

13 February 2023

Original: English

**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 Italy****Summary****

The Italian Geographic Military Institute, as the body in charge of compiling, updating and publishing the official map of Italy, ensures the standardization of geographical names through its own Commission for Italian Official Toponymy. In accordance with the relevant laws, the Commission acts in cooperation with other national, regional and provincial public institutions and with the support of academic organizations.

During the two-year period from 2021 to 2022, the following activities were carried out in Italy:

(a) Organization of the third international scientific symposium, on the theme “Permanence, transformation, substitution and oblivion of geographical names”, in Naples, in cooperation with the Romano-Hellenic Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names;

(b) Organization of the cartographic travelling exhibition on the theme “Naples lands and sea: from ancient to contemporary toponymy”, combined with a series of conferences on the standardization of geographical names, in close cooperation with the Italian Geographic Military Institute;

(c) Organization of the thirtieth International Cartographic Conference and the International Cartographic Exhibition, in Florence, from 14 to 18 December 2021;

(d) Final review phase of the Veneto toponymic database, which was launched following an agreement between the Commission for Italian Official Toponymy and the Veneto Region;

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

** The full report was prepared by the Chair of the Commission for Italian Official Toponymy, Andrea Cantile. The report will be available under document symbol GEGN.2/2023/71/CRP.71, in the language of submission only, at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/3rd_session_2023/.



(e) Publication of the book *Atlante COVID-19: Geografie del Contagio in Italia* by the Italian Association of Geographers;

(f) Updating of the layout and content of the Romano-Hellenic Division website.

During the period from 2023 to 2024, the following activities will be carried out in Italy:

(a) Organization of conferences combined with cartographic travelling exhibitions at universities in Rome (Sapienza University of Rome, the University of Rome Tor Vergata and Roma Tre University), with a final scientific panel on the standardization of geographical names at the Italian Geographic Society;

(b) Completion of the Veneto toponymic database;

(c) Implementation of the agreement between the Italian Geographic Military Institute and the Campania Region on the creation of a new toponymic database for the region;

(d) Organization of the International Geographical Union (IGU) thematic conference on the theme “The ocean and seas in geographical thought” at the University of Milano-Bicocca, during which the Joint IGU-International Cartographic Association (ICA) Commission will convene a session on geographical names entitled “Names and naming of oceans and seas as a specific and politically delicate issue”, to be held in Milan from 6 to 8 June 2023;

(e) Organization of the conference on “Literary, polar and extraterrestrial place names” by the Joint IGU-ICA Commission at the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, Rome, on 23 and 24 November 2023;

(f) Organization of the fourth international scientific symposium on geographical names, in cooperation with the Romano-Hellenic Division, in Italy, from 11 to 13 September 2024;

(g) Reprint and dissemination of the book *I Perché e i Nomi della Geografia* by Sandro Toniolo.
