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**United Nations Group of Experts on
Geographical Names
2019 session**

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Item 5 (a) of the provisional agenda*

**Reports: Governments on the situation in their countries
and on the progress made in the standardization of
geographical names****Report of Jordan****Summary****

Most countries are aware of the importance of geographical names for their past, present and future, and they therefore pay great attention to them. Accordingly, most countries have formed committees, leagues or societies for geographical names.

Jordan was one of the first Arab countries in this field. The National Committee on Geographical Names was established in 1984, in accordance with a resolution issued by the Office of the Prime Minister. The members were representatives of the: Ministry of Religious Endowments and Islamic Affairs, Ministry of Public Works, Ministry of Culture and Youth, Office of the Director General of the Department of Land and Survey, Office of the Director General of the Royal Jordanian Geographical Centre and every public Jordanian university (including Jordan, Yarmouk and Mu'tah), Amman Municipality and the Aqaba zone area.

The responsibilities of the Committee are:

- Standardization of the spelling of geographical names in Jordan.
- Maintenance and publication of the Jordanian geographical names index.
- Correspondence with the Office of the Prime Minister on proposed and alternative geographical names to be adopted, or the establishment of new names for places that do not yet have names.
- Adoption of the system for writing geographical names in Latin (romanization) or foreign names in Arabic, according to the transliteration systems used by the United Nations.

* GEGN.2/2019/1.

** The full report was prepared by Awni Al-Khasawneh, Chair of the Arabic Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names. The report will be available at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/1st_session_UNGEGN.html, in the language of submission only, as document GEGN.2/2019/31/CRP.31.



- Provision to the Information Bank of alternatives for new geographical names that refer to historical events, martyrs and political and literary figures who played a significant role in society.
- Monitoring of updates from Arab countries and around the world related to geographical names.

The tasks of the Committee for 2018 and the first quarter of 2019 include the following:

- Training course in Amman from 25 to 29 March 2018. The session was attended by a number of trainees from Arab States.
- Training workshop on geographical names for nine Arab States, held in Amman from 24 to 28 May 2018 on the theme “Application of the Unified Arabic Transliteration System”.
- Monthly meetings of the Jordanian National Committee on Geographical Names.
- Participation of the Chair of the Division in the first international conference on Palestine land, held in the State of Palestine on 13 and 14 December 2018.
- Continuous updating of the website of the Arabic Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.
- Publication of several issues of the magazine *Almeqyas*, on geographical names.
- Circulate to all bodies, including the League of Arab States, information on the need to apply the rules for standardizing Arabic place names.
- Updating and revision of the book on Palestinian place names in maps.
- Updating of a book on “a window to the world”.
- Updating of the maps and charts of Jordan as a base for geographical names.

The future activities of the Committee include the organization, with the cooperation of the Arabic Division, of the Eighth Workshop on Geographical Names, to be held in Amman from 7 to 10 July 2019, on the theme “Application of the Unified Arabic Transliteration System”.
