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**United Nations Group of Experts on
Geographical Names**
2023 session
New York, 1 – 5 May 2023
Item 13 of the provisional agenda *
Exonyms

Report of the Working Group on Exonyms

Summary **

The report describes the activities of the Working Group on Exonyms since the 2021 session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN), held on-line from 3 to 7 May 2021. The 23rd meeting of the Working Group, a business meeting, was held on 4 May 2021 as a side event of the 2021 UNGEGN session.

The 24th meeting of the Working Group was in the form of a workshop, that was held in Ljubljana, Slovenia hosted by the Anton Melik Geographical Institute from 31 August to 3 September 2022. This workshop was held back-to-back with the meeting of the Terminology Working Group, convened by Trent Palmer.

Two main themes were proposed for the 24th meeting: "Remaining ambiguities of the endonym/exonym divide" which was carried over from the planned meeting in March 2020 that had to be cancelled last minute due to measures taken in response to the onset of COVID-19, and "Exonyms and Cultural Heritage" based on UNGEGN Decision 2/2021/12.

The meeting was attended in person by 25 experts from 15 countries and was streamed live on-line. Sixteen papers were presented and discussed. As a result of an intensive deliberation, the working group agreed on a draft recommendation that calls for a reconsideration of past UNGEGN resolutions that requested a blanket reduction of exonym use.

* GEGN.2/2023/1

** The full report was prepared by Kohei Watanabe, Convener of the Working Group on Exonyms. . The report will be available under document symbol GEGN.2/2023/106/CRP.106, in the language of submission only, at [https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ ungegn/sessions/3rd_session_2023/](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/3rd_session_2023/).