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

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Item 9 (a) of the provisional agenda *

Promotion and capacity-building: Strengthening publicity and increasing awareness of the importance of standardized geographical names

Fostering Public Participation by Conducting Competition to Uphold and Protect Geographical Names

Summary **

Government Regulation No. 2 of 2021 (GR 2/2021) provides clear guidelines for standardizing geographical names in Indonesia. Despite these guidelines, challenges persist in ensuring compliance, with numerous violations of the 10 principles of geographical naming being documented. While capacity-building programs conducted by the Indonesian Geospatial Information Agency (Badan Informasi Geospasial - BIG) for local governments and universities have progressed, a significant gap remains in engaging the general public. This underscores the urgent need for innovative outreach initiatives to bridge this gap.

To address this issue, BIG launched the *Junjung dan Lindungi Nama Rupabumi* (Julid NR) competition to increase public understanding of the 10 principles of standardized geographical names. The initiative encouraged community members to report naming violations through a photography competition, leveraging social media platforms. Participants identified and submitted photographs of geographical name signs that contravened naming principles. Submissions were evaluated based on their accuracy in determining violations, relevance, and contribution to raising awareness about the importance of preserving standardized geographical names. Winners were chosen for their exceptional ability to highlight violations and actively engage with the competition's goals.

The Julid NR initiative has raised awareness about the importance of standardized geographical names by engaging the public in identifying and reporting violations. It has also leveraged local knowledge to support early detection of violations. This community-driven approach is expected to instil a sense of ownership and responsibility among the public, encouraging active participation in maintaining compliance with the 10 principles outlined in GR 2/2021.

*GEGN.2/2025/1

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