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English

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

**2025 session**

New York, 28 April – 2 May 2025

Item 7 (d) of the provisional agenda \*

**Effective work programmes: Toponymic guidelines for international use by map and other editors**

**U.S. Toponymic guidelines for map and other editors, for international use**

**Summary \*\***

The U.S. Board on Geographic Names is a national authority established by law to provide uniform geographic name usage throughout the Federal Government. Working closely with Federal agencies and State geographical names authorities and advisors, it has developed specific principles, policies, and procedures governing the choice, spelling, form, and application of domestic geographical names. The Board provides guidelines for determining official names, the capitalization of names, acceptable variation of written forms, abbreviations, and the use of diacritical and other marks. The details of this information are explained throughout this report.

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\* GEGN.2/2025/1.

\*\* The full report was prepared by Michael Tischler and Shellie Zahniser, USA, USGS. The report will be available under document symbol GEGN.2/2025/101/CRP.101, in the language of submission only, at [https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/4th\\_session\\_2025/](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/4th_session_2025/)