

1 February 2023  
English  
Original: French

---

## United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

### 2023 session

New York, 1–5 May 2023

Item 4 (b) of the provisional agenda\*

**Reports: divisions of the Group of Experts**

## Report of the Africa Central Division

### Summary\*\*

Ahead of the third session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, to be held in New York from 1 to 5 May 2023, the Africa Central Division, like all the other divisions of the Group, has prepared an annual report, in which it highlights the activities relating to geographical names carried out in the various member countries in 2022. The Division's efforts to expand its activities throughout the Central Africa region still face many obstacles, which have been analysed in the report. At the country level, aside from Burundi, which has shown some interest in the Division's activities, the positions of the other countries remain unchanged. In Chad, Mr. Tob-Ro Ndilbé has agreed to replace Mr. Goltob Ngaressem Mbaye, who died on 4 May 2020, as the focal point, but in the Central African Republic, the current focal point is showing little interest. The report therefore provides information only on Burundi, Cameroon, Chad and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

On another level, because of the serious economic downturn affecting States, little activity relating to geographical names has taken place, which explains the lack of interaction among the countries of the region. In the future, beyond the current economic circumstances, there will be an urgent need to find ways both to re-engage the countries that are already members of the Division and to encourage others to rejoin.

---

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

\*\* The full report was prepared by Michel Simeu Kamdem, Director of Research, Chair of the Africa Central Division, Professor in the Department of Geography of the University of Yaoundé I, in Cameroon. It will be available under document symbol GEGN.2/2023/15/CRP.15, 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/).

