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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 8 (a) of the provisional agenda \*

**Culture, heritage and language recognition: Geographical names as culture,  
heritage and identity****Urgency of developing a representative toponymy model in  
the Nusantara Capital City as a reflection of cultural and  
national identity****Summary \*\***

On January 17, 2022, the Government of Indonesia officially announced *Nusantara* as the name of the new capital city of the Republic of Indonesia, replacing *Jakarta* (hereinafter referred to as *The Nusantara Capital City* or *IKN*). In line with the increasingly intensive development of physical structures and infrastructure in *IKN*, a comprehensive toponymy system is essential to assign distinctive identifiers to various spaces and locations. The construction of *IKN* necessitates naming practices that appropriately designate every object within the area (such as building complexes, transportation facilities, residential areas, office spaces, tourist attractions, and public open spaces). These naming conventions must align with the vision and mission of *Nusantara* as the capital city and comply with all applicable laws and government regulations.

This paper discusses recommendations for developing a representative toponymy model in *IKN* that reflects cultural and national identity. To establish an effective model, it is crucial to examine similar place-naming practices. Historically, during the Dutch colonial period, Indonesia demonstrated systematic and structured practices in capital city development, including naming places. In the early 20th century, the Dutch prepared *Bandung* (currently the country's second-largest and second most populous metropolitan areas) as the capital of the Dutch East Indies, replacing *Batavia* (now *Jakarta*), which was deemed unsuitable due to its many deficiencies and outbreaks of disease. In addition to carefully designing the city and initiating urban development, the Dutch Colonial Government established a Place Naming Commission through the City Council to

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\* GEGN.2/2025/1

\*\* Prepared by Fajar Erikha, Indonesia, The National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN). The report will be available under document symbol GEGN.2/2025/133/CRP.133, 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/)

ensure that the naming of places and streets in *Bandung* was systematic and culturally aligned with local social and cultural groups.

Developing a toponymy model for the new capital city requires the following steps: a) **Conducting Exploratory Research:** This involves reviewing academic literature, legal documents governing place-naming in Indonesia, and interviewing key community figures and academics; b) **Creating a Toponymy Model:** Based on the collected data, categories and naming themes are developed. Once the model, including detailed place names, is drafted, a review panel should evaluate it to gather feedback from local government representatives and experts; c) **Proposal and Evaluation:** If approved, the model can serve as a policy under The *IKN* Authority, representing the Government. The policy would then be implemented in the naming of all targeted locations. Finally, to measure the success of this toponymy model, an evaluation study involving multiple stakeholders and communities should be conducted. This ensures a comprehensive and refined model.

A validated toponymy model tailored to the direction of *IKN* would strengthen Indonesia's identity and that of its capital city, reflecting the interplay of local and national identities. If successful, this model could serve as a reference for other nations planning to establish new capitals.