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**Effective work programmes: measures taken and proposed
for the implementation of resolutions and recommendations**

Recommendations for constructing an inclusive and sustainable geographical names authority

Summary**

Establishing an inclusive and sustainable geographical names authority requires a comprehensive legal and administrative framework that balances cultural heritage preservation with effective evidence-based standardization. The report provides key recommendations for constructing such authorities based on best practices and principles of multicultural governance.

The cornerstone recommendation is establishing either a central geographical names authority or a federal system, with a multidisciplinary composition including academics, language experts, Indigenous representatives and cultural heritage specialists. That authority should have a clear mandate for standardization, dispute resolution and cultural preservation and operate with full transparency and accountability through regular public reporting and consultation.

The legal framework should establish inclusive criteria for naming decisions, incorporating provisions for dual or multiple naming practices that recognize Indigenous and minority languages. Special attention should be given to historically sensitive names, requiring careful documentation of previous names while addressing contemporary cultural and social needs.

Formal conflict resolution mechanisms, including a specialized mediation committee, a structured appeals process and provisions for binding arbitration, are essential. Those mechanisms should ensure fair and timely resolution of naming disputes while maintaining cultural sensitivity.

* [GEGN.2/2025/1](#).

** The full report was prepared by Peder Gammeltoft (Norway), Norwegian Language Collections, University of Bergen. The report will be available at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/4th_session_2025/, in the language of submission only, as document GEGN.2/2025/11/CRP.11.



Community engagement must be embedded in the process through structured consultation mechanisms, transparent decision-making and active incorporation of Indigenous and minority knowledge. That would ensure that names reflect local identities and values while preserving cultural heritage.

Regular review and adaptation processes are crucial for maintaining relevance. That includes periodic reviews of laws and policies, continuous database maintenance and public education initiatives about the significance of geographical names.

The recommendations provide a foundation for developing geographical names authorities that can effectively balance standardization requirements with cultural heritage preservation, thereby supporting sustainable and inclusive naming practices for the future.
