

5 February 2019
English
Original: French

United Nations Group of Experts On Geographical Names

2019 session

New York, 29 April–3 May 2019

Item 5(b) of the provisional agenda*

Reports: reports of the divisions of the Group of Experts

Report of the French-speaking Division

Summary**

Since its meeting at the Eleventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, held in August 2017, the French-speaking Division has continued to base its activities on the decisions taken at its meeting of April 2014 in New York, namely that national expertise in the field of standardization of geographical names should benefit all French-speaking countries, and that countries with emerging national toponymic structures should be able to receive appropriate support for their specific needs from the Division.

In accordance with its programme of work for the period 2017–2021, the French-speaking Division has:

- Held a divisional meeting in conjunction with the symposium and meetings held in Brussels (October 2018)
- Shared and updated a number of data sheets on national bodies and national toponymic authorities
- Enhanced the website of the Division by adding a link to a distance-learning toponymy course
- Continued working on the publication of its toponymic newsletter, the *Bulletin d'information toponymique*
- Ensured the participation of African countries in the work of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, with the support of the International Organization of la Francophonie and the National Geographic Institute of Belgium.

The website of the French-speaking Division is available from www.toponymiefrancophone.org/.

* GEGN.2/2019/1.

** The full report, prepared by Élisabeth Calvarin, Chair of the French-speaking Division, will be available from https://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEKN/1st_session_UNGEKN.html, in the language of submission only (see GEGN.2/2019/16/CRP.16).

