



UNITED NATIONS GROUP OF EXPERTS ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

Standardizing geographical names matters

2019 Session UNGEGN | 29 April – 3 May 2019 | @UNSD_GEGN #2019UNGEGN



1st UNGEGN Session

Newcomers Orientation Session

William Watt, Australia

Chair of UNGEGN,

29 April, 2019



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United Nations Group of Experts
on Geographical Names



UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names

Session Orientation



Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)
United Nations Headquarters, New York



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on Geographical Names



WELCOME

- The **UNGEEN Bureau and Secretariat** welcome you to New York, the United Nations and the **2019 Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographic Names (UNGEEN)**. This is the first session of the new UNGEEN, operating under the adjusted methodology proposed at the last United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names and decided by ECOSOC at its meeting in July 2018.
- This presentation is aimed at introducing delegates and observers who are attending the session for the first time, to the formal procedures of a United Nations inter-governmental meeting.
- It is hoped that this presentation will assist first-time delegates and observers to have a productive and rewarding week at the United Nations headquarters.



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What is important to know?

1. The United Nations
2. Background on UNGEGN
 - Aims of the Group
 - Bureau, Working Groups and Divisions
 - Major work/agenda items
3. Your role BEFORE/DURING/AFTER Sessions
 - The New York Resource Guide
 - Side events
 - Rules of Procedure
 - Interventions
4. Meeting Documents
 - Annotated Provisional Agenda
 - Organization of work
 - Reports



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The United Nations System

UN PRINCIPAL ORGANS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SECURITY COUNCIL

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

SECRETARIAT

INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL⁶

Subsidiary Organs

- Main Committees
- Disarmament Commission
- Human Rights Council
- International Law Commission
- Joint Inspection Unit (JIU)
- Standing committees and ad hoc bodies

Funds and Programmes¹

- UNDP** United Nations Development Programme
- UNCDF** United Nations Capital Development Fund
- UNV** United Nations Volunteers
- UNEP** United Nations Environment Programme
- UNFPA** United Nations Population Fund
- UN-Habitat** United Nations Human Settlements Programme
- UNICEF** United Nations Children's Fund
- WFP** World Food Programme (UN/FAO)

Other Entities

- ITC** International Trade Centre (UN/WTO)
- UNCTAD**^{1,8} United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
- UNHCR**¹ Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- UNOPS**¹ United Nations Office for Project Services
- UNRWA**¹ United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
- UN-Women**¹ United Nations Entity for Gender Quality and the Empowerment of Women

Related Organizations

- CTBTO Preparatory Commission** Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization
- IAEA**^{1,3} International Atomic Energy Agency
- ICC** International Criminal Court
- IOM**¹ International Organization for Migration
- ISA** International Seabed Authority
- ITLOS** International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea
- OPCW**² Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
- WTO**^{1,4} World Trade Organization

Peacebuilding Commission

HLPF High-level political forum on sustainable development

Subsidiary Organs

- Counter-Terrorism Committee
- International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY)
- International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals
- Military Staff Committee

- Peacekeeping operations and political missions
- Sanctions committees (ad hoc)
- Standing committees and ad hoc bodies

Functional Commissions

- Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
- Narcotic Drugs
- Population and Development
- Science and Technology for Development
- Social Development
- Statistics
- Status of Women
- United Nations Forum on Forests

Regional Commissions⁵

- ECA** Economic Commission for Africa
- ECE** Economic Commission for Europe
- ECLAC** Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
- ESCAP** Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
- ESCWA** Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Other Bodies

- Committee for Development Policy
- Committee of Experts on Public Administration
- Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations
- Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
- UNGEEN** United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

Departments and Offices⁹

- EOSSC** Executive Office of the Secretary-General
- DESA** Department of Economic and Social Affairs
- DFS** Department of Field Support
- DGACM** Department for General Assembly and Conference Management
- DPA** Department of Political Affairs
- DPI** Department of Public Information
- DPKO** Department of Peacekeeping Operations
- DSS** Department of Safety and Security
- OCHA** Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
- ODA** Office for Disarmament Affairs
- OHCHR** Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
- OIOS** Office of Internal Oversight Services
- OLA** Office of Legal Affairs
- OSAA** Office of the Special Adviser on Africa
- PSO** Peacebuilding Support Office
- SRSO/CAAC** Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict
- SRSO/SVC** Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict
- SRSO/VAC** Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children
- UNISDR** United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

Research and Training

- UNICRI** United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute
- UNRISD** United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

Specialized Agencies^{1,4}

- FAO** Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- ICAO** International Civil Aviation Organization
- IFAD** International Fund for Agricultural Development
- ILO** International Labour Organization
- IMF** International Monetary Fund
- IMO** International Maritime Organization
- ITU** International Telecommunication Union
- UNESCO** United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
- UNIDO** United Nations Industrial Development Organization
- UNWTO** World Tourism Organization
- UPU** Universal Postal Union
- WHO** World Health Organization
- WIPO** World Intellectual Property Organization
- WMO** World Meteorological Organization
- WORLD BANK GROUP**⁷
 - IBRD** International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
 - IDA** International Development Association
 - IFC** International Finance Corporation

Notes:

- Members of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB).
- UN Office for Partnerships (UNOP) is the UN's focal point vis-a-vis the United Nations Foundation, Inc.
- IAEA and OPCW report to the Security Council and the General Assembly (GA).
- WTO has no reporting obligation to the GA, but contributes on an ad hoc basis to GA and Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) work on, inter alia, finance and development issues.
- Specialized agencies are autonomous organizations whose work is coordinated through ECOSOC (intergovernmental level) and CEB (inter-secretariat level).
- The Trusteeship Council suspended operation on 1 November 1994, as on 1 October 1994 Palau, the last United Nations Trust Territory, became independent.
- International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) and Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) are not specialized agencies in accordance with Articles 57 and 63 of the Charter, but are part of the World Bank Group.
- The secretariats of these organs are part of the UN Secretariat.
- The Secretariat also includes the following offices: The Ethics Office, United Nations Ombudsman and Mediation Services, Office of Administration of Justice and the Office on Sport for Development and Peace

This Chart is a reflection of the functional organization of the United Nations System and for informational purposes only. It does not include all offices or entities of the United Nations System.

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UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names

- A subsidiary body of ECOSOC
- Develops procedures and establish mechanisms for standardization in response to national requirements
- Creates and follows up on the implementation of resolutions
- Supported by a Secretariat at UNHQ (NY)
- Creates working groups to focus on specific areas of current concern and interest
- Has 24 geographical/linguistic divisions for grass roots work



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What UNGEGN is NOT

- Decision maker on feature names
- Point of arbitration on disputes over names
- Place to air political issues, even if they are related in some way to place names
- Decision maker on what processes, legislation or policy is correct for any country



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UNGEGN aims

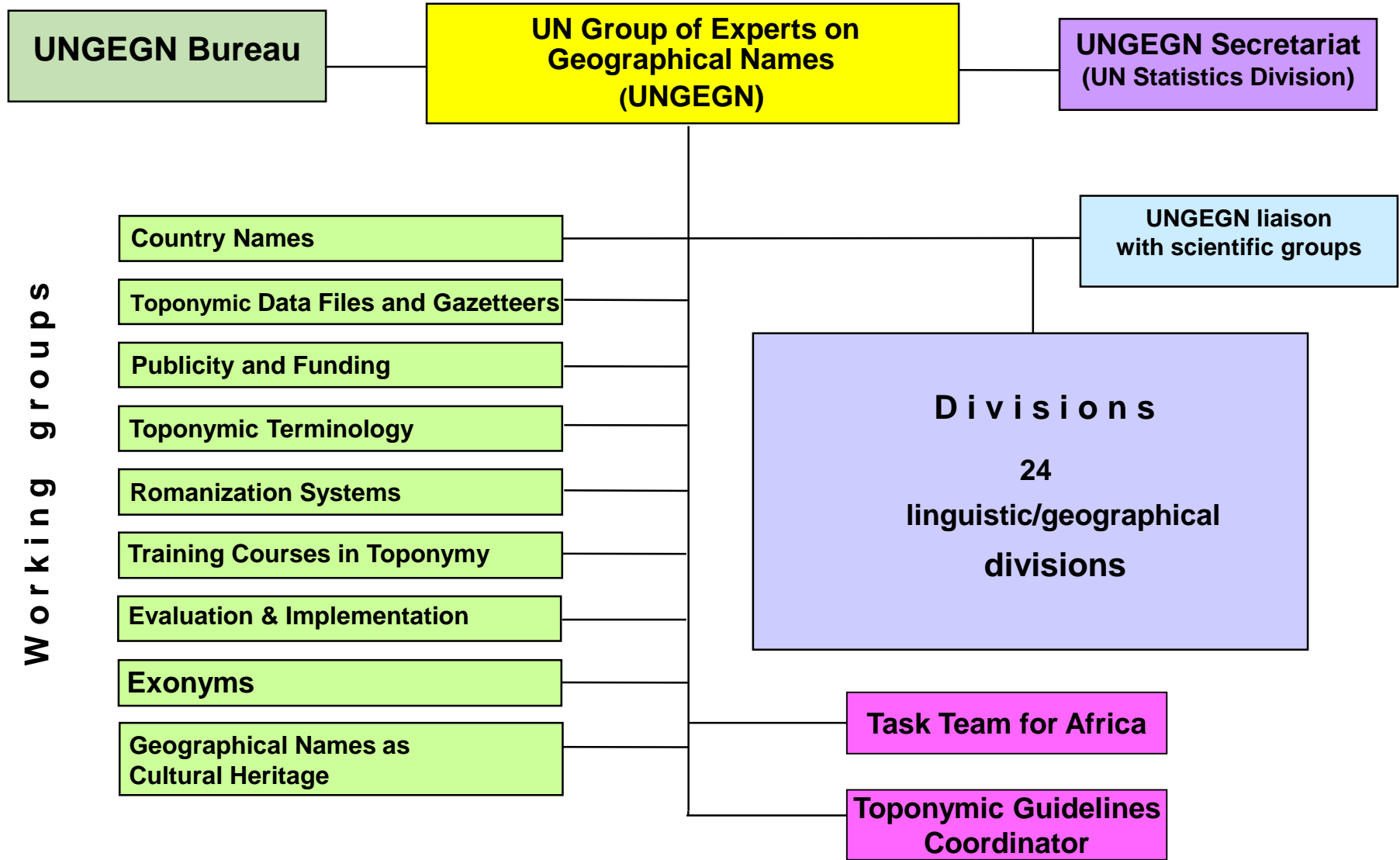
- Encourage the creation of national names authorities
 - backed by legislation
 - respect local usage of names
 - collect, store and disseminate authorized names - **for government and public use**
- Develop single scientifically-based systems of romanization
- Encourage multi-national datasets
- Collect and facilitate the dissemination of works on place names standardization
- Study and propose principles, policies and methods suitable for helping to resolve general problems of national and international standardization



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UNGEGN Structure



Supported by the UN Statistical Division through the UNGEGN Secretariat



UNGEEN working groups

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k	kii	ᑕ	ᑕ	ᑕ	ᑕ	k
g	gii	ᑕ	ᑕ	ᑕ	ᑕ	g
m	mii	ᑕ	ᑕ	ᑕ	ᑕ	m
n	nii	ᑕ	ᑕ	ᑕ	ᑕ	n
s/h	sii/hii	ᑕ	ᑕ	ᑕ	ᑕ	s/h
l	lii	ᑕ	ᑕ	ᑕ	ᑕ	l
j	jii	ᑕ	ᑕ	ᑕ	ᑕ	j
v	vii	ᑕ	ᑕ	ᑕ	ᑕ	v
r	rii	ᑕ	ᑕ	ᑕ	ᑕ	r
q	qii	ᑕ	ᑕ	ᑕ	ᑕ	q
ng						
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Romanization

Training



Data files / gazetteers



Evaluation / implementation



Terminology



Exonyms



Cultural heritage

Publicity / funding



Country names

Task Team for Africa

Coordination of Toponymic Guidelines



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UNGEEN Bureau

Officers of UNGEEN

Chairperson

- Mr. William Watt, Australia

Vice-Chairpersons

- Ms. Naima Friha, Tunisia
- Mr. Hasanuddin Abidin, Indonesia

Rapporteurs

- Mr. Trent C. Palmer, USA
- Mr. Sungjae Choo, Republic of Korea



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UNGEEN Divisions

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



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UNGEEN Liaison with other Organizations

1. International Cartographic Association (**ICA**)
2. Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (**ICANN**)
3. International Council of Onomastic Sciences (**ICOS**)
4. International Council on Indigenous Place Names (**ICIPN**)
5. International Hydrographic Organization (**IHO**)
6. International Organization for Standardization (**ISO**) Technical Committee 211 (TC/211)
7. Pan-American Institute of Geography and History (**PAIGH**)
8. Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (**SCAR**)
9. Unicode Consortium



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BEFORE the Session

Participants are encouraged to:

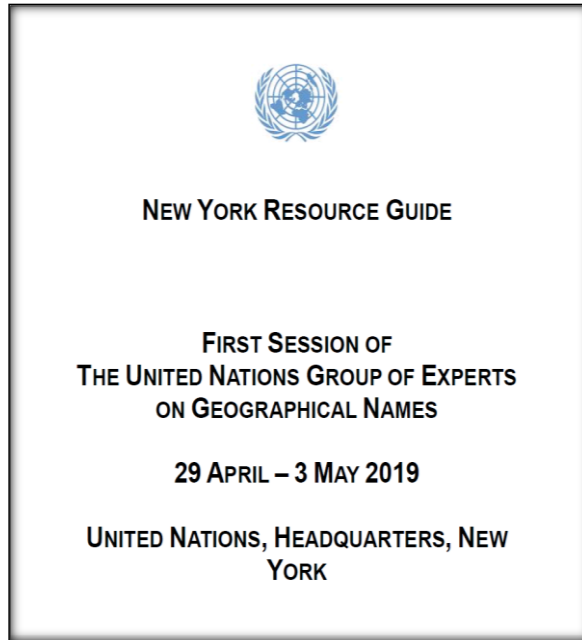
1. Prepare country reports, technical papers, and posters
2. Identify and know the responsible officer(s) with Foreign Affairs in Capital and at your Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York
3. Logistical arrangements:-
 - Travel and accommodation
 - Securing and submitting accreditation for participation
4. Make arrangements to process your UN grounds pass
5. Monitor the UNGEGN website for updates and reports
6. Read the technical reports, discuss and decide on national positions and prepare statements/interventions.



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The New York Resource Guide



The information helps to prepare you for your trip to and during your stay in New York.

It covers:

1. Meeting arrangements
2. Identification Badges and Grounds Passes
3. Secretariat Contact Information
4. Working Languages of the meeting
5. General Information
 - Immigration requirements
 - Money
 - Hotels – Address and Telephone Numbers
 - Guide to Neighborhood Restaurants
 - Airports
 - Transportation – Airport and local
 - Postal Services
 - Time and Weather

https://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/docs/1st-session/Note-NY-ResourceGuide_2019_17Jan2019.pdf



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Table of Side Events

Side events

[Printable Version](#)

Tentative schedule and room assignments subject to change as of 22 April 2019

29 April 2019 (Monday)

Morning

8:30 - 9:30 am
Orientation Briefing Session
"open to all especially newcomers"
Venue: CR-E (General Assembly bldg.)
Contact: UNGEGN Secretariat
Email: geoinfo_unsd@un.org

Lunchtime

1:15 - 2:30 pm
Arab Division meeting
"open to all"
Venue: CR-E (General Assembly bldg.)
Contact: Dr. Eng. Awni Kasawneh
Email: kawni@yahoo.com
1:15 - 2:30 pm
Asia East Division (other than China) meeting
"by invitation only"
Venue: CR-E (General Assembly bldg.)
Contact: Ki-Suk Lee
Email: leekisuk@snu.ac.kr

30 April 2019 (Tuesday)

Morning

8:15 - 9:15 am
Workshop on Linked data developments and provision
Venue: CR-A (Conference bldg.)
Contact: Pier-Giorgio Zaocheddu
Email: pier-giorgio.zaocheddu@bkg.bund.de
[Concept note](#)
8:15 - 9:30 am
Presentation of the Joint ICA/IGU Commission on Toponymy
"open to all"
Venue: CR-E (General Assembly bldg.)
Contact: Peter Jordan
Email: peter.jordan@oeaw.ac.at
[Concept note](#)

Lunchtime

1:15 - 2:30 pm
French Speaking Division meeting
"open to all"
Venue: CR-A (Conference bldg.)
Contact: Élisabeth Calvarin
Email: e-calvarin@wanadoo.fr
1:15 - 2:30 pm
WG on Toponymic Terminology business meeting
Venue: CR-E (General Assembly bldg.)
Contact: Trent Palmer
Email: trent.c.palmer@nga.mil; thepalmerpeople7@gmail.com

1 May 2019 (Wednesday)

Morning

8:15 - 9:30 am
WG Romanization Systems business meeting
Venue: CR-A (Conference bldg.)
Contact: Catherine Cheetham and Peeter Päll
Email: ccheetham@pogn.org.uk; peeter@eki.ee
8:15 - 9:30 am
East Central and South-East European Division meeting
Venue: CR-E (General Assembly bldg.)
Contact: Darina Forubcanová
Email: darina.forubcanova@geodesy.sk

Lunchtime

1:15 - 2:30 pm
Workshop "The Unanswered Questions Relating to Indigenous Toponymy"
"open to all"
Venue: CR-2 (Conference bldg.)
Contact: Bill Watt
Email: William.Watt@sa.gov.au
1:15 - 2:30 pm
Asia South East Division meeting
Venue: CR-A (Conference bldg.)
Contact: Ellen Suryanegara, Geospatial Information Agency (BIG) The Republic of Indonesia
Email: ellen.surya@gmail.com; ellen.suryanegara@big.go.id
1:15 - 2:30 pm
SCAR - SCAGI - Working Group on Place Names in Antarctica
Venue: CR-E (General Assembly bldg.)
Contact: Jean-Yves Pirlot
Email: jean-yves.pirlot@gn.be

2 May 2019 (Thursday)

Morning

8:15 - 9:30 am
Panel of experts to discuss practice relating to geographical names with the Documentation Division
Venue: CR-E (General Assembly bldg.)
Contact: Cecille Blake
Email: blake1@un.org
8:15 - 9:30 am
Exonym working group meeting
Venue: CR-A (Conference bldg.)
Contact: Kohei Watanabe
Email: kw10004@cam.ac.uk

Lunchtime

1:15 - 2:00 pm
Challenges and Opportunities of the Online Discussion Forum
Venue: CR-A (Conference bldg.)
Contact: Pier-Giorgio Zaocheddu
Email: pier-giorgio.zaocheddu@bkg.bund.de
[Concept note](#)
1:15 - 2:30 pm
SCAR - SCAGI - Working Group on Place Names in Antarctica
Venue: CR-E (General Assembly bldg.)
Contact: Jean-Yves Pirlot
Email: jean-yves.pirlot@gn.be
2:00 - 2:30 pm
Business meeting of the Working Group on the Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers
Venue: CR-A (Conference bldg.)
Contact: Pier-Giorgio Zaocheddu
Email: pier-giorgio.zaocheddu@bkg.bund.de
[Annotated Agenda](#)

<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/2019-new-york-ungegn-1st-session/side-events/>



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Table of Side Events

- It is important that you refer to the **Table of Side Events** for schedules and updated information of formal and informal events over the week – 29 April to 3 May 2019
- Identify the events you wish to attend and note the times and venues. Any changes will be reflected on the web-site
- Divisional meetings, and working group meetings, may be closed to observers (unless invited to attend)
- Interpretation is not provided for the side events



Rules of Procedure

Decision 2018/264

Rules of procedure of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names and draft agenda for its first session

At its 51st plenary meeting, on 24 July 2018, the Economic and Social Council, recalling its resolution 2018/2 of 10 November 2017, in which it decided that the rules of procedure of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names were to be drafted by the Bureau, in close consultation with the States Members of the United Nations, and be presented to the Council for adoption, decided:

- (a) To approve the rules of procedure of the Group, as set out in annex I to the present decision;
- (b) To approve the draft agenda for the first session of the Group, to be held in 2019, as set out in annex II to the present decision.

Annex I

Rules of procedure of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

Guiding principles

I. Aims

The basic aims of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names are:

- (a) To emphasize the importance of the standardization of geographical names at the national and international levels and to demonstrate the benefits to be derived from such standardization;
- (b) To collect the results of the work of national and international bodies dealing with the standardization of geographical names and to facilitate the dissemination of those results to States Members of the United Nations;
- (c) To study and propose principles, policies and methods suitable for resolving problems of national and international standardization;
- (d) To play an active role, by facilitating the supply of scientific and technical help, in particular to developing countries, in creating mechanisms for the national and international standardization of geographical names;
- (e) To provide a vehicle for liaison and coordination among Member States, and between Member States and international organizations, on work associated with the standardization of geographical names;

- The policies and regulations governing the meetings of the UNGEGN are laid out in the Rules of Procedure. (Decision 2018/264)
- They constitute a set of procedures and conducts that ensures the proper functioning of meetings.
- All participants are obliged to respect these rules and follow the procedures.

Rules of Procedure of UNGEGN

The Rules of procedure are available here:
<https://www.un.org/ecosoc/sites/www.un.org.ecosoc/files/documents/2018/decision.2018.264.pdf>



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Rules of Procedure UNGEGN

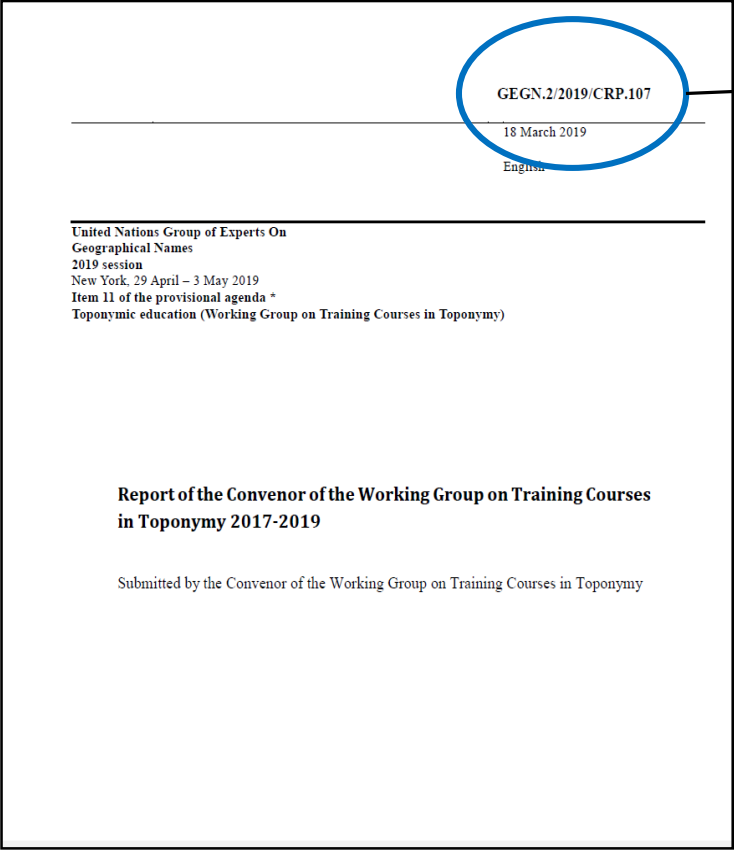
- **DEFINITIONS** Rule 2
- **COMPOSITION** Rule 3
- **REPRESENTATION FOR SESSIONS** Rule 4
- **SESSIONS** Rule 5
- **AGENDA** Rule 6
- **BUREAU** Rules 7 to 9
- **SECRETARIAT** Rules 10 to 12
- **CONDUCT OF BUSINESS** Rules 13 to 24
- **DECISION MAKING** Rules 25 to 36
- **ELECTIONS** Rules 37 to 39
- **LANGUAGES AND INTERPRETATION** Rules 40 to 41
- **DOCUMENTS** Rules 42 to 43
- **RECORDS AND MEETINGS** Rules 44 to 45
- **SUBSIDIARY BODIES** Rules 46 to 47
- **PARTICIPATION OF OBSERVERS** Rule 48
- **AMENDMENTS** Rule 49



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Meeting Document Symbols



Symbol
e.g. **GEGN.2/2019/11/107**

GEGN.2/2019/11/107

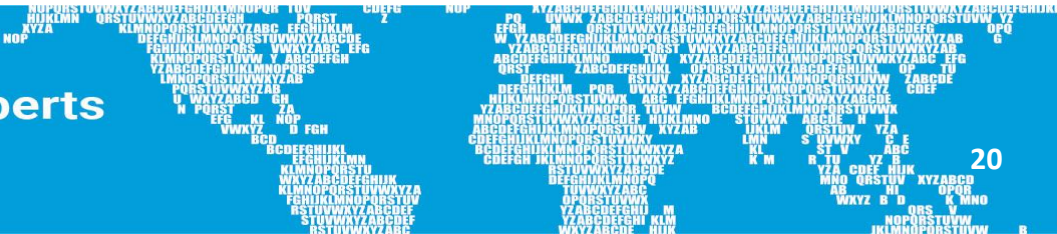
- GEGN.2** Session number assigned to UNGEGN
- /2019** Year of the session
- /11** Agenda item
- /107** Document number

CRP – conference room paper
INF - Information

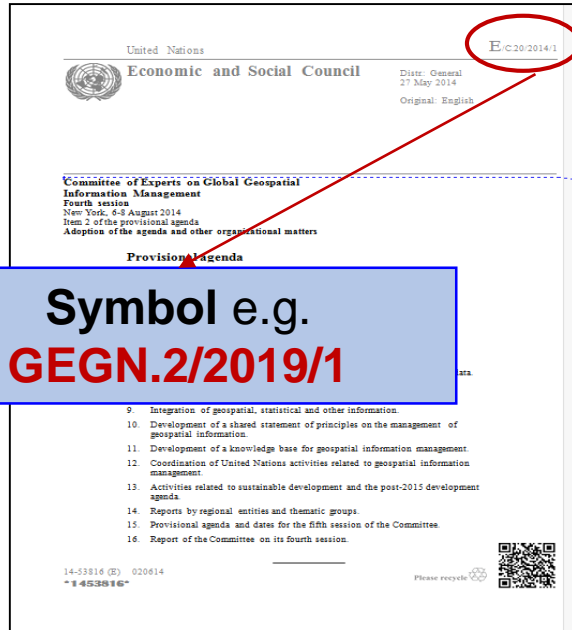


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Essential Conference documents



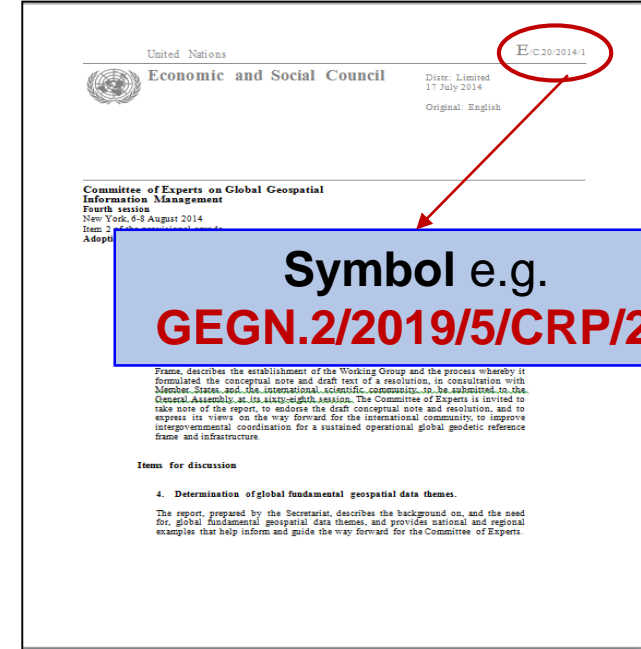
**Symbol e.g.
GEGN.2/2019/1**

Annotated Provisional Agenda
List of all items to be considered during the session with Agenda Item numbering

**Symbol e.g.
GEGN.2/2019/3**

Daytime	Agenda item and documentation	Proposed time to be spent on each item (minutes)
Wednesday 6 August		
Morning (10:30-13:00)	Opening of the Session	30
	Item 1 Election of officers and other organizational matters <i>For discussion and endorsement</i> Rules of procedure (E/C.20/2014/2)	
	Item 2 Adoption of the agenda <i>For discussion</i> Provisional agenda and annotations (E/C.20/2014/1) Note by the Secretariat on the organization of the work of the session (E/C.20/2014/L.1)	
	Item 3 Global geodetic reference frame <i>For discussion and endorsement</i> Report of the Working Group on the Global Geodetic Reference Frame Working Group on the global geodetic reference frame (E/C.20/2014/F/Add.1)	70
Afternoon (15:00-18:00)	Item 13 Activities related to sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda <i>For discussion</i> Report of the Secretariat on activities related to sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda (E/C.20/2014/L.1)	60

Organization of work
Detailed listing of Agenda Items that will be chronologically brought before the Group of Experts for considerations



**Symbol e.g.
GEGN.2/2019/5/CRP/20**

Summaries
A brief summary for each Agenda Item.



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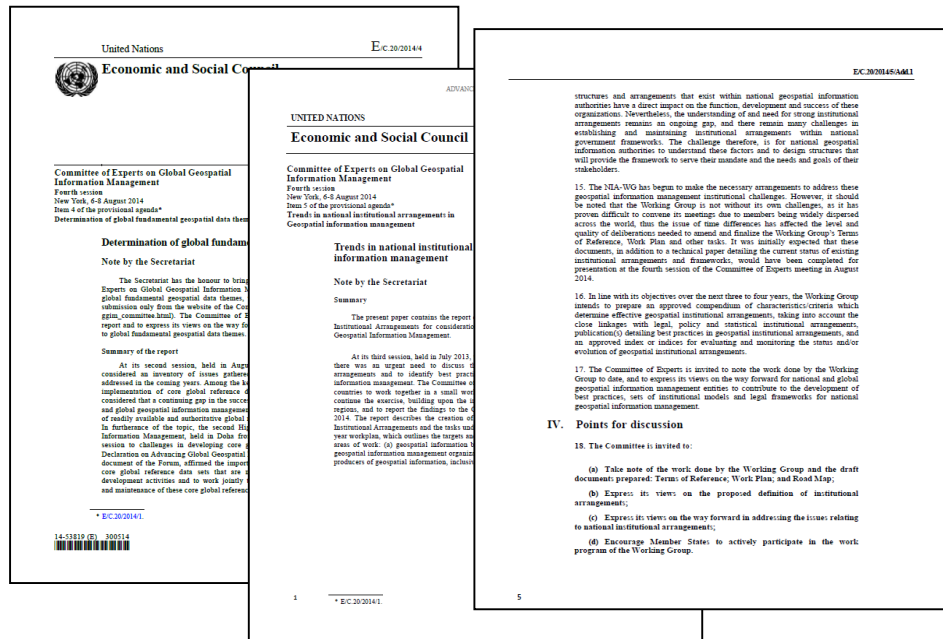
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Reports and Background Documents

Reports are prepared by working groups, divisions, Member States or secretariat as appropriate. They are available on the Session /Meeting webpages. Document as listed, has a document number/symbol, a title and may have a summary.

All Summaries for are available in all six official UN languages. Reports documents are only available in its original language of submission.



Participants are encouraged to read all documents and identify issues to be discussed.



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DURING the 1st Session

Participants are encouraged to:

- Contact your Permanent Mission in New York
- Have your Mission register you on E-deleGATE
- Become acquainted with the UNGEGN agenda work items
- Actively contribute to the discussions through statements and interventions
- Share your experiences, ideas and solutions
- Identify working groups in which to participate
- Join in the side events

Why it is important to actively participate:

- An ideal forum for networking
- Recharge technically and reconnect with experts
- Let your country's achievements and requirements be known



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DURING the 1st Session

- Seating –by country and by divisions for working group agenda items
- Be short and concise in your interventions -how to intervene
- Speak to the Chair of session
- How to address them or refer to other experts;
- line of speakers
- wait to be asked to speak;
- what to press to speak
- how the buttons work to indicate you wish to speak
- Speak slowly to allow the Interpreters to go a good job.
- responding only when invited by the Chair, not directly to another expert



YOUR role BETWEEN Sessions

Participants are encouraged to:

- Contribute to advancing the **UNGEGN work programme**
 - Communicate nationally the decisions from the previous conferences and current sessions
 - Advocate and implement nationally the policies and decisions
 - Actively engage with your Divisions:- activities, areas of focus
 - Use the vast body of knowledge contained in the papers and resolutions.
- Participate in UNGEGN division meetings and working groups
- Contribute your documents, national experiences etc. to the UNGEGN Bulletin and databases, maintained by the Secretariat and Working Groups
- Monitor the UNGEGN website for latest geospatial activities
<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/default.html>
- Tweet at **@UNSD_GEGN**



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UNEGN Secretariat
United Nations
New York

<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNEGN/default.html>

E-mail: geoinfo_unsd@un.org

twitter: @UNSD_GEGN



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