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English

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

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Item 7 of the provisional agenda *

Social and economic benefits, supporting sustainable development, measures taken and proposed for the implementation of resolutions.

**Using Standardized Geospatial Names Platform as a
Driver for Enhanced SDGs Monitoring**

Summary **

The National Committee of Geographic Names in Saudi Arabia shares the vision and values of the UNGEGN since they represent what great philosophers and scholars of the country have worked towards for a long time. The establishment of this committee in 2013 under the King Abdulaziz Foundation for Research and Archives and then its reassignment to be hosted within the General Authority of Surveying and Geospatial Authority (GASGA) exemplifies a commitment to action items of UNGEGN that requires the Group of Experts to; **Monitor the availability of free and easily accessible authorized digital geographical names data** as it is seen as a key driver in encouraging the use of nationally standardized geographical names.

UNGEKN's vision states that "every country to have a fully functioning and globally-aligned structure and policy framework, based on common principles for national standardization of authorized geographical names that identify location and respect the association". Acting on this vision, Saudi Arabia has formed the National Committee of Geographic Names. However, soon we realized the need to implement more solution-oriented products that preserve the geographic names and allow for a quick and easy way for their standardization and sharing across agencies to enhance other applications related to development, especially sustainable development.

Saudi Arabia agencies represented in the National Committee of Geographic Names led by the General Authority of Geospatial Information and Surveying started several initiatives to enhance open access to geospatial place names. Some of the promising initiatives are the ones taking place to power the National Geospatial Platform with statistical indicators produced by the General Authority of Statistics. Such initiatives include formalizing boundaries between spatial places, standardizing their names, adding essential attributes, and displaying some suitable SDGs about these places on a continuous basis. This paper illustrates the background of such inter-agencies'

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** The full report was prepared by Abdullah Al Thunaiyan, General Authority of Statistics, Saudi Arabia. The report will be available under document symbol GEGN.2/2023/101/CRP.101, in the language of submission only, at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/3rd_session_2023/.

cooperation, the several phases of the GIS-related initiatives, and how they were spun-off of the values and aims listed in the UNGEGN Strategic Plan and Programme of Work 2021-2029. It also illustrates how some intricacies and challenges were dealt with in a way that moved Saudi Arabia closer towards harmonizing and standardizing the links between SDGs' indicators and geographic names.