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English

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

**2023 session**

New York, 1 – 5 May 2023

**Agenda item 4 (b) of the provisional agenda \***

**Reports: Divisions of the Group of Experts**

## **Divisions of the Group of Experts**

### **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 strengthening of the Group's operations through increasing cooperation with its 24 linguistic and geographical divisions and adopt Guidelines for the Management of UNGEGN Divisions.

### **Summary \*\***

At its 2021 session, held virtually from 3 to 7 May 2021, the Group of Experts adopted Decision 2/2021/2(d)(i) in which it welcomed the Secretariat's report and thanked the Statistics Division for continued valuable and unfaltering support to the Group. The Group of Experts noted and supported the recommendations of the UNGEGN Secretariat to further strengthen the operations of the Group, which included convening regular virtual meetings of the Bureau and the Chairs of its 24 linguistic and geographical divisions. Further, in Decision 2/2021/3(d) the Group of Experts encouraged divisions to model work based on the operations of other divisions and the feedback provided and also encouraged individual countries to continue to support the activities of divisions.

The full report highlights the major activities conducted in pursuance of Decision 2/2021/2(d)(i), an historical overview on the creation and evolution of Divisions, a brief overview of the status of Divisions, the challenges being experienced, and a few recommendations for further strengthening relations with the UNGEGN Bureau and Working Groups, for consideration.

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\* GEGN.2/2023/1

\*\* The full report was prepared by the UNGEGN Bureau and UNGEGN Secretariat. The report will be available under document symbol GEGN.2/2023/113/CRP.113, 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/).

Further, this report provides a summary of the findings and main outcomes which emanated from the three meetings of the UNGEGN Bureau and Division Chairs, held on 19 November 2021, 9 December 2022 and 30 March 2023. The first meeting in November 2021, was attended by 23 experts from 14 divisions. At this meeting the following five divisional priorities were identified, i) identification of Divisional members, maintenance of their contacts and employing strategies to retain their participation, ii) supporting the revision of UNGEGN publications, iii) identifying strategies to support the maintenance of Divisional websites, iv) strengthening research and partnerships with universities and v) preparation of terms of reference/guidelines for the management of Divisions. In furtherance of priority v) the Bureau with the support of the UNGEGN Secretariat prepared and presents in this report the Guidelines for the Management of UNGEGN Divisions to the Group of Experts for adoption.