If the votes remain equally divided, the elder or eldest candidate shall be elected.

IX. LANGUAGES

Official and working languages

Rule 33

Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish shall be the official languages and English, French and Spanish shall be the working languages of the session. Working papers shall be submitted in one of the working languages.

Interpretation

Rule 34

1.   Speeches made in an official language shall be interpreted into the other official languages of the session.

2.   Any member may make a speech in a language other than an official language of the session if he provides for interpretation into one such language. Interpretation into the other official languages of the session by the interpreters of the secretariat may be based on the interpretation given in the first such language.

X. DOCUMENTS

Rule 35

1.   The secretariat of the Group of Experts circulates copies of working papers submitted by linguistic/geographical divisions and experts to the participants in the session.

2.   Submission of a working paper for consideration by the Group of Experts does not mean the document has received the approval of the Group of Experts or that the working paper has been endorsed by them.

3.   Consideration of a working paper by the Group of Experts is without political significance.

4.   Consideration and discussion of a working paper by the Group of Experts must not be interpreted as support of, or opposition to, any political view or issue.

5.   Subsequent reference to the working papers in the report of the Group of Experts on the session likewise shall have no political significance.

XI. RECORDS

Records of meetings and of the session

Rule 36

Sound recordings of the plenary meetings of the session shall be made and kept by the secretariat. The Group shall prepare a final report in English as the record of the session. This report shall be distributed by the secretariat as soon as possible after the closing of the session.

XII. PRIVACY OF MEETINGS

Rule 37

The meetings of the Group and meetings of its working groups shall be held in private.

XIII. SESSIONAL BODIES AND WORKING GROUPS

Sessional bodies

Rule 38

During sessions of the Group, ad hoc study groups may be appointed to deal with particular issues. Upon completion of their appointed tasks, such groups shall be automatically disbanded before the end of the session, unless especially directed to remain in existence.

Intersessional working groups

Rule 39

The Group may establish working groups of specialists under the chairmanship of one of the national experts referred to in rule 2 to study particular problems between sessions of the Group.

Rules of procedure

Rule 40

So far as they are applicable, the rules of procedure of the Group shall apply to the proceedings of the sessional bodies and working groups. These bodies may, however, dispense with certain language interpretations.

XIV. PARTICIPATION BY NON-MEMBERS OF THE GROUP

Rule 41

1. Representatives designated by the specialized agencies and observers designated by other intergovernmental organizations and by non-governmental organizations invited to the session may participate, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Group and its working groups on the invitation of the Chairman or the convenor of a working group on questions within the scope of their activities.

2. Written statements submitted by these representatives or observers shall be distributed by the secretariat to all participants in the session.

XV. AMENDMENTS

Rule 42

These rules of procedure may be amended by a decision of the Group, taken by a two-thirds majority of the divisional representatives present and voting. No amendment shall become effective until it has been approved by the Economic and Social Council.