The standardized international nomenclature of the surface features of planetary bodies.

The place-names of planetary surface features are approved by the International Astronomical Union; its Gazetteer is maintained by the United States Geological Survey and supported by NASA. These three organizations ensure that the names that appear on the maps of planets, moons and asteroids provide an equal representation of humanity for the foreseeable future. Today, names are taken from more than 355 nations and cultures from Algeria to the Virgin Islands. However, when most planetary features on the near side of the Moon and on Mars got their names in the 17-19th centuries, they were named by individual astronomers in Europe. At that time the most universally accepted and neutral pool of names was the ancient world and mythology. This tradition was continued by IAU, and many of these names are also used today. Astronomers also used the names of scientists, to commemorate their achievements, a tradition also kept today. Since the early 20th century this system is standardized: only one name is accepted for a named feature. Although the names are taken from many nations, the most universally accepted and neutral situation may change.

Ethnicities, languages or geographic origin of the placenames of the major surface features of Mercury, Venus, the Moon, Mars.

Mercury: Features are named after artists on Earth.
Venus: Features are named after women.
Moon: Features are named after scientists.
Mars: Craters are named after either scientists or towns.

From the UN Outer Space Treaty (1962):
Outer space is not subject to national appropriation by claim of sovereignty, by means of use or occupation, or by any other means.

From the IAU Gazetteer of Planetary Nomenclature Rules:
- Solar system nomenclature should be international in its choice of names.
- Recommendations submitted to the IAU national committees will be considered, but final selection of the names is the responsibility of the International Astronomical Union.

Where appropriate, the WGPSN strongly supports an equitable selection of names from ethnic groups, countries, and gender on each map; however, a higher percentage of names from the country planning a landing is allowed on landing site maps.

No names having political, military or religious significance may be used, except for names of political figures prior to the 19th century.