

5 February 2021
English
Original: Spanish

United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

2021 session

Virtual, 3–7 May 2021

Item 6 (a) of the provisional agenda*

**National and international standardization of geographical
names: names collection, office treatment, national
authorities, features beyond a single sovereignty and
international cooperation**

Integrated Map of North America

Summary**

The National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico, the United States Geological Survey, Natural Resources Canada and the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History are collaborating on standardizing and structuring the official geographical names of the toponyms that extend between their borders. As part of a project entitled “Creation of an Integrated Map of North America”, standardized vector mapping at a scale of 1:250,000 of settlements, morphology, administrative boundaries, communication links, transportation and hydrography will ensure the interoperability of the data in the semantic, organizational and technical dimensions. This will, in turn, provide core regional mapping for all types of users and all kinds of applications that will help georeference information on the Sustainable Development Goals, monitor environmental change on a global scale and accelerate the development of regional data infrastructures by integrating geographical information. This work principally involves harmonizing the geographical data of the three countries, which is primarily a question of ensuring that the vector data relating to the borders match up in terms of the geometry and the corresponding toponym, with regard to, for example, the Colorado River and the Rio Grande/Rio Bravo as international boundaries between Mexico and the United States of America, the towns and roads of Rock Island, Canada and Derby Line, United States of America and the Tomifobia River, and the Yukon River, which flows north and west through the province of British Columbia and the territory of Yukon in Canada and the state of Alaska in the United States of America.

* GEGN.2/2021/1.

** The full report was prepared by Enrique Muñoz Goncen (Chair) and Mario Ángel Jahuey Amaro (Co-Chair) of the Latin America Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names. The report will be available, under document symbol GEGN.2/2021/86/CRP.86, in the language of submission only, at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/2nd_session_2021/.

