

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCES ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

1967, 1972, 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992, 1998, 2002

TEXTS OF RESOLUTIONS ON THE SUBJECT OF EXONYMS

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EXONYMS

II/28 Lists of exonyms (conventional names, traditional names)

The Conference,

Desiring to facilitate the international standardization of geographical names,

Recognizing that certain exonyms (conventional names, traditional names) form living and vital parts of languages,

Recognizing further that certain exonyms (conventional names, traditional names) remain in the language after the need for them has diminished,

Recommends that national geographical names authorities prepare lists of exonyms currently employed, review them for possible deletions, and publish the results.

II/29 Exonyms

I

The Conference,

Recognizing the desirability of limiting the use of exonyms,

Recommends that, within the international standardization of geographical names, the use of those exonyms designating geographical entities falling wholly within one State should be reduced as far and as quickly as possible.

II

The Conference,

Recognizing that exonyms are losing ground, even in national use,

1. Recommends that in publications intended only for national use the reduction of exonyms should be considered;
 2. Further recommends that in those cases where exonyms are retained, the local official forms should be shown in addition as far as possible.
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II/35 Interim lists of standardized names

The Conference,

Recognizing that the final publication of full national gazetteers may not be immediately possible in some countries,

Further recognizing the necessity for having a basic stock of standardized names available for international use,

Considering the keen interest expressed by various countries in abolishing exonyms and using nationally standardized names, and in order to accelerate this process,

1. Recommends that, in the interim, countries be encouraged to publish concise lists of their names of geographical entities, including administrative divisions, within a reasonable time;
 2. Recommends further that, as far as possible, where these names are officially written in a non-Roman script for which a romanization system has been agreed at the first or Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, romanized names in accordance with those systems should be included in the lists.
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III/18 Study of exonyms

The Conference,

Noting that, in accordance with resolution 28 of the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, progress has been made in the matter of exonyms in so far as a number of countries have identified and prepared, or are preparing, lists of their own exonyms,

Recognizing, nevertheless, that progress has not been uniform in all countries,

Further recognizing that the reduction of both different types of languages and different linguistic categories of exonyms require different approaches,

Recommends that (a) The countries concerned continue to work on the preparation of provisional lists of exonyms, singling out those suitable for early deletion; (b) The Group of Experts contribute to the exchange of information among the countries concerned on the results of the studies of different categories of exonyms made by those countries.

III/19 Lists of exonyms

The Conference,

Considering that resolution 28 of the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names calls for each country to prepare a list of exonyms currently employed,

Noting the definition of the word "exonym" given in the document E/CONF.69/L.1, worked out by that Conference [in *Vol. II Technical Papers* of the Second Conference],

Further noting that the implementation of resolution 28 in its present form must result in enormous lists of doubtful value,

Recommends that the lists referred to in resolution 28 should not contain the following categories of exonyms: those differing from the official name only by the omission, addition or alteration of diacritics or the article; those differing from the official name by declension or derivation; those created by the translation of a generic term.

IV/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, 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.

V/13 Precedence of national official forms of geographical names

The Conference,

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

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

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

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

1. Recommends a further reduction in the use of exonyms;
2. Recommends, more specifically, that countries intensify their efforts to persuade private and public organizations, such as educational institutions, transport companies and the media, to reduce the use of exonyms in their publications or, at least, to increase the use of geographical names in their local standardized form (that is, endonyms);
3. Also recommends that, where exonyms are used in publications, maps and other documents, precedence be given to national official names.

VIII/4 Working Group on Exonyms of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

The Conference,

Recalling resolutions 28, 29, 31 and 38 of the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, resolutions 18 and 19 of the Third Conference, resolution 20 of the Fourth Conference and resolution 13 of the Fifth Conference, as well as resolutions 4 and 10 of the First Conference, resolution 35 of the Second Conference, resolution 7 of the Third Conference and resolution 4 of the Fourth Conference,

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

Recognizing that measures such as the categorization of exonym use, the publication of pronunciation guides for endonyms, and the formulation of guidelines ensuring a politically sensitive use of exonyms would help in the reduction of the number of exonyms,

Recommends the establishment of a Working Group on Exonyms of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, with the aim of preparing such measures as mentioned above.
