



STATEMENT/INTERVENTION

Agenda Item Number: 6a

Agenda Item Title: National and international standardization of geographical names: names collection, office treatment, national authorities, features beyond a single sovereignty and international cooperation

Title of paper/report: Geographical names standardization in Greenland

Statement/intervention provided by:

Helen Kerfoot (Canada)

Statement/intervention:

I express appreciation to the distinguished representative for this interesting report on Greenland.

As you say it is important that there be both government and public access to the geographical names that are considered to be authorized. I am interested to know about availability of reference material for current Greenlandic names. For example, is there now an updated version of the earlier atlas for Greenland? You state that geographical names on your database are publicly available through Oqaasileriffik, but I wonder if they are available outside Greenland and Denmark, as so far I could not locate the data.

A second question refers to the written form of the Greenlandic geographical names. I understand that the orthography changed in the 1970s. Are all currently accepted names converted and written in the current orthography, or are some still in the older written form? I understand there are dialects (2?) of the Greenlandic language. Do the Board's policies and principles allow for authorization of written names for features in these areas to be recognized in dialectal form, or are all names approved in standard Greenlandic?

Suggestion towards UNGEGN Decisions on Agenda item 6a:

Naming authorities be encouraged

- to share their policies and principles with regard to details of language (e.g. orthography, recognition of dialects) through contributions to the UNGEGN Bulletin, in Toponymic Guidelines, and/or by papers at UNGEGN sessions.
- to disseminate their authorized geographical names as widely as possible

Thank you!

Submitted on:

4/23/2021