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Reports: divisions of the Group of Experts

Report of the China Division

Summary**

Since the second session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names in 2021, China has actively advanced putting the administration of geographical names on a rule-of-law basis, standardizing and informatizing geographical name administration, and the cultural construction of geographical names, which have come to play a positive role in promoting sustainable development.

China has revised its Regulation on the Administration of Geographical Names, originally promulgated in 1986. The new Regulation, which came into effect on 1 May 2022, actively adapts to the practical needs of economic and social development and the administration of geographical names, comprehensively regulates aspects of geographical names, including naming, renaming, use, cultural protection and legal responsibilities, and offers strong legal safeguards for promoting a new era of high-quality development of the work on geographical names.

The China National Committee for Standardization of Geographical Names has drafted “a [Plan for the] Development of Geographical Names Standardization under the Fourteenth Five-Year Plan (2021–2025)”, promoting standards related to the development of geographical names and improving the system of geographical names standardization.

The Ministry of Civil Affairs of the People’s Republic of China has updated and optimized the National Database for Geographical Names of China. The newly released 2022 edition has added 204,500 new geographical names, updated 2,130 pieces of information on the adjustments of administrative divisions, and published standard translations of some foreign, international seabed, Antarctic and lunar geographical names. Based on the Database, actions have been taken to improve information services on rural geographical names, thereby contributing to the revitalization of rural areas.

* [GEGN.2/2023/1](#).

** The full report was prepared by the China Division. It will be available under document symbol GEGN.2/2023/7/CRP.7, in the language of submission only, at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/3rd_session_2023/.



The Ministry of Civil Affairs and the China Media Group jointly produced and broadcast the third season of *Behind the Names*, which continued the main theme of “viewing culture through place names; viewing China through culture”. The programme innovatively introduced topics including “travelling around China with place names”, “magic mirror of place names” and “viewing place names on maps”, revealing the rules of geographical naming and renaming, interpreting the cultural connotations of place names, relating historical developments and changes, and carrying on the splendid culture of Chinese geographical names.
