FOURTH UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

Geneva, 24 August–14 September 1982

Vol. I. Report of the Conference

UNITED NATIONS

Department of Technical Co-operation for Development

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NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country or territory or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers.

E/CONF.74/3

CONTENTS

CONTENTS (continued)

ANNEXES

CHAPTER I

ORGANIZATION OF THE CONFERENCE

Terms of reference

1.   The Fourth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, convened in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1978/7 of 11 April 1978, was held at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 24 August to 14 September 1982.

Attendance

2.   The Conference was attended by 136 representative from 62 countries, 1/ two specialized agencies, 2/ four intergovernmental and international scientific organizations, 3/ one non-governmental organization 4/ and the Economic Commission for Europe. A list of participants was circulated (E/CONF.74/INF.4/Rev.1) and is attached as annex III below.

Opening ceremony

3.   On behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Executive Secretary of the Conference, Mr. Max C. de Henseler, welcomed the participants and thanked the various Governments and organizations for their excellent response. In his address, Mr. de Henseler called on the delegates to further the goals of national and international standardization of geographical names by building on the sound principles and resolutions which had been developed at the three previous conferences.

4.   Mrs. Françoise Cestac, Director, Translation Division, Department of Conference Services, gave a most informative overview of the importance of the standardization of geographical names and its close relationship to her Division and drew attention to a number of problems encountered and solutions to meet them on the practical application of the recommendations of the Conference and of the Group of Experts. Her address was circulated to participants (E/CONF.74/INF/6).

Adoption of the rules of procedure

5.   At its first plenary meeting, the Conference adopted its rules of procedure (E/CONF.74/2), but amended rule 37 to read:

"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."

The adopted rules of procedure are attached as annex IV below.

Officers of the Conference

6. The Conference elected the following officers:

President:	D. P. Blok (Netherlands)
Vice-Presidents:	J. Ramondou (France)
	A. Tazi (Morocco)
	Y. R. Velázquez García (Cuba)
Rapporteur:	A. Rayburn (Canada)
Editor-in-Chief:	R. R. Randall (United States of America)

Credentials

7. The Credentials Committee, composed of the President, the Rapporteur, V. Yurkovsky (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic), E. Kofos (Greece), E. Haack (German Democratic Republic), Col. Oemarijoto (Indonesia) and H. Matsuda (Japan), with the Executive Secretary ex officio, reported that the credentials of all delegates had been found to be in order. Their report was adopted by the Conference.

Adoption of the agenda

8. The Conference adopted as its agenda the provisional agenda prepared by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, but amended item 14 (a) to read:

"United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, including its aims and functions."

The agenda as adopted is given in annex I.

Organization of work

9. The Conference established five technical committees and appointed the following to a committee to nominate officers for those committees:

D. P. Blok (Netherlands)
J. Ramondou (France)
H. A. G. Lewis (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
S. Erinç (Turkey)

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

Committee I	Chairman:	E. Arjanov (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)

| | Vice-Chairman: | A. Rostvik (Sweden) |
| | Rapporteur: | D. Orth (United States of America) |

National standardization (item 5)

Toponymic education and practice (item 6)

Terminology in the standardization of geographical names (item 10)

Committee II	Chairman:	H. A. G. Lewis (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
	Vice-Chairman:	R. Böhme (Federal Repubic of Germany)
	Rapporteurs:	F. Beaudin (Canada) N. Kadmon (Israel)

Gazetteers (item 7)

Automated data processing (item 9)

Committee III	Chairman:	J. Ramondou (France)
	Vice-Chairman:	S. Erinç (Turkey)
	Rapporteur:	C. M. Heyda (United States of America)

List of country names (item 8)

Exonyms (item 11)

Policies, procedures and co-operative arrangements for the naming of features beyond a single sovereignty (item 12)

Committee IV	Chairman:	Y. L. Khular (India)
	Vice-Chairman:	B. Jørgensen (Denmark)
	Rapporteur:	P. J. Woodman (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

Writing systems (item 13)

Committee V	Chairman:	O. Adebekun (Nigeria)
	Vice-Chairman:	A. S. Abdo (Saudi Arabia)
	Rapporteurs:	Abdul Majid bin Mohamed (Malaysia)
		R. Marsden (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

International co-operation (item 14)

Economic and social benefits of national and international standardization of geographical names (item 15)

It was decided that each delegation could be a member of each committee.

11. The Conference established an Editorial Committee and Editorial Groups to assist the Technical Committees:

Editorial Committee

Chairman: R. R. Randall (United States of America)

Editors-at-Large: E. Shipley (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

                                             R. Marsden (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

                                             V. Koulikov (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)

                                             S. H. Shaw (United States of America)

Editorial Group - Committee I

Convenor: D. Orth (United States of America)

Members: E. Haack (German Democratic Republic)

                                             Col. Oemarijoto (Indonesia)

                                             Y. R. Velázquez García (Cuba)

                                             E. M. Närhi (Finland)

                                             R. Marsden (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

                                             E. Shipley (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

Editorial Group - Committee II

Convenors: F. Beaudin (Canada)

                                             N. Kadmon (Israel)

Members: R. Marsden (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

                                             E. Shipley (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

Editorial Group - Committee III

Convenor: C. M. Heyda (United States of America)

Members: V. M. Yurkovsky (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist
                                   Republic)

                                   Y. R. Velázquez García (Cuba)

                                   J. M. González Aboín (Spain)

                                   L. Fillion (Canada)

Editorial Group - Committee IV

Convenor: P. J. Woodman (United Kingdom of Great
                                   Britain and Northern Ireland ·

Members: R. Marsden (United Kingdom of Great Britain
                                   and Northern Ireland)

                                   E. Shipley (United Kingdom of Great Britain
                                   and Northern Ireland)

Editorial Group - Committee V

Convenors: Abdul Majid bin Mohamed (Malaysia)

                                   R. Marsden (United Kingdom of Great Britain
                                   and Northern Ireland)

Member: B. P. Grigoryev (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist
                                   Republic

Documentation

12. A list of the documents submitted to the Conference is given in annex II to
the present report. The technical papers are to be published as volume II of the
proceedings of the Conference.

Work of the Conference

13. In addition to its committee meetings, the Conference held six plenary
sessions. The work of the Conference is summarized in chapter II and the
resolutions adopted by the Conference are given in Chapter III.

Closing of the Conference

14. At its closing meeting on 14 September 1982, the Conference expressd its
gratitude to the President and the Bureau for the excellent way in which the
meetings were conducted. The Conference conveyed its appreciation to the

Government of Switzerland, through its Topographical Survey, for the hospitality extended to the participants. The Conference also expressed its heartfelt thanks to the outgoing Chairman of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, Mr. J. Breu (Austria) and its appreciation to the officers and staff of the United Nations.

CHAPTER II

SUMMARY OF THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

Plenary

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 Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (item 4)

15. The reports presented by the Linguistic/Geographical Divisions once more emphasized the significant role to be played by the divisions in fostering toponymic standardization and in promoting the aims of United Nations recommendations. This was specially reflected in the report presented of behalf of the Arabic Division, which held meetings under the auspices of the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) to exchange views on national and regional toponymic developments. Impressive activities had taken place in the Asia South-East and Pacific South-West Division in recent months. A meeting was held at Manila in October 1981, at which representatives from cartographic and topomyic agencies in five countries exchanged views. The toponymic training course held in Indonesia in June 1982 was noted as having been an unqualified success in terms of the experience gained by both the instructors and the students. The Romano-Hellenic Division had three meetings between 1977 and 1982. Among major items discussed were regional standardization, automated data processing, romanization of the Greek alphabet and training courses. The Norden Division reported that all member countries had produced toponymic guidelines for cartography. It was reported that Norway, Sweden and Finland had agreed on a new orthography for the North Lappish Dialect, and it was also noted that Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden had collaborated on a list of names of countries, adjectives and nouns related to nationality. The Dutch- and German-speaking Division reported that several meetings had been held since 1977, with activities focused on education and training in toponymy. In the past five years, the East, Central and South-Eastern Europe Division had met three times to discuss matters of mutual interest. Both the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics Division and the China Division, in presenting their national reports at the same time as their divisional reports, elaborated on a variety of toponymic developments in their respective areas. The United States of America-Canada Division noted a number of mutual exchanges and indicated that much of their work was accomplished through correspondence. The report for the Latin American Division drew attention to progress in several Latin American countries. The remaining divisions either gave no reports or commented on the great difficulties of convening meetings to discuss topics of common interest. This latter problem was emphasized by delegates in the Asia South-West Division (other than Arabic). On the matter of the linguistic/geographical divisional composition of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, Iran objected that his country was part of the same Division as Israel, that is, the "Asia South-West Division (other than Arabic)", and requested that the composition of the Divisions of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names be reviewed taking into account the principles laid down by the "Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Geographical Names" at its second session. 5/ Ireland requested withdrawal of his country from the United Kingdom Division. The review of the divisional composition was referred to the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.

16. Reports presented on behalf of countries reflected progress on many points in the standardization of geographical names. A highlight of the report of the Federal Republic of Germany was the introduction of the new Gazetteer of the Federal Republic of Germany. The German Democratic Republic noted the implementation of a number of United Nations resolutions relating to the standardization of names in that country. Canada reported on a number of interesting developments relating to policy development and referred to several new publications on display at the Conference.

17. The report submitted by the United States of America noted considerable progress in the standardization of names on both the domestic and international levels. Also mentioned in its report was the production of new gazetteers of undersea feature names and Antarctic names, and a programme to produce gazetteers for each State of the United States (see document E/CONF.74/L.75).

18. The country reports for Denmark, Finland and Sweden drew attention to several toponymic projects, including the development of automated data bases, dictionaries of place names and the development of guidelines for the standardization of names. Cyprus mentioned progress on many fronts, including the publication of a concise gazetteer of the country, which is preliminary to a comprehensive gazetteer to be produced in the next five years. A report on behalf of Cuba indicated that that country continues to be very active in name standardization. A paper was submitted on behalf of Australia, where developments in each of the States were itemized.

19. A report on activities in Austria was also submitted stating that, at present, the names of inhabited places are standardized and that the standardization of the names of the uninhabited places will be completed within this decade.

20. A report on Ireland dealt extensively with that country's two languages and how this affects the standardization of geographical names, and noted a number of other problems relating to policy development (see E/CONF.74/L.78). Among many items mentioned, Israel drew attention to a new computerized gazetteer with names in both Hebrew and Roman scripts. Turkey reported a number of activities, including the establishment of a names board and the writing of toponymic guidelines. Japan noted several developments in the standardization of its names. Morocco elaborated on a large number of toponymic activities with special reference to writing systems, gazetteers and exonyms; details were also given of the official creation of a Moroccan committee for the standardization of geographical names and on its numerous activities. Greece reported progress in adopting a standard romanization system for the Greek alphabet, as well as progress for the standardization of land, maritime and undersea feature names.

21. Indonesia reported on the successful training course held in June 1982. An extensive report was given on toponymic developments in Yugoslavia. France reported on a number of dialectal studies, progress in automation and related toponymic activities. Intensive work on standardization continued in the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic during the five years since the Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, held at Athens from 17 August to 7 September 1977. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland gave an extensive report drawing attention to the tremendous task of implementing the Pinyin system for Chinese names. This report also highlighted a comprehensive names study in Ireland some 150 years ago, and mentioned a new gazetteer of Belfast to accompany a street map of the city. Spain mentioned a new toponymic series based on the maps at the scale of 1:200,000, with one map for each

of the 50 provinces. A large number of countries, including Portugal, the Philippines, Peru, Senegal, Nigeria and Tunisia, noted that efforts were being made to co-ordinate name standardization with mapping programmes. Saudi Arabia stated that, since the Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in Athens, good progress had been achieved in standardizing geographicql names both on government and academic levels. Romania also reported on the progress it had achieved in the standardization of geographical names in their territory.

22.   The Executive Secretary stressed that statements in documents and publications distributed must remain the responsibility of the respective originating countries. He also stated that references or opinions in such documents do not imply their acceptance by the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country or territory, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontier.

23.   The Executive Secretary drew attention to a number of inaccurate references to the German Democratic Republic in some papers distributed at the Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in Athens in 1977. 6/ He requested each delegation to notify him if any misleading references were contained in the documents distributed at the Fourth Conference, so that the appropriate amendments and corrections could be made prior to the publication of the proceedings of the Conference.

Report on the work of Committee I

National standardization (item 5)

24.   Documents presented by countries described the work being done by each to achieve national standardization. It was noted that there had been significant advances in achieving the standardization of geographical names in many countries. However, considerable work still must be done in many other countries which have yet to begin or are in the initial stages of the activity. Field collection and office treatment of geographical names vary from one country to another. Tunisia and Senegal drew attention to the need for simple guidelines dealing with methodology. The handling of names in multilingual areas was still a major obstacle to standardization in many countries.

25.   Cuba reported on its standardization programme and the five-year plan of its national geographical names authority. Discussion of the report presented by Canada (E/CONF.74/L.25) revealed a difference of opinion concerning the intent of resolution 4 of the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names. 7/ Does the resolution recommend standardizing a single name, or is it possible to have two or more standard names for each feature? The Netherlands stated that this matter in resolution 4 needed clarification and expressed an opinion that standardization meant one name for each feature. Several countries, including the United Kingdom, the United States and Saudi Arabia, expressed the opinion that the principle of one standardized name for each feature is almost impossible to attain in some areas. The Special Assistant to the Executive Secretary stated that recommendation D of resolution 4 made it clear that more than one standardized name was allowed for a single feature in cases involving multilingual areas. During the discussion of the report of Japan on national standardization, it was made clear that although there might be three sets of characters, there was only one spelling for each name.

Field collection of names (item 5 (a))

26. Canada made a valuable contribution by reporting on the field collecting of Amerindian names in Quebec and its plans to publish a manual on the collecting of names. Ireland stated that similar work, converting names in one language to a writing system of another language, occurred in Ireland over a hundred years ago. Several delegates expressed their views that guidleines for this kind of work were needed. There was divided opinion as to whether office preparation was needed before the field collection of names. Ireland and Cyprus believed that research made prior to field work might bias the field collection process. Most Committee members, however, felt that such research was important because it ensured that the field work was performed adequately during a single field operation.

Office treatment of names (item 5 (b))

27. A report on the programme to standardize the street names in Canada's Province of Quebec was discussed. As to the question of when a name becomes standardized, it was the general opinion of the Committee members that although name publication on maps helps the standardization process, such publication does not itself standardize names. At this point, the German Democratic Republic, on the basis of document E/CONF.74/L.5, introduced a draft resolution relating to the use of standardized names of physiogeographic regions. 8/

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

28. Peru reported on the problems of writing toponyms coming from various unwritten languages and the evolution of their writing through the years. In the case of the Quechua language, the spelling of the toponyms was determined after establishing a "Quechua official alphabet", based on linguistic studies which have endeavoured to preserve their original meaning and thus standardizing the various names used so far.

National names authorities (item 5 (d))

29. Canada reported on the nature of its national and provincial names authorities. The provincial law creating Quebec's Commission de toponymie was outlined in detail as an example of how a geographical names authority is established.

Toponymic guidelines (item 5 (e))

30. The Special Assistant to the Executive Secretary gave a comprehensive report on the concept that lead to devising Toponymic Guidelines for Cartography. The guidelines are meant to help cartographers outside the country. The Chairman expressed the opinion that the toponymic guidelines represent an important step in international standardization. He raised the question of who would carry on the work of Mr. Breu, who was responsible for co-ordinating this activity during the last five years. The Committee decided to recommend that, if there were no volunteers, the Group of Experts should investigate the possibility of having Mr. Breu continue his valuable work as co-ordinator of the toponymic guidelines

programme and in other areas of assistance needed by countries, perhaps as a correspondent with the United Nations.

31. There was unanimous support for continuing the development of toponymic guidelines for all countries. The United States suggested that the title for the toponymic guidelines be changed so as not to imply that they were useful only for cartographers. It was agreed thast the title should be "Toponymic guidelines for map and other editors". Denmark raised the question of whether it might be of value to distinguish name elements (specific and generic on the one hand from descriptive terms on the other hand) in the toponymic guideline glossary. Denmark also suggested putting all the guidelines in one document, which would be useful to a variety of users. The Committee agreed with the suggestion, and so the means of publishing such a document was referred to the Group of Experts or the person who will take the job of being co-ordinator for the toponymic guidelines.

Toponymic education and practice (item 6)

32. Indonesia reported on the training course given in Cisarua from 7 to 18 June 1982. There was considerable discussion on the experience and educational background needed for students taking the course. It was stressed that the persons taking such training should be doing work directly involved with the subject of name standardization or its related activities. The United Kingdom stressed the importance of keeping the training practical and of ensuring that future training courses would be adapted to the toponymic problems of the area in which the course field work was conducted. Morocco stated that the historical aspects of names should not be overlooked in the training.

33. The United States expressed its opinion that future training courses should be a divisional matter. Saudi Arabia and Tunisia felt that expertise from outside a particular division was important. The Committee recommended that approval should be sought for future training courses to be financially supported by the United Nations.

34. Saudi Arabia proposed a motion of appreciation to the Government of Indonesia and to Mr. Ormeling of the Netherlands for successfully implementing a pilot training course. The Committee supported the motion.

35. The Committee continued its discussion of training courses with useful suggestions made by several delegates. Nigeria said that standardization was the goal and that we needed to find out what areas or countries required training in standardization techniques. Ireland stated that practical training should be given at several levels depending on the needs of the students. Members of the Committee felt that plans for future training courses should continue.

Terminology in the Standardization of Geographical Names
(item 10)

36. Angola and Senegal pointed out a problem in the definition for "Official language" in the "Glossary for technical terminology employed in the standardization of geographical names" 9/ and the absence of a definition for "national language" in the same document. Angola asked for the introduction of the concept of "mother tongue" in the United Nations glossary, as this term is of special importance in

multilingual countries. The Committee referred those questions to the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names for consideration and amendment. Morocco and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics requested that Arabic and Russian versions of the glossary be developed after the existing English, French and Spanish versions have been revised to include the amendments discussed at the present Conference.

37. There was a brief discussion of the document entitled "Guidelines for beginning a geographical names information file", prepared by the Federal Republic of Germany and the United States (E/CONF.74/L.97). Senegal and Tunisia proposed and it was agreed by the Committee that there was a need for papers of this kind to provide simplified technical guidelines.

Action by the Conference

38. In connection with the work of Committee I, the Conference adopted resolutions on the systematization and generalization of experience in the sphere of the standardization of geographical names (resolution 3); publication of toponymic guidelines for map and other editors (resolution 4); education in cartographic toponymy (resolution 5); course in toponymy (resolution 6); standardization of physiogeographic names (resolution 7); and terminology glossary (resolution 8).

Report on the work of Committee II

39. The Chairman opened the meeting and noted that Committee II would be dealing with two agenda items: (a) Gazetteers (item 7) and (b) Automated data processing (item 9). He introduced the United Kingdom gazetteer of names based on the 1:50,000 national map series, which has been prepared for publication. The gazetteer is a by-product of the preparatory stages for the production of that series by automation-assisted methods. The gazetteer contains 275,000 entries (see E/CONF.74/L.51 and Add.1). He stressed that map production by automation-assisted means was now a reality and that geographical names processing by computers was necessary to support such production.

40. Cyprus introduced the Concise Gazetteer of Cyprus, based on the 1:100,000 Greek edition of the map of Cyprus containing 2,000 entries (see E/CONF.74/L.81 and Add.1). The gazetteer gives grid co-ordinates and transliterates the Greek names according to the system recently adopted by the Cyprus Permanent Committee for the Standardization of Geographical Names and approved by the Government of Cyprus.

41. The Federal Republic of Germany introduced its gazetteer, which contains 16,000 entries and is based on the 1:500,000 map series (see E/CONF.74/L.10). The gazetteer had been produced utilizing computers and it was now envisaged that the names file would be expanded while the present gazetteer is kept current. Poland, the Soviet Union and the German Democratic Republic requested that the status of Berlin (West) be recognized in the gazetteer. The delegation of the USSR stated that, according to the stipulations of the Quadripartite Agreement of 3 September 1971, Berlin (West) is not a constituent part of the Federal Republic of Germany and may not be governed by it. Consequently, that part of the above-mentioned document which refers to Berlin (West) is in contradiction of that agreement and should be changed. The Federal Republic of Germany refused such a

-12-

change and stated that the treatment of Berlin (West) in the gazetteer accorded with the views of the Government and with international law. The Chairman proposed that political questions should be taken up through diplomatic channels and requested delegates to confine their remarks to technical and scientific matters.

42. Israel described the bi-scriptural gazetteer of its country which has 6,000 entries computer composed (see E/CONF.74/L.24). The feature codes in the file provide a link for production purposes with plotting and typesetting systems. The file also contains the authority and date for each standardized name. The Federal Republic of Germany explained that its file contained both numerical and alphabetical feature codes, the former being used for automated production purposes.

43. Canada describes the automated gazetteer of Quebec (available only in French as Répertoire toponymique du Quebec), produced by Quebec's Commission de toponymie, and drew attention to the detailed feature coding and administrative information included by them (see E/CONF.74/L.84). The second edition, published in 1979, contains 75,000 entries. Canada referred to the Gazetteer of Canada series (see E/CONF.74/L.32). Canada also presented a document (see E/CONF.74/L.34) describing the development of Canada's National Toponymic Data Base from 1977 to 1982, and a document (see E/CONF.74/L.35) describing the automated data base now under development by Quebec's Commission de toponymie.

44. The Special Assistant to the Executive Secretary commented on the gazetteer of Austria as presented at the Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, 6/ which includes a pronunciation guide in the International Phonetic Alphabet and a summary in French and Spanish. He pointed out that, since this gazetteer was a manual product, it would be more difficult to maintain than, for example, the gazetteer of the Federal Republic of Germany. The United States, Israel and Canada pointed out that the usefulness of gazetteers, for research and reference was increased when the variant names were included and related to the currently approved name.

45. Saudi Arabia described a 20-volume gazetteer of the Kingdom, which was being privately produced and which will incorpote all geographical names, including historical names occurring in the works of the poets and classical writers. A computer-based gazetteer, based on the 1:500,000 map series and including geographical co-ordinates, was, currently under preparation at King Saud University at Riyadh.

46. The United States described its National Gazetteer series, derived from a toponymic data base, which included currently approved names and former names and which was designed to serve a variety of users, of whom cartographers might soon be a minority (see E/CONF.74/L.101).

47. The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics informed the Committee about its experience concerning the automation of some processes used for preparation of gazetteers, maps and charts (see E/CONF.74/L.91). It also introduced a report on the national dictionaries of geographical names in the USSR (see E/CONF.74/L.92).

48. The United States, Israel and the Federal Republic of Germany were of the opinion that guidelines and criteria for the creation of geographical name information files should be developed to assist nations and to facilitate the international exchange of toponymic information (see E/CONF.74/L.97). A Conference working group comprising Nigeria, Spain, Tunisia and the United States was

established to consider such guidelines. The Committee noted that there was a requirement to establish computer codes for extended Roman-alphabet character sets for names information exchange purposes, since the existing International Standardization Organization standards for bibliography exchange were inadequate for this purpose (see E/CONF.74/L.71). Mr. Abelson, former map librarian at the Dag Hammarskjöld Library of the United Nations, reported that this Library was setting up a geographical names information file.

49. Japan introduced its gazetteer, which contains Kanji and Kana characters, romanized forms, location and map sheet number (see E/CONF.74/L.63).

50. The United Kingdom related recent experience with names processing employing micro-computers and the design of a toponymic data base aimed at supporting both map and gazetteer production (see E/CONF.74/L.58). The Chairman drew the attention of delegates to the advantages of automation cited in this paper.

51. A paper circulated by the United States (see E/CONF.74/L.71) described the development of a system to automate the processing of foreign-names data. The system has the capability to generate any letter or script for subsequent use in names processing.

52. The Committee discussed the efficiency of data capture systems and noted that several systems were available, including pre-formated screens, menu-equipped digitizers and dialogue at terminals between editors and computer.

53. Sweden described a computer-assisted photo-typesetting system, which supported 1:10,000, 1:50,000 and 1:250,000 national mapping series (see E/CONF.74/L.46). The initial costs of establishing the automated system have exceeded the costs of the previous manual processing. However, future revisions and maintenance of the file and the multi-purpose uses of the names data bank now established will reduce costs.

54. The Committee noted the considerable progress made by many countries since the Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in the preparation and publication of gazetteers in the following categories:

(a) National gazetteers for national use;

(b) Foreign gazetteers for national use;

(c) Regional gazetteers for national use;

(d) National gazetteers for international use.

55. The Committee further noted the significant progress made by many countries with the automated processing of geographical names information to create files which could support many useful purposes, such as gazetteer production, mapping and research in different fields.

56. Although the Committee had spent a great amount of time considering the application of computers to gazetteer production and the creation of names data bases for mapping and other purposes, it was acknowledged that only a small proportion of the nations represented at the Conference was suitably equipped technologically. Every effort would be made by individual nations to provide advice and to exchange information to aid in gazetteer production by either manual or computer methods.

57. It was recognized that gazetteers are really a form of data bank for geographical names and, therefore, of special relevance to map production; but, at the same time, map production is a means of furnishing data for names data bases and, therefore, has relevance to gazetteer production.

Action by the Conference

58. In connection with the work of Committee II, the Conference adopted resolutions on the manual of national name standardization (resolution 9); the combined treatment of toponymic data (resolution 18); and on the exchange of information in automated data processing (resolution 19).

Report on the work of Committee III

List of country names (item 8)

59. The Chairman stated that the draft list of country names (see E/CONF.74/L.68) was still a working document and that it contained names obtained by the delegates either from their Governments or from embassies. It was pointed out that some countries occasionally refer to themselves by different names. Delegates finding discrepancies, therefore, were asked to consult with their own Governments.

60. According to the Chairman, a computer file was set up by the convenor of the Working Group on a List of Country Names to facilitate the updating of the English, French and Spanish names in the draft list. Arabic names and their romanized forms did not yet appear in the list, but were prepared by the Documentation, Reference and Terminology Section of the United Nations Secretariat and sent to the Chairman of the Arabic Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names for comment. The list of country names, as prepared by the Arabic Division, was recently sent to the Arabic-speaking countries.

61. In view of the disagreement over the Russian translation of the name "Federal Republic of Germany", the Chairman stated that the Russian entries for that name should be deleted from the draft and that the approved Russian name would be decided upon by diplomatic action within the framework of the United Nations. The Federal Republic of Germany, however, asked that the translation of its country name into the Russian language in the list of country names be corrected and presented a draft resolution recommending that the names of countries be translated only according to linguistic considerations. The resolution was later withdrawn. The Soviet Union voiced its objection to that resolution because of its view that political implications were involved. Morocco expressed the view that each country should make the final decision concerning the translation of its own name into the languages used by the United Nations.

62. There was discussion concerning the fact that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names and the Documentation, Reference and Terminology Section of the United Nations Secretariat were both involved in work on country names with a resultant duplication of effort. The Chairman pointed out that there had been frequent exchanges of information between the working group and the United Nations Documentation, Reference and Terminology Section. He added that the draft list of country names goes far beyond the scope of the Terminology Bulletin, 10/ as it includes additional names in Russian, Chinese and Arabic, that is, in non-Roman

script forms as well as in romanized forms. It furthermore includes the names in the official language or languages of the respective countries, in the case of non-Roman script languages also in the original and in a romanized form. The United States presented a draft resolution recommending that the United Nations Documentation, Reference and Terminology Section assume full responsibility for the maintenance of the list after it has been published. The Chairman commented upon the difficulty of obtaining official names for some countries and the additional difficulty of obtaining suitable translations and romanizations. At the request of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, it was agreed to delete the following paragraph from the introduction to the draft list of country names:

> "The list only includes independent countries generally recognized by the international community. Certain of them, however, even though full United Nations Members, are not considered independent in the strict sense of the term: their names are followed by the sign (1)".

Errors in names and terminology used in the draft list were noted by several countries and the Chairman requested that all delegations review the document and submit written comments.

63. After discussion of the paper submitted by Austria (E/CONF.74/L.3), it was reported that the term "national language" would be replaced by the term "official language", and that errors noted by several delegations would be corrected in a revised edition. Angola agreed to supply definitions of the terms "official language" and "national language", as well as some additional terms, for consideration by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, to which the matter has been referred (see also para. 31).

64. Morocco recommended that the names of national capitals be added to the draft list of country names and the German Democratic Republic and Cuba supported the recommendation. Considering the difficulties involved in complying with such a recommendation, however, the Chairman stated that the proposal would have to be considered for a later edition of the list.

Exonyms (item 11)

65. Discussions took place on the various categories of exonyms that countries may omit from their published lists. 11/ There was general agreement that names of oceans and continents should not be regarded as exonyms.

66. Cuba and the German Democratic Republic called for a continued reduction in the use of exonyms and were supported by Greece, the Ukrainian SSR and the Netherlands. The German Democratic Republic requested that names changed in recent history which might be considered to have political implications no longer be used. The German Democratic Republic then presented a draft resolution on the matter. Concern expressed by some countries over the elimination of long-established historical exonyms was addressed by the Chairman, who stated that the aim was to reduce the number of exonyms, not to eliminate them altogether.

67. Saudi Arabia expressed its displeasure with other countries' use of the exonym spelling "Mecca" for the Holy City and requested that a note to that effect be put into the report. The correct romanization is "Makkah".

68. Several delegations commented on the names contained in the paper submitted by Poland (E/CONF.74/L.70), and the Chairman cautioned that some of the geographical names might not be truly official.

69. A discussion on the use of exonyms by commercial publishing companies prompted the United Kingdom and the United States to express the view that publishers might continue to use existing names (which then could be classified as exonyms) rather than new romanized spellings they considered too exotic for their readership.

70. India announced that it was preparing a third edition of its list of names changed since 1947. Names such as "Bombay" and "Calcutta" are considered by India to be exonyms.

71. Reasons for the retention and disappearance of exonyms were discussed, with the Federal Republic of Germany expressing the view that exonyms for features in neighbouring countries appear to be retained longer than others. There was general agreement that where exonyms are kept, the local official names should also be shown.

72. Spain referred to its five categories of exonyms which were differentiated by the nature and extent of their usage, suggesting that other countries could reduce their use of exonyms by first taking an inventory of the types of exonyms in existence. 12/ Cuba supported that view.

73. The Special Assistant to the Executive Secretary mentioned the fact that exonyms were widely used in aviation, in the Universal Postal Union and even in United Nations Conference documents. The Chairman made the statement that the Conference could recommend that the United Nations Secretariat should reduce its own use of exonyms.

Policies, procedures and co-operative arrangements for the naming of features beyond a single sovereignty (item 12)

74. Considerable comment was generated by the document presented by Spain (E/CONF.74/L.87), which consisted of a list of names in Spanish, French, English and Esperanto of features beyond a single sovereignty, including waterbodies and continental features. There was general agreement that the addition of Esperanto names was undesirable and it was pointed out that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names had decided, at its ninth session, to exclude Esperanto names. 13/ The Netherlands expressed the view that there was no reason why the features listed in document E/CONF.74/L.87 should have only one name. Other countries supported that view.

75. Believing that the Working Group on Undersea and Maritime Features, in co-operation with the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO), had done all that it could with regard to establishing principles and definitions for undersea features, the United States presented a draft resolution recommending that the task of the Working Group be limited to maritime features and that a liaison between the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names and the relevant national bodies be established. Turkey expressed the view that the Working Group still had some work to do on the subject of undersea features.

76. Canada announced that a list of names of some 3,500 undersea features along its coasts would become available next year.

77. The convenor of the Working Group on Undersea and Maritime Features submitted document E/CONF.74/L.104, prepared by Greece in accordance with paragraph 29 of the report of the ninth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, which contained a list of undersea feature names. 14/ He indicated that the names and associated information would be distributed to interested nations for approval and application as desired. Other nations were also encouraged to distribute names approved by appropriate national authorities. This procedure per se does not constitute international endorsement.

78. Turkey reported that its work in naming maritime and undersea features was not yet concluded, since its country has a long coastline. Name proposals, however, would be submitted to the convenor of the Working Group on Undersea and Maritime Features and to IHO in the near future. Turkey further expressed the view that names listed in document E/CONF.74/L.104 should only be considered as name proposals.

79. The outgoing Chairman of the Working Group for Planetary System Nomenclature of the International Astronomical Union (IAU) reported on the useful collaboration that took place between his organization and the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names on the subject of extraterrestrial feature names.

80. Believing that the Working Group on Extraterrestrial Topographic Features, in co-operation with IAU, had fulfilled all its tasks, the Netherlands and the Federal Republic of Germany presented a draft resolution recommending that the existing Working Group be dissolved and that its current Chairman continue to maintain liaison between the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names and the Working Group for Planetary Systems Nomenclature of the International Astronomical Union. In reply to a request by the United Kingdom that the liaison mentioned in the draft resolution be conducted on a periodic basis, the Soviet Union stated that it would consider an annual report to the Group of Experts to be appropriate.

Action by the Conference

81. In connection with the work of Committee III, the Conference adopted resolutions on the list of country names (resolution 10); the maintenance of the list of country names (resolution 11); maritime and undersea feature names (resolution 12); extraterrestrial feature names (resolution 13); and on the reduction of exonyms (resolution 20).

Report on the work of Committee IV

Writing systems (item 13)

82. The Committee agreed to base its discussion on the report of the Working Group on a Single Romanization System for each Non-Roman Writing System, contained in the report of the ninth session of the Group of Experts on Geographical Names, 15/ and on documents E/CONF.74/L.3, L.54, L.55, L.56, L.64, L.85, L.89 and L.112. The Chairman pointed to the difficulty of the subject under discussion, and regretted the absence of the convenor of the Working Group, who would have submitted a report. 16/ The Special Assistant to the Executive Secretary of the Conference introduced the paper submitted by Austria on writing systems (E/CONF.74/L.3) and requested that any necessary alterations be communicated to him.

83. The Committee then dealt with individual writing systems and alphabets:

(a) It was noted that the situation for Amharic, Hebrew, Khmer, Korean, Laotian, Macedonian Cyrillic, Maldivian, Persian, Serbo-Croation Cyrillic, and Thai has remained unchanged since the Third United Nations Conference on Geographical Names. There was no discussion on those writing systems.

(b) Arabic. Morocco noted that various systems of romanization existed and that it was important to achieve agreement. The Sudan reported that its newly-constituted Committee on Geographical Names had adopted, with a few alterations, the Amended Beirut System (1972), approved by the United Nations at the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names. 17/ In particular, rules for the representation of the sounds "ch", "ng", "ny", "p" and "v" had been added. This was necessary because unwritten minority Sudanese languages contained those sounds, not found in Arabic, and geographical names from those languages needed to be rendered in Arabic script. The Sudan affirmed that a romanization system should possess simplicity and precision, and should be widely used for geographical names in Arab countries. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya noted the various European cultural influences to which the Arab area had been exposed, and stressed the need for a single system to reflect the unity of the Arab world. Saudi Arabia was firmly of the opinion that the existing United Nations system (Amended Beirut System (1972)) worked very well. It was a good system which had been adopted by all Arab States. Other Arabic countries considered that there were certain problems which remained, however, and Morocco announced that an ALECSO meeting on this subject would take place. English-, French- and Spanish-speaking nations would be welcome to offer assistance and/or participate in this meeting. After discussion, the representatives of Arab countries reported that they confirmed their acceptance of the Amended Beirut System (1972) as a base for the romanization of Arabic. Further information on the use of this system by Arab countries would be communicated to future United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names.

(c) Bulgarian. No information had been received. Resolution 10 of the Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names 18/ remained valid.

(d) Burmese. It was understood that there was still no officially approved romanization system in use in Burma.

(e) Chinese. The Committee discussed the experiences of countries in using the Pinyin system of romanization, adopted by the United Nations at the Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names. 19/ The United Kingdom and the United States reported on the great efforts they had made in undertaking the adoption of Pinyin, and drew the attention of the Committee to document E/CONF.74/L.59. China agreed that Pinyin was a subject of great importance, and it announced that it would publish more Pinyin material for international use. China invited countries experiencing difficulties with Pinyin to consult Chinese experts in this field.

(f) Greek. Since the Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, much discussion had taken place in Greece concerning the adoption of a single romanization system for the transliteration and transcription of the Greek alphabet, and a system had recently been adopted by the Greek standardization authority (see E/CONF.74/L.85). The Cyprus Permanent Committee for

the Standardization of Geographical Names had also adopted this system, which had been approved by the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and had used it in the concise Gazetteer of Cyprus (see E/CONF.74/L.81 and Add.1). The Committee welcomed this development as a positive step towards the standardization of the romanization of the Greek alphabet. However, although this system was now a Greek standard, it had not yet been ratified by the Government of Greece.

(g) Languages of the India Division. The Chairman reported that there had been no change in the situation since the Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, but that India would urge countries of the division (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) to study the question.

(h) Japanese. It was reported that the question of the two parallel systems of romanization (Kunrei-siki and Modified Hebon-siki) was still unresolved. Japan informed the Committee that this problem was under review, but that a solution was unlikely in the near future (see E/CONF.74/L.64).

(i) Mongolian. It was reported that no answer had been received to a letter sent by the convenor of the Working Group on a Single Romanization System for each Non-Roman Writing System requesting information from the authorities in Mongolia. The situation therefore remained as reported at the Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names. 20/

(j) Pashto and Dari. No information had been received.

(k) Russian. The Soviet Union reported that it was in a position to submit a draft resolution to the conference on a romanization system of the Cyrillic alphabet, based on the USSR State Standard No. 16876-71, known as the GOST system. This system has also been adopted by the countries of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) (see E/CONF.74//L.89). The United Kingdom and the United States noted that the system necessitated the use of several diacritical marks. If these were omitted, for whatever reason, great confusion would result. Further, many nations already had workable romanization systems which had been used for many thousands of geographical names. Moreover, no evidence of the use of this particular system had yet been seen, and it would therefore be inappropriate to adopt the system.

84. The Soviet Union felt that the use of diacritical marks did not constitute a disadvantage, and informed the Committee that a variant form with digraphs existed for those users without the means of incorporating diacritical marks. However, the version with diacritical marks was to be used for cartography. The system had been carefully thought out and the comments of potential users had been sought. This guaranteed its stability, as far as possible, although it would be periodically reviewed in the Soviet Union.

85. Cuba supported the system, arguing that the decision of a donor country should be respected. The German Democratic Republic was of the opinion that this system was superior to others and was very appropriate for international use. Spain also noted the complete reversibility of the system, which it considered a great advantage.

86. The Soviet Union informed the Committee that it appreciated the significance of adopting a system of romanization, and understood that not all delegations had

yet familiarized themselves thoroughly with the details of this particular system. The Soviet Union was aware that no maps or documents using this system had yet appeared outside of countries of CMEA, and considered it appropriate to defer the submission of a draft resolution, if this proved to be the consensus of the Committee.

87. The United Kingdom welcomed this suggestion, and hoped that the Soviet Union would agree to confer with interested countries on the subject, since their views would be useful to the Soviet Union. This was agreed. The United States stressed the serious nature of adopting any romanization system, since the ramifications of such a recommendation would extend beyond the field of geographical names. The United States therefore also welcomed the opportunity for discussion.

88. The Soviet Union reported that it agreed to continue the discussion, but noted that, since the GOST system was in use for cartography by countries of CMEA, the requirements of resolution 9 of the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names 21/ were being fulfilled.

89. Saudi Arabia introduced the subject of conversion into non-Roman writing systems by considering that insufficient attention had been paid to this aspect. It was vital to study the question of rendering Roman-alphabet geographical names in other writing systems. Morocco agreed that this was a very important question, which posed constant problems. There were, for example, phonetic difficulties of transcribing Roman script into Arabic, especially since such letters as "g", "p" and "v" did not possess equivalents in Arabic. The United Kingdom also stressed the importance of this topic, and announced that it would look into the problems.

90. On the general subject of romanization, the United Kingdom considered that the existence of many different Roman alphabets made the search for single romanization systems difficult (see E/CONF.74/L.54 and L.55). The vital need for communication and education meant that existing Roman alphabets, such as those for English, French and Spanish used by the United Nations were often more appropriate than alphabets devised specifically for the romanization of a given non-Roman writing system.

91. Cuba considered that such an approach would allow certain languages to become dominant. The objective of standardization demanded that the decision of the donor country be respected, and meant that romanization based on receiver languages was impermissible. The United Kingdom disagreed, pointing out that, if the principle of donor systems were accepted, it would need to be applied universally rather than unilaterally. It would therefore also apply to conversion into non-Roman writing systems.

92. The United States stressed the need for practicality in romanization, and pointed out that geographical names were just one part of the ever-growing field of communications (see E/CONF.74/L.112). Continuity of reference was essential; its disruption would involve great cost and was not desirable. The Soviet Union, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Romania and the Federal Republic of Germany were among those who considered that this argument contained certain flaws, principally in its assertion that romanization systems could be based on the English, French and Spanish alphabets.

93. Nigeria understood the sentiments of the argument, and was of the opinion that, although the conclusions drawn by the United States might not be correct, the

document should be submitted to the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names for discussion. The Soviet Union also considered this to be a more suitable forum for discussion of the document. Greece respected the opinions presented by the United States, but pointed out that non-Roman alphabet countries also had great problems in that their own names were romanized in many different ways. Standardization was needed and the most satisfactory method of achieving this was through consultation between donors and receivers. The United Kingdom and the United States agreed on the need for consultation, and the Chairman also considered this to be the best approach.

Action of the Conference

94. In connection with the work of Committee IV, the Conference adopted resolutions on the conversion into non-Roman writing systems (resolution 14); guidelines for the consideration of romanization systems (resolution 15); guidelines for the achievement of systems of romanization (resolution 16); and on the transliteration into Roman and Devanagari scripts of the India Division (resolution 17).

Report on the work of Committee V

95. The discussion on International co-operation (item 14) was made with reference to the following:

(a) United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names ("Group of Experts"), including its aims and functions (E/CONF.74/L.43 and L.44);

(b) Divisional and interdivisional meetings and programmes (no documents);

(c) Exchange of information (no documents);

(d) Technical assistance (E/CONF.74/L.43 and L.44);

(e) Co-operation with international organizations (E/CONF.74/L.98);

(f) Co-operation with public information media (no documents).

96. The discussion on economic and social benefits of national and international standardization (item 15) of geographical names was made with reference to documents E/CONF.74/L.18 and L.119.

97. The Chairman, in reporting that the Group of Experts had held two meetings since the Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, drew attention to some of the revisions that had taken place in the composition of the geographical/linguistic divisions. The Chairman of the Asia, South-East Division reported that the enlargement of his Division to become the Asia South-East and Pacific South-West Division had been accepted by the Group of Experts at its ninth session, and that this new and enlarged Division held its first meeting at Manila in October 1981. He also reported the attendance, for the first time, of Democratic Kampuchea and Brunei at this meeting. In reply to a query raised by Tunisia, the Committee advised that Tunisia should approach the Arabic Division for its inclusion in that Division. Queries were also raised by

member countries, especially Ireland, with respect to the composition of various other divisions, and the status of certain inactive countries already belonging to a particular division. After a lengthy discussion, the Committee advised that the divisional compositions would remain unchanged until the next session of the Group of Experts. It was noted that the delegations might, through governmental channels, bring this matter up before a meeting of the Group of Experts, at the same time informing the Chairman of their Division. Delegations attending this Conference for the first time were further advised to consider with which division their countries would like to be associated; they were also informed that they could belong to more than one division. A draft resolution recognizing the positive results and the growing influence of the work of the Group of Experts 22/ was submitted to the Conference for its approval.

98. The report of the ninth session of the Group of Experts (E/CONF.74/L.44) was discussed at length. The majority of the Committee felt that the report was satisfactory, but there were reservations concerning annex VI, entitled "Aims and functions", particularly paragraph 13 thereof. The Committee recommended that this paragraph should be deleted, and some members expressed the wish that annex VI in its entirety be examined again by the United Nations Group of Experts at its next session. At this point, the discussion was terminated without conclusion.

99. The Committee noted with satisfaction the increasing activity and participation of nations and divisions in divisional and interdivisional meetings and programmes (item 14 (b)). It also noted that when interdivisional meetings could not be arranged, there was correspondence between the Chairmen of Divisions and the countries belonging to them. Romania underlined the necessity of disseminating the experience gained in the field of the standardization of geographical names, and suggested that the Group of Experts work out a set of guidelines concerning the methodology and technical principles involved in the process of such standardization. The Committee noted that document E/CONF.74/L.97 contained a similar call for guidelines and could be the basis of such work (see para. 32). A draft resolution 23/ to encourage the divisions and nations to be more active in their own names standardization programmes was submitted to the Conference for its approval.

100. The Committee agreed on, and reiterated the desirability of, providing information on the basis of which users might judge the reliability and accuracy of names contained in name source documents, hence further endorsing resolution 4 adopted by the Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names. 24/

101. Concerning the difficulties faced on providing aids that can assist in the pronunciation of geographical names, the Committee further endorsed resolution 7, adopted by the Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, in which it recommended that the Group of Experts should carry out further research and should design experiments in this field.

102. The Committee recognized that the discussion on procedures regarding documentation and exchange of information (item 14 (c)) overlapped certain aspects of the work of Committee I, under agenda item 6 (Toponymic education and practice) and Committee IV, under agenda item 13 (Writing systems). Israel proposed that a list of transliteration rules be disseminated together with maps that are produced in languages other than the official language of the map publisher, and that this list should include elements necessary for graphic processing in computer-assisted cartography.

103. In the discussion on technical assistance (item 14 (d)), the Committee considered document E/CONF.74/L.72, in which the United States reported that courses had been offered through the United States Board on Geographic Names for representatives of other countries, who provided their own travel and living expenses. The Chairman commented that the course given in the United States was a very good one and took the opportunity to express his thanks for the excellent arrangements for a trainee from Nigeria who had benefited from the course.

104. Canada also indicated that its Permanent Committee could arrange for training courses for representatives of other countries that are able to provide their own travel and living expenses. In reply to a question as to whether the United Nations was in a position to fund such programmes, the Executive Secretary explained that technical assistance might be possible through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), provided the request is channelled through the UNDP resident representative in the individual country via the national ministry dealing with technical assistance.

105. On the subject of co-operation with international organizations (item 14 (e)), the Committee was informed of the interest, encouragement and support of the International Geographical Union (IGU) for the effort of the United Nations in the standardization of names. Concerning its work with the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), the United States gave a brief report on the situation as regards the standardization of geographical names.

106. On the subject of co-operation with public information media (item 14 (f)), the Special Assistant to the Executive Secretary reported to the Committee that both the International Telecommunication Union and the Universal Postal Union strictly preserve the content of materials given to them by member countries. To a query by Morocco, on the possibility of the various public media using the Amended Beirut System of 1972 (see para. 79 (b)) as the basis for the romanization of Arabic, the Special Assistant to the Executive Secretary drew the attention of the Committee to the fact that Chinese names in the next issue of the World Gazetteer for Postal Services would be entered in the Pinyin system, and advised that the Arab countries could similarly approach the postal authorities of their respective countries for names entries to be made in the Amended Beirut System (1972). The Arab countries expressed the hope that they could reach a suitable romanization system for Arabic agreeable to all of them during the next meeting of the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO).

107. The discussion on the economic and social benefits of national and international standardization of geographical names (item 15) began with a report, presented by a representative of the Economic Commission for Europe (TRADE/WO.4/INF.66), on the use of a standardized five-letter alphabetic code system for purposes of international trade to designate locations of ports, airports, inland freight terminals and other locations where customs clearance of goods can take place. The Executive Secretary also drew the attention of participants to a publication of the United Nations Statistical Office entitled Standard Country or Area Codes for Statistical Use, 25/ which lists standard codes and abbreviations of the English language names of countries or areas together with standard codes of selected grouping of countries or areas, for use in processing and tabulating statistical data. The standard abbreviations are shown in maximum lengths of 8 and 12 characters and have been designed to establish some measure of visual association with the name of the country or area. Alphabetical codes for the representation of names of countries or areas, of two or three letters, have

been developed by the International Organization for Standardization, and are also given. The Chairman mentioned that this can be seen as having a direct bearing on economic benefits of the work of the United Nations in standardizing geographical names. Document E/CONF.74/L.18, presented by the Dutch- and German-speaking Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, further stressed the practical benefits that can be obtained, especially in the fields of transport and communications, through a systematic programme of collecting, processing and standardizing geographical names. The Chairman further drew the attention of the Committee to the social and economic benefits that can be derived from the standardization of maritime and undersea features, as well as the special significance of the standardization of names of features that extend beyond a single sovereignty. Canada reported on the experience of the Government of Quebec that benefited from the work of its Commission de toponymie, when the Government's regulation on environmental protection referred to only those lakes and rivers whose names had been included in the provincial gazetteer and supplements. Lastly, the Committee considered document E/CONF.74/L.119, prepared jointly by the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, which highlighted the economic and social benefits of the standardization of geographical names, especially to the developing world. India and Cyprus both supported the views expressed by the authors of that paper and the Committee agreed on a draft resolution 22/ to this effect, to be submitted for the approval of the Conference.

108. There was a discussion on the expenses incurred by nations participating in United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names and sessions of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names. The United States proposed that the length of such meetings be reduced so that more nations could attend and could benefit. Regarding the aims and functions of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, 26/ the United States also suggested that particular attention be paid to the section concerning methods of governing the tasks of the working groups (function No. 11). Other discussions centred on the need to co-ordinate the work of the United Nations on lists of country names and on the requirements of accelerating work to standardize names. Draft resolutions to this effect were proposed. 27/

Action by the Conference

109. In connection with the work of Committee V, the Conference adopted resolutions on the acceleration of work on standardization of geographical names (resolution 2); commendation of the work of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (resolution 21); on principles of activities and structure of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (resolution 22); statement of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names of aims and functions and its effect on working groups (resolution 23); divisional activities (resolution 24); and on the funding support of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (resolution 25).

CHAPTER III. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE

List of resolutions

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

The Conference,

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

Further noting the important contributions made by the Conference to this work,

Recognizing the necessity of continuing this important work,

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

2. Recommends to the Economic and Social Council that a Fifth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names be held in Canada not later than the second half of 1987.

2. Acceleration of work on standardization of geographical names

The Conference,

Noting that, during the period since the First United Nations conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names there has been a change in emphasis from the execution of large special projects to a more general need for development of land use and natural resources, land redistribution, conservation of the environment and the preservation of natural resources, all of which necessitates unambiguous reference in the naming of physical entities.

Noting further that international organizations, aid authorities, government departments, engineering and mining contractors, and agencies concerned with land use, water resources, agriculture, mineral exploration and development require detailed general planning documentation and that geographical names constitute a major element in such documentation and in the identification of administrative elements, land title and a wide range of other legal documents,

Recognizing that discrepancies occurring in geographical names on maps have been experienced by all concerned with such subjects and that this confusion is compounded by similar disparities in the names to be found in material and documents issued for purposes such as transportation and tourism, economic studies and telecommunications, and that variant names result inevitably in doubt and sometimes total confusion causing unnecessary expenditure of time and money,

Recognizing further the cultural and social importance of geographical names,

Recommends that the standardization of geographical names should be accelerated by all possible means.

3. **Systematization and generalization of experience in the sphere of the standardization of geographical names**

The Conference,

Considering that substantial experience has been acquired in this field since the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names,

Considering also that that experience should be systematized and generalized for its better use by all interested countries,

Aware that some countries are still in the process of drafting national instructions for the standardization of geographical names,

1. Recommends that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names should, at its next session, initiate the systematization of the experience acquired so far by preparing a handbook of general technical and methodological principles for the standardization of geographical names which could be used by interested countries as a guide in the elaboration of their own standardization procedures;

2. Recommends also that the document in question should be circulated to all participating countries and should be examined at the next Conference.

4. **Publication of toponymic guidelines for map and other editors**

The Conference,

Recognizing the desirability of international exchange of information concerning the main facts, measures and achievements in the field of national name standardization,

Noting that within the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names progress has been made in this respect since its eighth session, 28/

1. Recommends that countries should be encouraged to publish and keep up-to-date toponymic guidelines for map and other editors which may enable cartographers of other countries to treat correctly all problems of cartographic toponymy of the countries that produced such guidelines, and which may be of help to all users in interpreting maps;

2. Further recommends that those guidelines contain, inter alia and as appropriate, the following items:

(a) Legal status of geographical names in the respective languages of multilingual countries;

(b) Alphabets of the language or languages and furthermore, in the case of non-Roman alphabets and scripts, the officially introduced romanization keys;

(c) Spelling rules for geographical names;

(d) Aids to pronunciation of geographical names;

(e) Linguistic substrata recognizable in the existing place names, but only as far as their knowledge may be of benefit to the cartographer;

(f) Relationship between dialect(s) and standard language(s);

(g) Peculiarities of dialect and areal distribution of the main dialects;

(h) Areal distribution of languages within multilingual countries;

(i) Names authorities and measures taken in names standardization;

(j) Source material;

(k) Glossary of words necessary for the undertanding of maps;

(l) Abbreviations in official maps;

(m) Administrative division;

3.   Recommends also that the toponymic guidelines submitted by Austria 29/ should serve as a sample of format and contents;

4.   Further recommends that a correspondent should be appointed by the United Nations Group of Experts on the Standardization of Geographical Names to co-ordinate the work of developing national toponymic guidelines and to maintain communication with national experts involved in the development of such guidelines.

5.   Education in cartographic toponymy

The Conference,

Noting that there exists a need for professional personnel with education in cartographic toponymy,

Noting further that very few universities and academies have cartographic toponymy as part of the curriculum,

Recommends that each country should aim at providing training in cartographic toponymy at the university or corresponding academic level.

6.   Course in toponymy

The Conference,

Taking account of the success of the First Pilot Course in Toponymy, held in Cisarua, Indonesia, in June 1982, 30/

Recommends the holding of similar courses and seminars in other geographic/ linguistic divisions and further recommends that a submission should be made by the Cartography Section of the Natural Resources and Energy Division, Department of Technical Co-operation for Development of the United Nations Secretariat on behalf of the Conference for the provision of the necessary funds to provide for such courses and seminars.

7. Standardization of physiogeographic names

The Conference,

Considering that it is necessary to intensify activities within the framework of national standardization of geographical names, in accordance with resolution 16 of the Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, 31/

Recognizing that the standardization of named physiogeographic regions contributes to the solution of various problems,

1. Recommends that named physiogeographic regions should be registered and characterized unambiguously;

2. Further recommends that the named physiogeographic regions should be listed in surveys and other documents along with locations and dimensions of the features, and that the same procedures should be followed also with respect to regional features divided among two or more countries.

8. Terminology glossary

The Conference,

Noting that Arabic is to be introduced as an official language of the Economic and Social Council and of United Nations conferences on the standardization of geographical names,

Bearing in mind that the United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names recommended the establishment of a glossary of the terminology used in the standardization of geographical names and that the English, French and Spanish versions of that glossary are available, 32/

Being aware of the importance of that glossary for the harmonization of definitions, the clarification of concepts and the determination of the meanings of technical terms,

Recommends that the Documentation, Reference and Terminology Section of the Translation Division of the United Nations Department of Conference Services should, in collaboration with the Arabic Service of the Translation Division, establish the Arabic version of that glossary.

9. Manual of national name standardization

The Conference,

Noting the importance of resolution 4 of the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names 33/ as the primary document that provides recommended guidelines for accomplishing national standardization,

Noting further that a need has been expressed for a manual of simplified guidelines to assist Member States which are beginning or are in the initial stage of national standardization,

Recommends that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, at its eleventh session, should examine the possibility of developing such a manual by amplifying recommendations A, B and C of the said resolution 4.

10. List of country names

The Conference,

Considering the interest in the list of country names being prepared by the Working Group on a List of Country Names of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names,

Noting that further information is required to complete the list,

Recommends that each country should co-operate in this task with the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.

11. Maintenance of the list of country names

The Conference,

Noting that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names has a programme to prepare and to maintain a list of country names,

Recognizing that the United Nations Documentation, Reference and Terminology Section has a similar programme,

Recommends that the two activities should be co-ordinated and that the United Nations Documentation, Reference and Terminology Section should be approached by the Cartography Section of the Natural Resources and Energy Division, Department of Technical Co-operation for Development of the United Nations Secretariat to assume full responsibility for maintenance of the cited list after it has been published.

12. Maritime and undersea feature names

The Conference,

Noting that the Working Group on Undersea and Maritime Features of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names has completed its tasks in regard to undersea features, as called for by resolution 22 of the Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, 34/

Observing that work in maritime features has not been finished, but should be further co-ordinated with similar work of the International Hydrographic Office, as recommended by the Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in its resolution 21, 35/

1.   Recommends that the task of the Working Group should be limited to maritime features;

2.   Further recommends that the Group of Experts should identify a point of contact to carry out essential liaison and communications regarding names of undersea features proposed by national bodies.

13.   Extraterrestrial feature names

The Conference,

Considering the statement on the present state of affairs made by the chairman of the Working Group on Extraterrestrial Features of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (E/CONF.74/L.93),

Noting that the naming of extraterrestrial features is done in a satisfactory way by the Working Group for Planetary System Nomenclature of the International Astronomical Union,

1.   Recommends that the Working Group on Extraterrestrial Features of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names should be dissolved;

2.   Further recommends that the chairman of the Working Group on Extraterrestrial Features should continue to maintain liaison between the United Nations Group of Experts and the Working Group for Planetary System Nomenclature of the International Astronomical Union.

14.   Conversion into non-Roman writing systems

The Conference,

Noting the progress which has been achieved in the romanization of non-Roman writing systems,

Recognizing the need to investigate the possibilities of conversion into non-Roman writing systems,

Recommends that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names should consider the conversion of non-Arabic writing systems into Arabic script and, in particular, whether or not non-Roman writing systems should be converted into Arabic script through the medium of the Roman alphabet.

15.   Guidelines for the consideration of romanization systems

The Conference,

Recognizing the need to ensure maximum stability of romanization systems,

Noting that guidelines governing the consideration of romanization systems are desirable,

Further noting the principle that international standardization should be based on national standardization,

1. **Recommends** that new romanization systems for international use should be considered only on condition that the sponsoring nations implement such systems on their cartographic products (maps and charts);

2. **Further recommends** that States should refrain from revising systems previously adopted for international use.

16. Guidelines for the achievement of systems of romanization

The Conference,

Reaffirming the validity of resolution 9, adopted by the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, 36/ on achieving a single romanization system for each non-Roman writing system,

Recognizing, however, the difficulties involved in arriving at romanization systems agreeable to all countries,

Considering that suitable consultations are desirable, particularly within the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names,

Recommends that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, at its next session should request the Working Group on a Single Romanization System for each Non-Roman Writing System to discuss any system that might be submitted to it and to report its findings to the Group of Experts at its following session.

17. Transliteration into Roman and Devanagari scripts of the Indian Division

The Conference,

Referring to resolution 11 of the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names 37/ and resolution 12 of the Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, 38/

Noting the work done in transliteration into Roman and Devanagari 39/ and amendments thereto accepted at the Third Conference, 40/

Further noting progress made and work required in the Indian Division,

1. **Recommends** that the Indian Division should undertake further studies in Urdu and Bangla in conjunction with the experts of Pakistan and Bangladesh;

2. **Further recommends** association with Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka in carrying out those studies.

18. Combined treatment of toponymic data

The Conference,

Noting that it has become increasingly difficult to separate the subjects of automated data processing and gazetteers,

Recognizing that automated data processing is just one means of creating a names information file,

Further recognizing that gazetteers are merely one product of a names information file,

Recommends that future United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names and sessions of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names should consider both subjects under the single agenda item "Toponymic data files, (a) creation, (b) maintenance and (c) output, including gazetteer production".

19. Exchange of information in automated data processing

The Conference,

Noting the progress being achieved in the field of automated data processing of geographical names,

Recognizing the benefits of the exchange of information among nations in all matters concerning geographical names during the period between United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names,

Recommends that all countries should send to the Cartography Section of the Natural Resources and Energy Division of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development of the United Nations Secretariat reports concerning progress achieved in the collection, treatment, writing and publishing of geographical names, especially in the field of automated data processing, so that a compendium of information may be produced on an annual basis for dissemination by the Cartography Section as seen fit.

20. Reduction of exonyms

The Conference,

Noting that, in accordance with resolutions 18 and 19 of the Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, 41/ further progress has been made in the reduction of the number of exonyms used and a number of States have prepared lists of their own exonyms,

Realizing that the reduction of exonyms used has not been carried out with the same intensity by all States,

Realizing further that the methods and principles aimed at a reduction of the number of exonyms used should constantly be reviewed for expeditious implementation of the resolution and understanding that not all countries can govern the content of maps and atlases published within their territories,

Recommends that exonyms giving rise to international problems should be used very sparingly and published in parenthesis with the nationally accepted standard name.

21. Commendation of the work of the United Nations Group of Experts
    on Geographical Names

The Conference,

Recognizing the positive results of the efforts and work carried out by the
United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names,

Considering also the growing influence of the documents prepared by the Group
of Experts on Geographical Names on the national and international development of
standardization of geographical names,

1. Recommends that the Group of Experts should continue its efforts to
standardize geographical names at the national and international level;

2. Also recommends that the Economic and Social Council should express its
appreciation of the efforts of the experts of the various countries which have made
it possible to achieve the existing level of standardization of geographical names.

22. Principles of activities and structure of the United Nations
    Group of Experts on Geographical Names

The Conference,

Noting the usefulness of the activities of the United Nations Group of Experts
on Geographical Names,

Noting also that in order to improve the effectiveness of its future
activities, it may be necessary to review the form of the basic documents, which
are United Nations decisions, modus operandi, aims and functions and rules of
procedure, defining the activities of the Group of Experts,

Acknowledging that the available documents should identify precisely the
essential principles of the activities and structure of the Group of Experts,

Noting further that there are several relevant documents which have been
prepared separately,

Recommends that the Group of Experts should examine the possibility of
preparing a document combining and modifying, where appropriate, the separate
documents referred to above.

23. Statement of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical
    Names of aims and functions and its effect on Working Groups

The Conference,

Noting that the Group of Experts on Geographical Names adopted a statement of
aims and functions at its ninth session, 42/

Taking note of function 11 of the statement, which read as follows:

"Take steps to make the working groups of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names more effective:

"(a) Working Groups will be established only where the tasks assigned to them have a direct bearing on the aims of the Group of Experts.

"(b) The need for the existence of working groups will be reviewed at successive sessions of the Group of Experts for the purposes of continuing or terminating their mandates.

"(c) Immediately after conferences, the Group of Experts will discuss and evaluate conference proceedings. Working Groups and their mandates will be evaluated. New working groups will be formed as required",

Considering that this statement provides a means whereby the Group of Experts can operate more effectively,

Recommends that the activities of the Working Groups should be governed accordingly.

24. Divisional activities

The Conference,

Considering that the Geographical/Linguistic Divisions are a fundamental element in the structure of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names,

Considering further that the Divisions are particularly well qualified to recognize problems of standardization of geographical names common to their geographical/linguistic areas,

Noting that certain divisions have made outstanding progress in the development of solutions concerning name standardization,

Recognizing the necessity of extending the exchange of experience and information among different divisions,

1. Recommends that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names should continue to encourage the Geographical/Linguistic Divisions to be more active in implementing the decisions of the United Nations conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names, as applicable, in working out reporting schedules on their activities to all States within their Divisions and to the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names;

2. Recommends further that the Divisions should promote the exchange of information among them and, for this prupose, should make available to the other divisions, as frequently as possible, the results of their work in the way deemed appropriate.

25. Funding support of the United Nations Group of Experts on
    Geographical Names

The Conference,

Confirming the requirement for the continued operations of the United Nations
Group of Experts on Geographical Names,

Recommends that the Cartography Section of the Natural Resources and Energy
Division of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development of the United
Nations Secretariat, on behalf of the Conference, should investigate the
possibility of the provision of funds by the appropriate United Nations agency for
the financing of the meetings of the Group of Experts.

26. Vote of thanks

The Conference,

1.   Expresses its gratitude to the President of the Conference and the
Chairmen of the Committees for the excellent way in which they conducted the
meetings, and to the Editor-in-Chief and the editorial committees for their
dedication;

2.   Expresses its appreciation to the Government of Switzerland, through its
Federal Office of Topography, for the hospitality extended to the participants;

3.   Expresses its thanks to the outgoing Chairman of the United Nations Group
of Experts on Geographical Names for the valuable work done by Professor J. Breu of
Austria;

4.   Expresses its thanks to the officers and staff of the United Nations for
their hard and dedicated work.

Notes

1/   Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, Belgium, Brazil,
Bulgaria, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Egypt,
Finland, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece,
Holy See, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan,
Kuwait, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, Nigeria,
Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Saudi
Arabia, Senegal, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo,
Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of
Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland,
United States of America, Venezuela, Yugoslavia.

2/   International Telecommunication Union, World Meteorological Organization.

3/   Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO),
International Astronomical Union (IAU), International Geographical Union (IGU), and
International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

4/ World Association of World Federalists.

5/ See Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, London, 10-31 May 1972, vol. II, Technical papers (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.74.I.4), pp. 239-244.

6/ See Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, Athens, 17 August-7 September 1977, vol. II, Technical papers (United Nations publication, Sales No. E/F/S.81.I.7).

7/ See 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.

8/ Resolution 7: Standardization of physiogeographic names.

9/ Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, Athens, 17 August-7 September 1977, vol. II, Technical papers (United Nations publication, Sales No. E/F/S.81.I.7), p. 236, No. 63.

10/ Terminology Bulletin No. 327, "Names of countries and adjectives of nationality" (ST/CS/SER.F/327 and Corr.1 and 2).

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), para. 55.

12/ Ibid., para. 56.

13/ Document E/CONF.74/L.44, para. 43.

14/ Ibid., para. 29.

15/ Ibid., para. 28.

16/ The report of the convenor of the Working Group (E/CONF.74/L.116) arrived too late to be incorporated into the discussion of the Committee.

17/ Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, London, 10-31 May 1972, vol. II, Technical papers (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.74.I.4), pp. 30 and 31.

18/ See 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.

19/ Ibid., resolution 8.

20/ 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), para. 75.

21/ See 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.

22/ Adopted as resolution 21: Commendation of the work of the Group of Experts.

23/ Adopted as resolution 24: Divisional activities.

24/ See 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, resolution 4.

25/ ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/49/Rev.2 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.XVII.8).

26/ Document E/CONF.74/L.44, annex VI.

27/ Adopted as resolution 2: Acceleration of work on standardization of geographical names, and resolution 23: Statement of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names of aims and functions and its effect on working groups.

28/ Document E/CONF.74/L.43.

29/ Document E/CONF.74/L.2.

30/ Documents E/CONF.74/L.65 and E/CONF.74/L.76.

31/ See 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.

32/ See Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, London, 10-31 May 1972, vol. II, Technical papers (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.74.I.4), pp. 48-58 and Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, Athens, 17 August-7 September 1977, vol. II, Technical papers (United Nations publication, Sales No. E/F/S.81.I.7), pp. 232-245.

33/ See 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.

34/ See 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.

35/ Ibid.

36/ See 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.

37/   See 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.

38/   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), p. 29.

39/   Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, London, 10-31 May 1972, vol. II, Technical papers (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.74.I.4), pp. 117-162.

40/   Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, Athens, 17 August-7 September 1977, vol. II, Technical papers (United Nations publication, Sales No. E/F/S.81.I.7), pp. 393-395.

41/   See ibid., vol. I, Report of the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.79.I.4), chap. III.

42/   Document E/CONF.74/L.44, annex VI.

Annex I

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 Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names

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

6. Toponymic education and practice:

   (a) Existing education and practice

   (b) Report on pilot training courses

   (c) Future seminars and courses and prospective developments

   (d) Exchange of personnel

7. Gazetteers:

    (a) National gazetteers

    (b) United Nations series of gazetteers

    (c) Other publications

8. List of country names

9. Automated data processing:

    (a) Data collection procedures

    (b) Data elements required

    (c) ADP systems

    (d) Compatibility and structure of systems

10. Terminology in the standardization of geographical names

11. Exonyms:

    (a) Categories and degree of use of exonyms

    (b) Principles to be followed in the reduction of exonyms

    (c) Provisional list of exonyms

12. Policies, procedures and co-operative arrangements for the naming of features beyond a single sovereignty:

    (a) Features common to two or more nations

    (b) Maritime features

    (c) Undersea features

    (d) Extraterrestrial features

13. Writing systems:

    (a) Conversion of names from one writing system into another:

        (i) Romanization

        (ii) Conversion into non-Roman writing systems

    (b) Writing of names from unwritten languages

14. International co-operation:

    (a)   United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, including its aims and functions

    (b)   Divisional and interdivisional meetings and programmes

    (c)   Exchange of information:

        (i)   Reliability statement

       (ii)   Aids to pronunciation of names nationally standardized in non-phonemic writing

      (iii)   Procedures regarding documentation and exchange of information

    (d)   Technical assistance

    (e)   Co-operation with international organizations

    (f)   Co-operation with public information media

15. Economic and social benefits of national and international standardization of geographical names

16. Report of the Conferences

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

(in the language of their presentation)

Document No.	Title	Item of the provisional agenda
E/CONF.74/1	Provisional agenda	3 (b)
E/CONF.74/2	Rules of procedure	3 (a)
E/CONF.74/INF.1	Documentation for the Conference	
E/CONF.74/INF.2	Advance information regarding general arrangements of interest to the participants	
E/CONF.74/INF.3	Provisional list of documents	
E/CONF.74/INF.4/Rev.1 (English only)	List of participants	
E/CONF.74/INF.5 (English and French only)	Opening address by Mr. Max C. de Henseler, Executive Secretary of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names	
E/CONF.74/INF.6 (English and French only)	La Terminologie et la Normalisation des Noms géographiques (présenté par Mme François Cestac, Directrice de la Division de traduction, Département des Services de conférence, Nations Unies, New York)	
E/CONF.74/L.1 b/ (English only)	Report by Austria	4
E/CONF.74/L.2 b/ (English only)	Toponymic guidelines for cartography - Austria	5 (e)
E/CONF.74/L.3 b/ (English only)	The national languages of the countries of the world, their scripts, and the United Nations recommendations on their romanization (Austria)	13

Document No.	Title	Item of the provisional agenda
E/CONF.74/L.4 (English only) b/	Report by the German Democratic Republic	4
E/CONF.74/L.5 (English only) b/	Regional geographical names of the German Democratic Republic	5
E/CONF.74/L.6 (English only) b/	General directions for the spelling of geographical names of the German Democratic Republic	5
E/CONF.74/L.7 (English only) b/	Toponymic guidelines for cartography, Turkey	5
E/CONF.74/L.8 b/ (English only)	Report by the Federal Republic of Germany on the state of the standardization of geographical names	4
E/CONF.74/L.9 b/	Toponymic guidelines for cartography - Federal Repubic of Germany	5
E/CONF.74/L.10 (English only) b/	Gazetteer of the Federal Republic of Germany - introduction	7
E/CONF.74/L.11 (Spanish only) a/	La division política - administrativa de la República de Cuba y la denominación aprobada de sus provincias y capitales y sus municipios y cabeceras	5
E/CONF.74/L.12 (Spanish only) a/	Estructura administrativa de los organismos nacionales encargados de la nomenclatura geográfica (Cuba)	5
E/CONF.74/L.13 (Spanish only) a/	Informe de la República de Cuba	5
E/CONF.74/L.14 (English only) b/	Toponymic guidelines - Denmark (Norden Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names)	5 (e)
E/CONF.74/L.15 (English only) b/	Toponymic guidelines - Iceland (Norden Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names)	5 (e)
E/CONF.74/L.16 (English only) b/	Toponymic guidelines - Norway (Norden Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names)	5 (e)

Document No.	Title	Item of the provisional agenda
E/CONF.74/L.17 (English only) b/	Toponymic guidelines - Sweden (Norden Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names)	5 (e)
E/CONF.74/L.18 (English only) b/	Social and economic benefits of the standardization of geographical names (Dutch- and German-speaking Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names)	15
E/CONF.74/L.19 (French only) c/	Rapport d'activité de la division romano-hellénique (la division romano-hellénique du Groupe d'experts des Nations Unies sur les noms géographiques)	4
E/CONF.74/L.20 (French only)	Rapport d'activité (France)	4
E/CONF.74/L.21 (Abstract)	Guide de toponymie cartographique - France	5 (e)
E/CONF.74/L.22 (French only) c/	Rapport d'activité du Groupe de travail d'une liste de noms de pays du Groupe d'experts des Nations Unies sur les noms géographiques (le Groupe de travail d'une liste de noms de pays du Groupe d'experts des Nations Unies sur les noms géographiques)	8
E/CONF.74/L.23 (Abstract) c/	Glossaire de la terminologie employée dans la normalisation des noms géographiques (France)	10
E/CONF.74/L.24 (English only) b/	An automated bi-scriptual gazetteer of Israel and the graphics of toponomy	7 (a) and 9
E/CONF.74/L.25 (English only) b/	Developments in Canadian toponymy	5
E/CONF.74/L.26 (French only) c/	La toponymie Amérindienne et Inuit du Québec (Canada)	5 (a)
E/CONF.74/L.27 (French only) c/	L'odonymie dans le cadre d'un projet d'intervention specifique à la Commission de toponymie (Canada)	5 (b)
E/CONF.74/L.28 (French only)	Législation Québécoise sur la toponymie (extrait de la Charte de la langue française) (Canada)	5 (d)

Document No.	Title	Item of the provisional agenda
E/CONF.74/L.29 (French only) c/	Le mandat de la Commission de Toponymie du Québec (Canada)	5 (d)
E/CONF.74/L.30 (French only) c/	La recherche à la Commission de Toponymie du Québec (Canada)	5 (e)
E/CONF.74/L.31 (French only) c/	Le règlement en odonymie de la Commission de Toponymie du Québec (Canada)	5 (e)
E/CONF.74/L.32 (English only) b/	Gazetteer of Canada series	7 (a)
E/CONF.74/L.33 (French only)	Liste des publications de la Commission de Toponymie du Québec (Canada)	7 (a) and 7 (c)
E/CONF.74/L.34 (English only) b/	Automation of Canada's national toponymic data base: 1977 to 1982	9
E/CONF.74/L.35 (French only) c/	Un système automatisé de gestion de données toponymiques (Canada)	9 (d)
E/CONF.74/L.36 (French only) c/	La terminologie et la Commission de Terminologie géographique (Canada)	10
E/CONF.74/L.37 (English only) b/	The treatment of geographical names outside Canada for official Canadian use.	11
E/CONF.74/L.38 (English only) b/	Developments in the treatment of undersea feature names in Canada, 1977-1982	12 (c)
E/CONF.74/L.39 (Spanish only) a/	Monografía Nacional-Perú	5 (c)
E/CONF.74/L.40 (English only) b/	Report by Australia	4
E/CONF.74/L.41 (English only) b/	Toponymic guidelines for cartography - Finland	5 (e)
E/CONF.74/L.42 (English only) b/	Progress report on the standardization and treatment of geographical names in Finland 1977-1982	4
E/CONF.74/L.43 (English only)	Report of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names on the work of its eighth session (United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names)	14 (a)

Document No.	Title	Item of the provisional agenda
E/CONF.74/L.44 (English and French only)	Report of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names on the work of its ninth session (United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names)	14 (a)
E/CONF.74/L.45 (English only) b/	Report of the Norden Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (Norden Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names)	4
E/CONF.74/L.46 (English only) b/	Computer-aided photo type setting for cartographic purposes (Sweden)	9 (c)
E/CONF.74/L.47 (English only)	Report on progress made in the standardization of geographical names in China	4
E/CONF.74/L.48 (English only)	Toponymic guidelines for cartography - China	5 (e)
E/CONF.74/L.49 (English only)	Report of the United Kingdom Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (United Kingdom Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names)	4
E/CONF.74/L.50 (English only)	Report by the United Kingdom	4
E/CONF.74/L.51 (English only)	Report on national gazetteers (United Kingdom)	7 (a), 9
E/CONF.74/L.51/Add.1 (English only)	Report on national gazetteers (United Kingdom)	7 (a), 9
E/CONF.74/L.52 (English only) b/	Report on national gazetteers (Working Group on International Gazetteers of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names)	7 (a), 9
E/CONF.74/L.53 (English only) b/	Report on international gazetteers (Working Group on International Gazetteers of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names)	7 (b), 9
E/CONF.74/L.54 (English only) b/	The status of the English language (United Kingdom)	13

Document No.	Title	Item of the provisional agenda
E/CONF.74/L.55 (English only) b/	Romanization in the context of the United Nations (United Kingdom)	13 (a) (i)
E/CONF.74/L.56 (English only)	Report by the United Kingdom expert to the Working Group on a Single Romanization System on each Non-Roman Writing System (United Kingdom)	13 (a) (i)
E/CONF.74/L.57 (English only)	Toponymic guidelines for cartography in Great Britain (United Kingdom)	5 (e)
E/CONF.74/L.58 (English only) b/	The computer processing of geographical names for map and gazetteer production (United Kingdom)	7, 9
E/CONF.74/L.59 (English only) b/	The application of Pinyin spellings for geographical names (United Kingdom)	13 (a) (i)
E/CONF.74/L.60 (English only)	Report by Denmark	4
E/CONF.74/L.61 (English only) b/	Report by Japan on the state of the standardization of geographical names	4
E/CONF.74/L.62 (English only) b/	National standardization of geographical names in Japan	5
E/CONF.74/L.63 (English only) b/	Automated data processing of geographical names of Japan	9
E/CONF.74/L.64 (English only) b/	Romanization in Japan	13 (a) (i)
E/CONF.74/L.65 (English only)	Report on the Pilot Training Course in Toponymy held in Cisarua, Indonesia (Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names)	6 (b)
E/CONF.74/L.66 (French only)	Rapport national de la Suisse	4
E/CONF.74/L.67 (French only)	Guide toponymique (Suisse)	5 (e)

Document No.	Title	Item of the provisional agenda
E/CONF.74/L.68 (French only)	Liste des pays (Groupe de travail pour une liste de noms de pays du Groupe d'Experts des Nations Unies sur les noms géographiques)	8
E/CONF.74/L.69 (English only)	Report on work of the East Central and South-East Europe Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names for the period 1977 to 1982	4
E/CONF.74/L.70 (English only)	List of the most important Polish exonyms for Europe (not including the USSR)	11
E/CONF.74/L.71 (English only) b/	A programme to develop automated processing of foreign names at the Defence Mapping Agency (United States)	9
E/CONF.74/L.72 (English only) b/	Report on training in office procedures offered by the United States Board on Geographical Names	14 (d)
E/CONF.74/L.73 (English only) b/	Report by the Working Group on Maritime and Undersea Features of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names	12 (b), (c)
E/CONF.74/L.74 (English only) b/	Report by the United States/Canada Division of the Group of Experts on Geographical Names (United States)	4
E/CONF.74/L.75 (English only) b/	Report by the United States	4
E/CONF.74/L.76 (English only)	Report of the Pilot Training Course in Toponymy held at Cisarua, Indonesia (Indonesia)	6 (b)
E/CONF.74/L.77 (English only)	Report by Israel	4
E/CONF.74/L.78 (English only) b/	Report by Ireland	4
E/CONF.74/L.79 (English only)	Report by Cyprus	4

Document No.	Title	Item of the provisional agenda
E/CONF.74/L.80 (French only)	Rapport du Maroc	4
E/CONF.74/L.81 and Add.1 (English only)	A concise gazetteer of Cyprus	7 (a)
E/CONF.74/L.82 (English only)	Activities of Turkey in national names standardization since the Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names	4
E/CONF.74/L.83 (English only)	Report of the Asia South-East and Pacific South-West Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names	4
E/CONF.74/L.84 (French only)	Répertoire toponymique du Québec (Canada)	7 (a)
E/CONF.74/L.85 (English only)	Conversion of the Greek alphabet into Latin characters (Greece)	13 (a) (i)
E/CONF.74/L.86 (Spanish only)	Directrices toponímicas par Cartografía (España)	5
E/CONF.74/L.87 (Spanish only)	Normalización de nombres de accidentes comunes a dos o más países (España)	12 (a)
E/CONF.74/L.88 (English only)	Training of specialists on the standardization of geographical names (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)	6 (a)
E/CONF.74/L.89 (English only)	Conversion of geographical names from one writing system to another (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)	13
E/CONF.74/L.90 (English only)	Standardization of geographical names in the USSR	4
E/CONF.74/L.91 (English only)	On the experience of computerized processing of data on geographical names in the USSR	9
E/CONF.74/L.92 (English only)	On the national dictionaries of geographical names in the USSR	7 (a)

Document No.	Title	Item of the provisional agenda
E/CONF.74/L.93 (English only)	The present state of the problem of naming of extraterrestrial topographic features (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)	12 (d)
E/CONF.74/L.94 (English only)	List of current normative documents on the standardization of geographical names in the USSR	4
E/CONF.74/L.95 (English only)	Report by the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic	4
E/CONF.74/L.96 (English only)	Report of the Dutch- and German-speaking Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names	4
E/CONF.74/L.97 (English only)	Guidelines for beginning a geographic names information file (Federal Republic of Germany and United States of America)	6 (a)
E/CONF.74/L.98 (English only)	The necessity of the standardization of geographical names (International Geographical Union)	14 (e)
E/CONF.74/L.99 (English only) b/	Work of the United States in the Working Group on Gazetteers and Geographical Names of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History	14 (e)
E/CONF.74/L.100 (English only)	Country report of the Philippines	4
E/CONF.74/L.101 (English only) b/	The national gazetteer of the United States	7 (a)
E/CONF.74/L.102 (English only)	Toponymic guidelines for map and other editors: United States	5 (e)
E/CONF.74/L.103 (English only)	Report of the Africa West Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names	4
E/CONF.74/L.104 (English only)	Report of the Working Group on Maritime and Undersea Features of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names	12 (c)

Document No.	Title	Item of the provisional agenda
E/CONF.74/L.105 (English only)	National report on standardization of geographical names in India	4
E/CONF.74/L.106 (French only)	Rapport d'activité (Roumanie)	4
E/CONF.74/L.107 (English only)	Report of activities (Yugoslavia)	4
E/CONF.74/L.108 (Spanish only) a/	Informe de la División de América Latina del Grupo de expertos de las Naciones Unidas en nombres geográficas	4
E/CONF.74/L.109 (English only)	Report by the Sudan National Geographical Names Committee	4
E/CONF.74/L.110 (English only) b/	Greek national report	4
E/CONF.74/L.111 (English only)	Regulations for the activity of the East, Central and South-East Europe Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names	4
E/CONF.74/L.112 (English only) b/	Practical aspects of geographic names and communications (United States)	13
E/CONF.74/L.113 (English only)	Use of the five-letter alphabetical code system for purposes of international trade (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe)	14 (e)
E/CONF.74/L.114 (English only)	Report on the activities in the area of standardization of the geographical terminology in Czechoslovakia in the period 1977-1982	⤬ 4
E/CONF.74/L.115 (English only)	Report on the progress of standardization of geographical names in Nigeria 1977-1982	4
E/CONF.74/L.116 (English only)	Situation in romanization (Working Group on a Single Romanization System for each Non-Roman Writing System)	13 (a) (i)

Document No.	Title	Item of the provisional agenda
E/CONF.74/L.117 (English only)	Report on geographical names standardization activity in Hungary between 1977 and 1982	4
E/CONF.74/L.118 (English only)	Letter dated 1 September 1982 from the Head of the Delegation of Israel addressed to the President of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names	-
E/CONF.74/L.119 (English only)	Social and economic benefits of the standardization of geographical names (Netherlands and United Kingdom)	15
E/CONF.74/L.120 and Adds.1-7	Draft report of the Conference	
E/CONF.74/L.120/Rev.1	Report of the Conference	
E/CONF.74/L.121 (English only)	Report on standardization of geographical names within New Zealand	4
E/CONF.74/L.122 (English only)	Policy for naming of undersea features (New Zealand)	12 (c)

Notes

a/   Abstracts available in English and French only.

b/   Abstracts available in French and Spanish only.

c/   Abstracts available in English and Spanish only.

Annex III

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-58-

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Mr. H. A. G. LEWIS
      Chairman
      Permanent Committee on Geographical Names
       for British Official Use (PCGN)
      London

Mr. Paul J. WOODMAN
      Secretary
      Permanent Committee on Geographical Names
       for British Official Use (PCGN)
      London

Miss E. SHIPLEY
      Research Assistant
      Permanent Committee on Geographical Names
       for British Official Use (PCGN)
      London

Mr. R. MARSDEN
      Directorate of Military Survey
      Feltham
      Middlesex

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Mr. R. R. RANDALL
      Head of Delegation
      Executive Secretary
      United States Board on Geographic Names
      Defense Mapping Agency
      Washington, D.C.

Mrs. S. H. SHAW
      Chairman
      Foreign Names Committee
      United States Board on Geographic Names
      Department of State
      Washington D.C.

Mr. C. M. HEYDA
      Defense Mapping Agency
      Hydrographic/Topographic Center
      Washington, D.C.

Mr. Donald J. ORTH
      Executive Secretary for Domestic Names
      United States Board on Geographic Names
      Reston, Virginia

VENEZUELA

Mr. Hugo SUAREZ MORA
      First Secretary
      Permanent Mission of Venezuela to the
       United Nations, Geneva

Mr. Luis Daniel RUIZ
      First Secretary
      Permanent Mission of Venezuela to the
       United Nations, Geneva

YUGOSLAVIA

    Mr. Danilo VUJICIĆ

Head of Delegation
Deputy Permanent Representative of
   Yugoslavia to the United Nations, Geneva

    Mr. Blagoj ZASOV

Alternate Head of Delegation
Legal Counsellor
Republicki komitet za megjunarodni odnosna
Skopje

    Mr. Branko BRANKOVIĆ

Counsellor
Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the
   United Nations, Geneva

    Mr. Zeljko JERKIĆ

Attaché
Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the
   United Nations, Geneva

B. Specialized agencies

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION

    Mr. P.-A. TRAUB

ITU, Secrétariat général
Genève

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

    Mr. M. PEETERS

WMO, External Relations Officer
Genève

C. International scientific and intergovernmental organizations

INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL UNION

    Mr. E. MEYNEN

Hon. Professor
IGU Working Group
International Geographical Terminology
Bonn-Bad Godesberg
Federal Republic of Germany

ARAB LEAGUE EDUCATIONAL, CULTURAL AND
SCIENTIFIC ORGANIZATION

    Mr. Abdelhadi TAZI

Membre de l'Académie du Royaume du Maroc
Directeur
Institut de la Recherche Scientifique
Rabat

INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL UNION

    Mr. Peter MILLMAN
                                    Astronomer
                                    President
                                    Working Group for Planetary System
                                        Nomenclature
                                    International Astronomical Union
                                    National Research Council of Canada
                                    Ottawa, Ontario

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR
  STANDARDIZATION

    Mr. Peter E. JONES
                                    ISO, Technical Officer
                                    Genève

D. Non-governmental organization

WORLD ASSOCIATION OF WORLD
  FEDERALISTS

    Mr. James Avery JOYCE
                                    Barrister-at-law
                                    Professor and author
                                    World Association of World Federalists
                                    Genève

E. United Nations Economic Commission

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

    Mr. Dimitri BALABANOV
                                    Trade and Technology Division
                                    Economic Commission for Europe
                                    Geneva

F. United Nations Secretariat

Mr. Max C. de HENSELER
                                    Executive Secreary
                                    Chief, Cartography Section
                                    New York

Mr. Knut H. STABE
                                    Deputy Executive Secretary
                                    Cartography Section
                                    New York

Mr. Josef BREU
                                    Special Assistant to the Executive
                                    Secretary
                                    Cartography Section
                                    New York

Annex IV

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 the decision of the Conference upon the report on credentials, the representatives, alternate representatives, advisers and experts shall be entitled provisionally to be seated in the Conference.

Chapter II

AGENDA

Rule 5

The provisional agenda set forth 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 raising a point of order may not 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 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 connexion with the actual conduct of 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

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 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.

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.

Notes

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.