

28 February 2023

English

**United Nations Group of Experts On
Geographical Names**

2023 session

New York, 1 – 5 May 2023

Agenda item 5 (c) of the provisional agenda **

Cooperation and liaison with other organizations:

Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

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Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to bring to the attention of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) the report of the Bureau which will be available in the language of submission only from the relevant web page of the Group of Experts ([UNSD — United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names](#)). The Group of Experts is invited to take note of the report, express its views on the proposed project to strengthen collaboration with the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) and to approve its implementation to produce a compendium of institutional arrangements on shared good practices between national mapping agencies and national names authorities.

Summary **

For the past five years papers, reports and proposals have been presented on strengthening relations between United Nation Group of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) and United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN), with varying levels of success. An initial item of collaboration was having two UNGEGN experts actively contribute to the work of the UN-GGIM Working Group on Global Fundamental Geospatial Data Themes. They assisted with the preparation of the description of the theme “Geographical Names”, one of the 14 adopted Global Fundamental Geospatial Data Themes. Other collaborative actions have been the staging of three joint meetings of both Bureaux and reporting to and attending each other’s plenary sessions.

* GEGN.2/2023/1

** The full report was prepared by UNGEGN Bureau and UNGEGN Secretariat. The report will be available under document symbol GEGN.2/2023/115/CRP.115, in the language of submission only, at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/3rd_session_2023/.

The Group of Experts at its 2021 session, in Decision 2/2021/4 (e), welcomed the invitation for more formal cooperation between the Group of Experts and the Committee of Experts. Similarly, the Committee of Experts at its eleventh session in 2021, in Decision 11/112 (b and c), supported efforts and actions for strengthening interaction and collaboration between the Bureaux of the Committee of Experts and the Group of Experts, including opportunities for partnership, and also encouraged Member States to improve communication, coordination and cooperation between geospatial information management authorities and geographical names authorities at national and regional levels, including across thematic areas, to strengthen geospatial information management. At its twelfth session in 2022 the Committee of Experts in Decision 12/114 (d) noted the continuing efforts to build a stronger relationship between the Committee of Experts and the Group of Experts, and supported the collaborative project proposal from the Group of Experts to develop a compendium of institutional arrangements on shared good practices for geographical names standardization between national mapping and geospatial agencies and national names authorities (E/C.20/2022/18/Add.1). The aims of the project are to increase cooperation, create synergies and share knowledge and good practices for the standardization of geographical names

The full report provides a background on the past efforts to strengthen relations between UNGEGN and UN-GGIM and policy directives and guidance from the UN Economic and Social Council on promoting strengthening of collaboration among its functional commissions and expert bodies. The report covers the development of the project proposal, its objectives and proposed outcomes and activities. Further, the report contains actions taken to engage and inform national names authorities and UNGEGN Divisions on the benefits, requirements, and modalities for project implementation.

Included in this report as an annex is the project proposal on strengthening collaboration between UN-GGIM and UNGEGN, which is presented for approval by the Group of Experts.

The Group of Experts is invited to take note of the report, express its views on the proposed project to strengthen collaboration with the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) and to approve its implementation to produce a compendium of institutional arrangements on shared good practices between national mapping agencies and national names authorities