

UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names

SIXTH MEETING of UNGEEN Bureau and Division Chairs

Friday 15 November 2024
at 7:00 am Eastern/NYC



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United Nations Group of Experts
on Geographical Names



Draft Agenda

1. Welcome and opening remarks – **Pierre Jaillard and Stefan Schweinfest**
2. Roll Call and Introduction of Divisions
3. Matters arising from meeting of 12 April
 - a. Update on the Collaborative project UNGEGN/UN-GGIM
 - b. Update on World Geographical Names Database
4. Presentation UNGEGN Division - East Central and South-East Europe by **Klára Steinerová**
5. Preparation of 2025 Session
 - a. Presentation of the theme for the 2025 session
 - b. Deadline for paper submission
 - c. Modalities – seating
6. Decisions to be made at the 2025 Session
 - a. Unique Identifier for Cities,
 - b. Exonyms and
 - c. others?
7. Call for contributions of reports and papers from Divisions and countries
 - a. What is expected in Divisional Reports
 - b. National Dialogue –sharing of national report template presented at 2023 session
8. Meetings of Divisions – How do they prepare for sessions
9. Any other Business
 - a. Update on the Indigenous and minority languages focus group
10. Dates of next meetings
11. Adjournment of the meeting



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WELCOME UNGEGN Divisions – Introductions

Africa Central	Baltic	India
Africa East	Celtic	Latin America
Africa South	China	Norden
Africa West	Dutch- and German-speaking	Pacific South-West
Arabic	East Central and South-East Europe	Portuguese-speaking
Asia East (other than China)	Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia	Romano-Hellenic
Asia South-East	East Mediterranean (other than Arabic)	United Kingdom
Asia South-West (other than Arabic)	French-speaking	United States / Canada

19 Divisions were represented at the meeting



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3. Matters arising from meeting of 12 April

- a. Update on the Collaborative project UNGEGN/UN-GGIM
- b. Update on World Geographical Names Database



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UNGEEN/UN-GGIM collaboration project

National Mapping Agencies (NMAs) and National Geographical Names Authorities (NGNAs) are invited to collaborate and contribute to **the development of a compendium of institutional arrangements and operational good practices** that strengthens working relations between mapping and geographical names authorities to support the collection, management, and dissemination of standardized geographical names.

Objectives

1. To build a stronger relationship between the Group of Experts and the Committee of Experts.
2. To identify, collate and document relevant and acceptable principles, examples of good practices and guidelines/recommendations that may be used by both NMAs and NGNAs across Member States to strengthen their operations.



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UNGEEN/UN-GGIM collaboration project

Deliverables

- Joint committee plans to prepare report highlighting best practices for collaboration between National Mapping Agencies and National Naming Authorities
- Report will be delivered as part of the
 - 2025 UNGGN Session and the Fifteenth Session of UNGGIM – August 2025

Actions Items

Joint committee will:

- Develop one questionnaire – draft being reviewed.
 - Organized according to 9 UN-IGIF Strategic Pathways
 - “Cultural” added as an additional category
- Distribute to all UNGGIM/UNGEEN member countries
- Analyze results and summarize into report



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UNGEEN/UN-GGIM collaboration project

The Committee last met on 16 October next meeting is 30th October

1. Mid-November: Beta testing for two weeks.
2. December: Finalization of the questionnaire based on feedback.
3. January: Distribution of the questionnaire to Member States, with a one-month window for responses.
4. An article announcing the project is to be included in the upcoming Bulletin

The Ask

Joint Committee is seeking:

- “Beta testers” to provide feedback on questions
 - National Mapping Agencies, National Naming Authorities and other interested representatives
- Regional representatives
 - Member countries willing to encourage responses in their UN-GGIM regions
 - Points of contact within the region for questions/support in responding to questionnaire



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Update on the UNGEGN WGN Database October 2024

Mr. Mark Iliffe

Global Geospatial Information Management Section
Statistics Division / Department of Economic and Social Affairs



4. Presentation by Divisions

East Central and South-East Europe
by Klára Steinerová



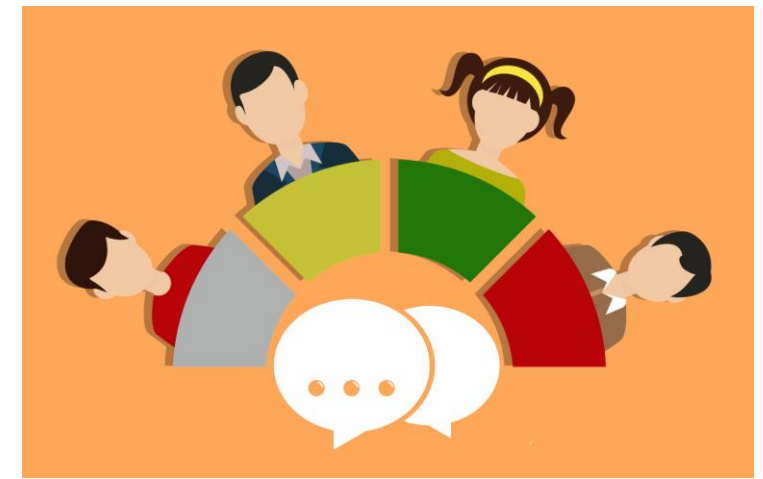
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DISCUSSION: Divisions

Discussions will be led by the Chair
Pier Jaillard



Questions:



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5. Preparation of 2025 Session

- a. Presentation of the theme for the 2025 session
- b. Deadline for paper submission
- c. Modalities – seating



UNGEEN 2025 Session – ECOSOC SDG Theme

ECOSOC's theme for 2025

Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for leaving no one behind;

The set of Sustainable Development Goals to be reviewed in depth for 2025: **Goals 3, 5, 8, 14 and 17;**

- 3 – Ensure healthy lives and well being for all at all ages
- 5 – Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- 8 – Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
- 14 – Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
- 17 – Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development



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UNGEEN 2025 Session – ECOSOC SDG Theme

Date	Theme	Proposer and Country
10.09.2024	Recognizing the role of landscape and its use through the exploration of ancient and contemporary geographical names and names in minority languages. The memory of landscape and history hidden in geographical names.	Irena Švehlová, ECSEE Division, Czechia
16.09.2024	Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions of standardizing geographical names for supporting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	Eman Oriby Egypt
17. 9.2024	theme # 2 "Advancing geographical names standardization through sustainable, inclusive, science and evidence-based solutions to support sustainable development	Nor Zetty Akhtar binti Haji Abd Hamid Asia south East
20.9.2024	Advancing scientific, technical, social and cultural focus in geographical names standardization supporting sustainable development"	Roberto López García SUBDIRECTOR DE NOMBRES GEOGRÁFICOS
27.09.2024	theme # 2 "Advancing geographical names standardization through sustainable, inclusive, science and evidence-based solutions to support sustainable development"	VINOD SINGH CHAUDHARY Office of the Surveyor General of India Survey of India,
30.09.2024	theme # 2 Advancing geographical names standardization through sustainable, inclusive, science and evidence-based solutions to support sustainable development The reason for this is that the second proposal puts more emphasis on the promotion of geographical names standardization	Akihiko Takagi Emeritus Professor of Kyushu University, Japan
4.10.2024	theme # 2 - Advancing geographical names standardization through sustainable, inclusive, science and evidence-based solutions to support sustainable development	Maciej Zych Baltic Division
4.10.2024	Supporting the evolution of scientific, technical, social and cultural considerations in geographical names standardization to advance sustainable development	Steve Westley USA/Canada Division

Agreed - UNGEGN 2025 Session Theme

Advancing geographical names standardization through inclusive, culturally-informed and evidence-based solutions to support sustainable development.



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Preparations for UNGEGN 2025 Session

Deadlines – Summaries and Reports

- Summaries - 17 January 2025
- Full document - 10 March 2025

Location: Conference Room 3

Session Secretary: Claudia Gross (remains the same)

The Note Verbale can be issued in November 2024



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Modalities

1. Time management

- Breaks are to be scheduled for networking
- More time will be allocated for substantive topics eg culture and heritage

2. National reports – arrangements remain the same as 2023 session with few changes

- dealt with at the start of the agenda item
- to be linked to the themes per agenda item

3. Seating – arrangements remain the same as in previous sessions

- Seating by countries at start and end of the session for procedural matters and by Divisions for substantial agenda items.
- Arrangements to be made to allocate seats per division based on number of countries per division.
 - Countries who are members of more than one division should indicate in which division they will be seated.



Priority Topics/Decisions for the 2025 Session

1. Unique Identifier for cities - a Recommendation
2. Exonyms-a Recommendation
3. Environment – UNESCO and Cultural Heritage, -**Decision-**
 - a) special presentation New Zealand- on line cultural heritage atlas
4. Artificial Intelligence and names standardization- **special presentation/panels**
5. Evidenced based National Standardization- connection between govt and academia, Toponymic Data Management – linked data
6. Equity and Inclusiveness
7. ?



Call for contributions of reports and papers from Divisions and countries

To continue with Daily National Dialogue as was done in 2023 – with improvements:

Suggestions from the Core Bureau

- Countries could be asked to focus on priority themes in line with the agenda which is also aligned to the UNGEGN Strategic and Implementation Plan.
- The documentation for the 2025 session should have clear instructions on what is to be included in national reports, contributors are to indicate their focus topics.
- Consideration to stage a virtual poster and video exhibit to support the National dialogue



Agenda 2025


Provisional agenda of the 2025 session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

1. Opening of the session.
2. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Adoption of the agenda;
 - (b) Organization of work;
 - (c) Credentials of observers.
3. Reports of the Bureau and the Secretariat:
 - (a) Report of the Chair;
 - (b) Report of the Secretariat;
 - (c) Monitoring and evaluation of the strategic plan and programme of work 2021–2029.
4. Reports:
 - (a) Divisions of the Group of Experts;
 - (b) Governments on the situation in their countries and on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names.
 - (c) Activities on the standardization of geographical names in Africa;
 - (d) National and international meetings and conferences.
5. Technical expertise:
 - (a) Names collection, office treatment, features beyond a single sovereignty and international cooperation;
 - (b) Geographical names data management;
 - (c) Writing systems and pronunciation;

GEGN.2/2023/L.1

- (d) Toponymic terminology;
 - (e) Country names.
6. Relationships, links and connections:
 - (a) Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management;
 - (b) Economic Commission for Africa;
 - (c) International organizations, including academia.
7. Effective work programmes:
 - (a) Measures taken and proposed for the implementation of resolutions and recommendations;
 - (b) Evaluation of the work of the Group of Experts;
 - (c) Social and economic benefits of supporting sustainable development;
 - (d) Toponymic guidelines for international use by map and other editors.
8. Culture, heritage and language recognition:
 - (a) Geographical names as culture, heritage and identity;
 - (b) Indigenous, minority and regional languages and multilingual issues;
 - (c) Exonyms.
9. Promotion and capacity-building:
 - (a) Strengthening publicity and increasing awareness of the importance of standardized geographical names;
 - (b) Toponymic training and education;
 - (c) Funding of capacity-building initiatives.
10. Other geographical names issues.
11. Procedural matters:
 - (a) Presentation and adoption of decisions;
 - (b) Adoption of the report on the 2025 session;
 - (c) Arrangements for the 2027 session of the Group of Experts.
12. Other business.
13. Closing of the session.

National report template presented at 2023 session

<p>Model of the national report for ECSEED countries</p> <p>This model is recommended to use when creating national reports. Although it is only a recommendation, it can help and inspire creators.</p>	<p>Meeting <u> </u> document code (ECSEED)/year of creation/ country code date of creation</p> <p>Name of the meeting, organizer, place, date item/theme (in case of arrangement)</p>  <p>United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names</p> <p>National report of <u> </u> (country) for the period (years)</p> <p>Place for your flag</p> <p>Author and his/her job position, organisation, link - where experts can find the report Participation of the country in the division (divisions)</p>
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8. Meetings of Divisions – How do you prepare for sessions

LET US DISCUSS

- DISCUSSIONS



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Any Other Business

Update on the Indigenous and minority languages focus group
by Nicole Halseth, USA/Canada



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9. Scheduling meetings - Bureau and Expanded Bureau

Dates of Bureau/Divisional Meeting 2024

~~Friday 12 April 2024 at 5:00 pm~~

~~Friday 15 November 2024 at 7:00 am~~

Friday 14 March 2025 at 6:00 am eastern

Dates of Core Bureau Meeting 2024

1. 29 November 2024 at 6:00 am

Dates of Expanded Bureau Meetings 2024

1. 6 December at 5:00 pm



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