



## STATEMENT/INTERVENTION

**Agenda Item Number:** 7

**Agenda Item Title:** Social and economic benefits, supporting sustainable development, measures taken and proposed for the implementation of resolutions and evaluation of the work of the Group of Experts

**Title of paper/report:** Geographical Names and the Environment

**Statement/intervention provided by:**

REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA

**Statement/intervention:**

THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA greatly appreciates the efforts and initiative of Australia to encourage the Group of Experts to consider the current and potential connections between geographical names and the natural environment. We agree that geographical names play essential roles in shaping human understanding of and impact on the environment. More research and case studies from other disciplines of studies are sure required to support geographical names programs in these areas.

Referred to the paper, Australia also encourages Member States to share examples of practices where geographical names and naming practices improve human understanding of the natural environment and seek to influence the level of human impact on the natural environment. Indonesia had two examples of the massive impact of natural disasters related to neglected geographical names and the natural environment. The floods in Jakarta (2007) and the land liquefaction in Palu, Center of Sulawesi (2018) after a strong 7.4 magnitude earthquake are clear examples of the importance of geographical names which contain the actual condition of the natural environment cannot be easily replaced. These two conditions caused the material loss, but what was even more tragic was the loss of life.

THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA supports any further discussions concerning geographical names and the natural environment for its potential in supporting UNGEGN's aims and contributing to sustainable development throughout the world.

Thank You.

*Badan Informasi Geospasial (Geospatial Information Agency), INDONESIA*

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