

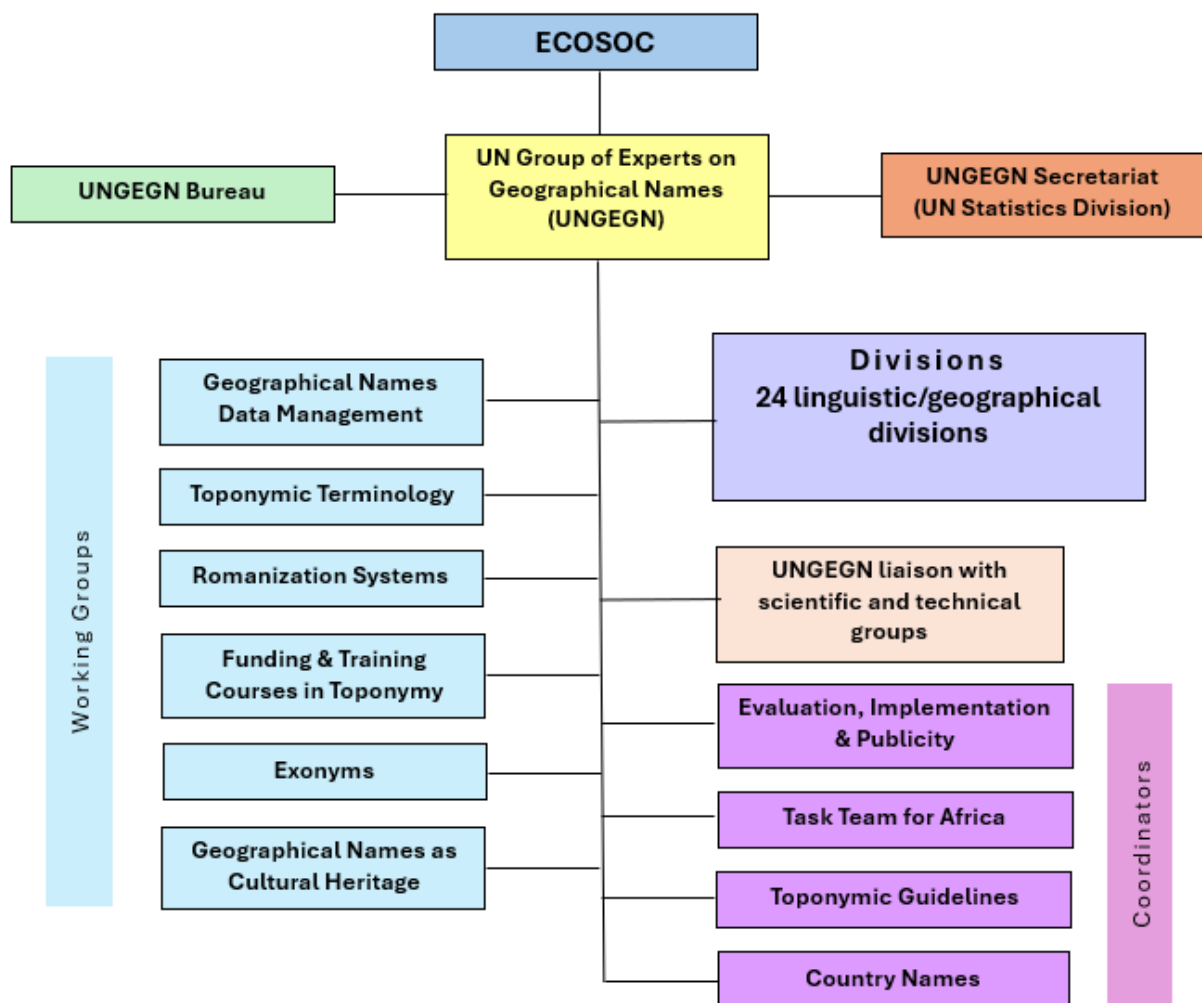
HOW DOES UNGEGN WORK?

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The diagram below summarizes the current *modus operandi* of UNGEGN, an expert body reporting to ECOSOC. Supported by a Secretariat provided by the United Nations Statistics Division, and its Bureau (consisting of a Chair, two Vice-Chairs and two Rapporteurs), UNGEGN convenes every two years in formal session and between sessions continues work on names standardization through Working Groups and Task Teams, as well as through Divisions, which are groups of countries with common interests based on geography or language. To interact with other scientific organizations, UNGEGN has appointed a number of liaison officers.

As part of its ongoing work between sessions the UNGEGN Bureau meets virtually on a regular basis, and several times during the year includes the convenors of the Working Groups or the Division chairs.



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

UNGEGN currently has formal liaison with: International Cartographic Association (ICA); Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN); International Council of Onomastic Sciences (ICOS); International Geographical Union (IGU); International Hydrographic Organization (IHO); International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Technical Committee 211 (TC/211); Pan-American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH); Unicode Consortium.

Changes to UNGEGN in recent years

In 2019, the UN Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names (held on a five-yearly basis from 1967 to 2017) and the UNGEGN technical sessions (held twice between conferences) were discontinued and restructured as one subsidiary body of ECOSOC. Now the “new” UNGEGN meets every two years, reports directly to ECOSOC, and since 2021 has focussed on the five strategic areas shown in the diagram, each supported by a programme of work through to 2029.

[UNGEGN Strategic Plan and Programme of Work 2021-2029 Version 2 \(Updated in May 2023\)](#)



UNGEGN’s strategies

Links for UNGEGN within the United Nations have been strengthened, particularly with the UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), the UN Documentation Division and the UN Geospatial Information Section. UNGEGN’s role within ECOSOC to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and address environmental and social issues of today’s world is being brought to the forefront for increased focus.