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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 4 (b) of the provisional agenda \*

**Reports: Governments on the situation in their countries  
and on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names**



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

**National report of Brazil for the period 2023-2025**



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<b>National report</b>		
<b>A</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<p>The full report outlines the efforts made by the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) towards the standardization of geographical names during the intersessional period of 2023-2025. Key achievements focus on fostering cooperation among institutions, promoting the cultural values of geographical names (in alignment with Strategies 2, 4i, 4ii, and 4iii of the UNGEGN SP&amp;PoW 2021-2029), and ensuring the dissemination of consistent geographical names (in line with Strategies 3i and 3ii).</p> <p>To create a tool that ensures the quality of the results obtained in the intended partnerships for the collection of geographical names while highlighting their historical and cultural aspects, the IBGE launched the Manual for the Collection of Geographical Names in July 2023. This initiative focuses on establishing collaboration with organizations working with geographical names, educational and research institutions, and traditional communities.</p> <p>In December 2024, the IBGE further advanced the dissemination of geographical names by releasing the Brazilian Geographical Names Database (BNGB) and its API (API BNGB). The latter enables simple and secure access to the BNGB's data, enhancing the visibility of geographical names handled by the IBGE and promoting interoperability with other applications.</p> <p>Additionally, the IBGE's Geographical Names Department has been working since 2017 on the harmonization of geographical names across various vector basemaps in different scales, an activity closely tied to the development and ongoing maintenance of the BNGB.</p> <p>The report will also cover the IBGE's participation in conferences, capacity-building programs, and the organization of events for the sharing of experiences and capacity building (Strategy 5iii) both nationally and internationally.</p>
<b>B</b>	<b>Member state report on the situation in their country</b>	<p>This report presents the progress made by Brazil, led by the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE), in the national standardization of geographical names in the intersessional period of 2023-2025.</p>
<b>C</b>	<b>National and international meetings, conferences, symposiums, publicity and publications</b>	<p>One representative of the Geographical Names Department of the IBGE, delivered an oral presentation titled "Compatibilization of Geographical Names Used in Brazilian Official Mapping" during the Toponymy Session on 11 August at the International Cartographic Conference (ICC) 2023. The conference was held in Cape Town, South Africa, in August 2023, under the theme "Smart Cartography for Sustainable Development." The paper is available at <a href="https://ica-abs.copernicus.org/articles/6/172/2023/">https://ica-abs.copernicus.org/articles/6/172/2023/</a>.</p> <p>In November 2023, the Head of Geographical Names of the IBGE made a presentation at the <i>Encontro dos Institutos Nacionais de Estatísticas dos Países Lusófonos</i> (Meeting of National Statistical Institutes of Portuguese-speaking countries), held at the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) in Rio de Janeiro on the importance of the standardization of geographical names and the role of UNGEGN and the Portuguese-speaking Division aiming to promote the work of UNGEGN and establish contacts to bring more Portuguese-speaking countries into the Division.</p> <p>In December 2024, the launch of the Brazilian Geographical Names Database (BNGB) was reported on Brazilian websites specializing in geoinformation, such as Geocracia <a href="https://geocracia.com/ibge-lanca-o-novo-portal-do-banco-de-nomes-geograficos-do-brasil/">https://geocracia.com/ibge-lanca-o-novo-portal-do-banco-de-nomes-geograficos-do-brasil/</a> and Mundo Geo <a href="https://mundogeo.com/2024/12/09/ibge-lanca-novo-portal-com-banco-de-nomes-geograficos-do-brasil/amp/">https://mundogeo.com/2024/12/09/ibge-lanca-novo-portal-com-banco-de-nomes-geograficos-do-brasil/amp/</a>, among others.</p> <p>In June 2024, the Deputy Head of the Geographical Names Department of the IBGE, delivered a lecture titled "<i>Os Nomes Geográficos nas Indicações Geográficas</i>" ("Geographic Names in Geographical Indications"). The lecture was part of Session 3:</p>

		“Indicação Geográfica como potencial de desenvolvimento para o Rio de Janeiro” (“Geographical Indications as a Development Potential for Rio de Janeiro”), at the <i>1o. Congresso Desafios do Enoturismo no Estado do Rio de Janeiro</i> (1st Enotourism Challenges Conference in the State of Rio de Janeiro), held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on June 19 and 20.
<b>D</b>	<b>Measures taken and proposed to implement United Nations resolutions on the standardization of geographical names, including the economic and social benefits</b>	
<b>E</b>	<b>National standardization</b>	
<b>Ea</b>	<b>Field collection of names</b>	The IBGE launched the <i>Manual de Coleta de Nomes Geográficos</i> (Manual for the Collection of Geographical Names) on July 17, 2023, aimed at providing a reliable methodology based on the UNGEGN (United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names) resolutions. The manual targets primary, secondary, and higher education institutions, as well as other organizations and groups, including minorities, that wish or need to collect geographical names. The goal is for the manual to facilitate the development of partnerships between the IBGE, through its Geographical Names Department, and these institutions, which would provide the collected names and the historical and cultural information related to them to the IBGE for dissemination through the Brazilian Geographical Names Database (BNGB).
<b>Eb</b>	<b>Office treatment of names</b>	The Geographical Names Department of the IBGE has been continuously harmonizing the geographical names in the IBGE's vector cartographic basemaps since 2017. To date, 150,813 names have been analyzed, of which 48,263 have received the status "validated." (See item I of this report for the definition of the term.)
<b>Ec</b>	<b>Treatment of names in multilingual areas</b>	
<b>Ed</b>	<b>Administrative structure of national names authorities, legislation, policies and procedures</b>	
<b>Ee</b>	<b>Toponymic guidelines for map editors and other editors</b>	
<b>F.</b>	<b>Geographical names as culture, heritage and identity</b>	The Technical Manual for the Collection of Geographical Names, released in July 2023 by the IBGE, presents a methodology for the collection of geographical names that emphasizes the appreciation of the historical and cultural aspects of these names. It provides independent researchers, traditional communities, and educational institutions at all levels with the means to collect geographical names in a scientifically grounded manner.
<b>G.</b>	<b>Exonyms</b>	
<b>H.</b>	<b>Toponymic data files and gazetteers</b>	
<b>Ha</b>	<b>Content requirements and standards</b>	
<b>Hb</b>	<b>Data management and interoperability</b>	
<b>Hc</b>	<b>Data services, applications and products</b>	The IBGE launched the BNGB Portal (Brazilian Geographical Names Database Portal) and the API BNGB, on 5 Dec 2025. Link to the BNGB and API BNGB :

		<a href="https://www.ibge.gov.br/geociencias/metodos-e-outros-documentos-de-referencia/vocabulario-e-glossarios/42080-banco-de-nomes-geograficos-do-brasil.html">https://www.ibge.gov.br/geociencias/metodos-e-outros-documentos-de-referencia/vocabulario-e-glossarios/42080-banco-de-nomes-geograficos-do-brasil.html</a>
<b>I</b>	<b>Terminology in the standardization of geographical names</b>	<p>Brazil does not have a National Names Authority. The IBGE is the institution responsible for coordinating the national cartographic system and for representing Brazil in the UNGEGN. It is also the sole entity among the one conducting systematic mapping in Brazil that does research on geographical names and conducts the office treatment of the names in its cartographic databases. However, the IBGE does not have the authority to resolve disputes over conflicting names or to enforce the use of a particular name. Thus, the names published by the IBGE cannot be labeled as "official names."</p> <p>Therefore, the Geographical Names Department of its Coordination of Cartography coined the term "validated" for names that have undergone the process of treatment and harmonization among the vector cartographic basemaps conducted by the Geographical Names Department. The term "non-validated" is applied to names that appear in vector cartographic basemaps but have not yet been analyzed by the Geographical Names Department, or for which no solution/conclusion has been reached yet.</p>
<b>J</b>	<b>Writing systems and pronunciation</b>	
<i>Ja</i>	<i>Romanization</i>	
<i>Jb</i>	<i>Conversion into non-Roman writing systems</i>	
<i>Jc</i>	<i>Writing of names in unwritten languages</i>	
<i>Jd</i>	<i>Pronunciation</i>	
<b>K</b>	<b>Country names</b>	
<b>L</b>	<b>Toponymic education</b>	<p>In September 2023 and September 2024, respectively, the Head of the Geographical Names Department of the Coordination of Cartography of the IBGE and the Deputy Head of Quality Control participated in the Capacity Building Program on Geographical Names and Geospatial Information for Experts of PAIGH Member States, offered by the National Geographic Information Institute in Suwon, Republic of Korea.</p> <p>At the end of the first semester of 2023, the Directorate of Geosciences of the IBGE and the <i>Escola Nacional de Estatística - ENCE</i> (National School of Statistical Sciences) requested the Geographical Names Department to conduct lectures on Toponymy. In response, in June and August 2023, the Head and the Deputy Head of Geographical Names gave two-hour lectures, respectively, to the team of the IBGE Directorate of Geosciences and to the graduate students of ENCE.</p> <p>The first lecture highlighted the importance of geographical names and how the work with these names contributes to the IBGE's institutional mission of "Depicting Brazil with the information necessary for understanding its reality and exercising citizenship." The lecture also covered the work of the Geographical Names Department in both national and international contexts, emphasizing the crucial role of UNGEGN in the global standardization of geographic names.</p> <p>The second lecture, aimed at the graduate students of ENCE — which offers <i>stricto sensu</i> and <i>lato sensu</i> graduate courses in environmental analysis, territory management, and Population, Territory, and Public Statistics — explored the basic concepts of geographical names and their relevance. Additionally, UNGEGN, the body that guides the work with geographic names at IBGE, was introduced, with explanations of its objectives, structure, and operations. The discussion also addressed Brazil's involvement in the international context of this topic, highlighting IBGE's actions in this area. Finally, examples were provided on how geographical names can be used as input in various fields of study, such as history, biology, environment, literature, among others. Both lectures attracted a considerable audience, with about 45 participants each, and generated a large number of questions. As a result, the Geographical Names Department established closer and more effective interaction with other departments and coordinations within the Directorate of Geosciences and Academia, raising awareness about the importance of geographical names in different areas.</p>
<b>M</b>	<b>Features beyond a single sovereignty and international cooperation</b>	

<b>Ma</b>	<b>Features common to two or more nations</b>	
<b>Mb</b>	<b>Bilateral and multilateral agreements</b>	
<b>Mc</b>	<b>Coastal seas</b>	
<b>Md</b>	<b>Geonames of international waters and marine features in international waters</b>	
<b>Me</b>	<b>Geonames in Antarctica</b>	
<b>Mf</b>	<b>International cooperation</b>	<p>Since 2023, after the revitalization of the Latin America Division, Brazil, through the Geographical Names Department of the Coordination of Cartography of the IBGE, has actively participated, within the scope of the IPGH and the aforementioned Division, in "PROYECTO CART-03: Capacitación en Normativas y Directrices para la Estandarización de Nombres Geográficos – Organización del Seminario Presencial" (PROJECT CART-03: Training in Standards and Guidelines for the Standardization of Geographic Names – Organization of the In-Person Seminar). This project was created by the Dominican Republic and organized jointly by Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica and Mexico.</p> <p>This project involved participation in lectures, in which IBGE acted as a listener, and culminated in an in-person seminar in Costa Rica, in February 2025, in which Brazil was responsible for a lecture. The presentation by the Deputy Head of Geographical Names was titled "El Banco de Nombres Geográficos de Brasil" (The Brazilian Geographical Names Database).</p> <p>In September 2024, still within the context of the Latin America Division, the Deputy Head of Geographical Names gave a lecture on the Manual for the Collection of Geographical Names, launched by the IBGE in July 2023, during the online event <i>Jornadas de Ciencias de la Tierra - Congresos Internacionales</i>, which took place from September 24 to 26, 2024 and was organized by the Military Geographic Institute of Bolivia.</p> <p>Additionally, within the scope of the Portuguese-speaking Division, the Geographical Names Department is involved in organizing a series of lectures, scheduled to take place in 2025.</p>
<b>N.</b>	<b>Arrangements for the UNGEGN</b> <i>Creating national and other reports, creating articles for Bulletin, communication, cooperation and fulfilment of tasks from the UNGEGN.</i>	The Geographical Names Department of the Coordination of Cartography of the IBGE contributed to UNGEGN Bulletin #68 with an article on the collection of geographical names in the field, aiming at the preservation of cultural heritage.
<b>O</b>	<b>Supporting sustainable development</b> <i>Activities related to geonames that support sustainable development.</i>	
<b>P</b>	<b>Other</b> <i>If the country has worked on something special, that is not mentioned in this model.</i>	