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**United Nations Group of Experts on  
Geographical Names****2023 session**

New York, 1–5 May 2023

Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda\*

**Reports: Governments on the situation in their countries  
and on the progress made in the standardization of  
geographical names****Report of New Zealand****Summary\*\***

The 2023 report of New Zealand summarizes the geographic names standardization work of the national naming authority, the New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa,<sup>1</sup> since the second session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, held in 2021. The report covers the implementation of outreach and engagement initiatives, upgrades to the gazetteer system, the creation of online proposal forms, the launch of a new brand, upgrades to the website and content, new map versions of original Māori geographic names, statistics on geographic name decisions, controversial decisions, responses to the Government's expectations and initiatives to revitalize the Māori language including the consideration of alternative Māori names for cities and towns, new policies, making geographic names official through a streamlined process, international contributions, and meeting Treaty of Waitangi commitments.

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

\*\* The full report was prepared by Wendy Shaw, Secretary, New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa. It will be available under document symbol GEGN.2/2023/25/CRP.25, 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/).

<sup>1</sup> “Memorial markers of the landscape”.

