

United Nations Nations Unies

SECRETARIAT OF UNITED NATIONS GROUP
OF EXPERTS ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
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Dear Colleagues,

Third session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) *1-5 May 2023*

I am pleased to inform you that the 2023/third session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) will be convened from 1 to 5 May 2023 at the United Nations headquarters in New York. The United Nations has returned to full operational capability, and intergovernmental meetings are ongoing. Therefore, the UNGEGN 2023/third session will be in person only and will be guided by prevailing public health measures.

In terms of substantive arrangements, I wish to advise that the theme for the 2023/third session of UNGEGN is “*Strengthening relationships, links and connections in geographical names standardization and for sustainable development and pandemic recovery*”. The theme supports General Assembly resolution 70/1, which called for ECOSOC inter-governmental bodies and forums to reflect the integrated nature of the sustainable development goals (SDGs) as well as the interlinkages between them. The theme is also aligned to [UNGEGN’s Strategic Plan and Programme of Work 2021-2029](#), Strategy 2: Relationships, links and connections. Observers are therefore encouraged to consider the integrated, indivisible and interlinked nature of the SDGs with their work on the standardization of geographical names. A special focus on the theme of the session is welcomed, however, the submission of documents focusing on general issues and challenges of geographical names standardization is also encouraged.

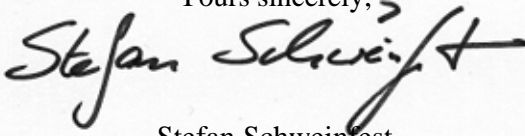
I hope your organization would be able to participate in the forthcoming session of UNGEGN as observer. I would appreciate it if you would let us know at your earliest convenience whether your organization would participate and, if so, the name of your representative(s).

Please note that a tentative provisional agenda ([GEGN.2/2023/1](#)) and an advanced unedited version of the guidelines for document preparation ([GEGN.2/2023/INF/1](#)) have been posted to the UNGEGN 2023/third session website. Observers and invited experts are encouraged to submit their summary reports in support of items of the provisional agenda no later than **20 January 2023**, and to submit their full documents no later than **13 March 2023**. Practical information and updates will be made available to confirmed observers in due course. I encourage you to monitor UNGEGN’s website https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/3rd_session_2023/ and be alert for emails from geoinfo_unsd@un.org for updates.

Should you have additional questions or need assistance regarding the forthcoming session, please do not hesitate to contact the UNGEGN Secretariat (Ms. Cecille Blake, email blake1@un.org and Ms. Vilma Frani, email frani@un.org).

I hope to be able to welcome you in New York for the 2023/third session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.

Yours sincerely,



Stefan Schweinfest
Director
UNEGN Secretariat
United Nations Statistics Division/DESA