

United Nations Nations Unies

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

**The 2025 session of the United Nations Group of Experts
on Geographical Names (UNGEGN)**
28 April - 2 May 2025

I am pleased to inform you that the 2025 session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) will be convened from 28 April to 2 May 2025 at the United Nations headquarters in New York in Conference Room 3.

The official announcement of the 2025 session has been issued through a Note Verbale, which was communicated to all Permanent Missions to the United Nations in New York on 25 November 2024. The Note Verbale (in English, French and Spanish) is attached for your reference.

In terms of substantive arrangements, I wish to advise that the theme for the 2025 session of UNGEGN is *“Advancing geographical name standardization through inclusive, culturally-informed and evidence-based solutions to support sustainable development”*. UNGEGN’s biennial theme conforms with General Assembly resolution 70/1, which called for the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) inter-governmental bodies and forums to reflect the integrated nature of the sustainable development goals (SDGs) as well as the interlinkages between them. UNGEGN’s 2025 theme was therefore created based on ECOSOC’s SDG theme for 2025, ‘Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for leaving no one behind’ which focuses on the review of SDGs 3, 5, 8, 14 and 17. Therefore, governments in preparing their technical papers are encouraged to consider featuring the theme of the session., However, the submission of documents focusing on general issues and challenges of geographical names standardization and [UNGEGN’s Strategic Plan and Programme of Work 2021 to 2029](#) are also encouraged.

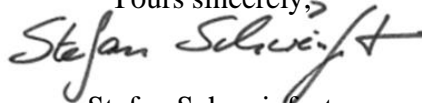
Please note that a tentative provisional agenda (GEGN.2/2025/1) and an advanced unedited version of the guidelines for document preparation (GEGN.2/2025/2) have been posted to the UNGEGN 2025 session website. Governments and their experts are encouraged to submit their summary reports in support of items of the provisional agenda no later than **17 January 2025**, and to submit their full documents no later than **10 March 2025**.

Experts who plan to participate in the 2025 session will need to comply with the formality of requesting your Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York to inform the Secretary-General of the names of the members of their government who will attend the session, by registering the composition of their delegations in the e-deleGATE portal (under ECOSOC/ United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names), which will open on **24 February 2025**. The contact information for your Permanent Mission is available on the following website: <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/member-states>. Please note that participating experts should be made available at their government's expense. Arrangements for hotels need to be made by individual participants (or their Mission) at hotels of their own choice. Practical information and updates will be made available to confirmed participants in due course. I encourage you to monitor UNGEGN's website https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/4th_session_2025/ 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, Mr. Mark Iliffe, Email: mark.iliffe@un.org, and Ms. Bermet Tashybekova, Email: bermet.tashybekova@un.org).

I look forward to welcoming you to New York for the 2025 session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.

Yours sincerely,



Stefan Schweinfest

Director

UNGEGN Secretariat

United Nations Statistics Division/DESA