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**United Nations Group of Experts on  
Geographical Names  
2025 session**

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**Item 5(a) of the provisional agenda \***

**Technical expertise: Names collection, office treatment, features beyond a single  
sovereignty and international cooperation**

## **Indonesia's Contribution to Undersea Feature Naming: Cultural Heritage and Maritime Implications**

### **Summary \*\***

The Republic of Indonesia, as one of the world's largest archipelagic nations, occupies a strategic geographical position and aspires to establish itself as the world's maritime axis, with the sea serving as the backbone of its national maritime activities. The dissemination of accurate and detailed information on natural undersea features is crucial to ensuring maritime navigation safety, a cornerstone of these activities.

In line with Presidential Decree No. 164 of 1960, Presidential Regulation No. 62 of 2016, and the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) 1974, Pushidrosal, as Indonesia's national hydrographic authority and a member of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO), bears the responsibility of supporting maritime safety in national waters. This role encompasses the provision of critical hydro-oceanographic data, which is reflected in nautical charts, navigational publications, and updated maritime warnings.

In collaboration with various ministries and institutions, the Hydro-Oceanographic Center of the Indonesian Navy has identified and classified 83 undersea features, which have been submitted to the Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN) of the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO) and included in Indonesia's official maritime charts. These discoveries were made during the Jala Citra expeditions conducted in Halmahera and Papua waters (2021), Banda Sea (2022), and Flores Sea (2023), utilizing advanced survey vessels KRI Spica-934 and KRI Rigel-933. These expeditions involved multidisciplinary teams of academics and researchers specializing in hydrography, geology, geophysics, meteorology, oceanography, geosocial studies, and defense and security.

Significant achievements include the acceptance of 8 underwater features by SCUFN at its 35th session in Paris, France (March 2022), 41 features at the 36th session in

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\* GEGN.2/2025/1

\*\* Prepared by Budi Purwanto and Muddan Zayadi, Indonesia, Hydro-Oceanographic Center of the Indonesian Navy. The report will be available under document symbol GEGN.2/2025/135/CRP.135, 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/)

Wollongong, Australia (November 2023), and an anticipated 34 features at the 37th session in Jeju, Korea (March 2024).

The naming of undersea features follows rigorous guidelines, considering local cultural heritage, regional languages, names of national heroes, associated villages, and nearby geographic entities. For instance, the "Kabaresy Ridge," discovered in the Banda Sea, derives its name from the Maluku language, where "Kabaresy" symbolizes bravery. Another example is the "Skaro Kacil Seamount," where "Skaro" references a reef in the Maisel Islands of Maluku Province, and "Kacil" means small in the local language.

Pushidrosal emphasizes the importance of these names, as they represent not only the geological structure of the seabed but also carry significant implications for maritime safety, environmental protection, economic interests, territorial sovereignty, historical context, and political considerations.