



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
6 February 2025

Original: English

United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names 2025 session

New York, 28 April–2 May 2025

Item 9 (b) of the provisional agenda*

**Promotion and capacity-building: toponymic training
and education**

Report of the Working Group on Funding and Training Courses in Toponymy

Summary**

The Working Group on Funding and Training Courses in Toponymy, established in 2023, has focused on developing educational opportunities while addressing critical funding challenges. The Working Group successfully organized a toponymy training course in Bali, Indonesia, together with Indonesian partners, in June 2023. A survey is under way to identify geographical names standardization issues on which national names authorities would wish to receive training. The Working Group also coordinated an online webinar on geographical names governance in collaboration with the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History in October 2024. Efforts are under way to organize a toponymy training course in Africa for 2025.

However, the Working Group faces significant funding challenges that have an impact on its ability to fulfil its mandate. Member States' contributions to the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names have steadily decreased in recent years, limiting the Organization's capacity to support experts from developing countries in attending sessions in New York. That reduction in funding also constrains the Working Group's ability to organize training courses in developing nations.

Those financial constraints pose a significant challenge to the Group's mission of building capacity in geographical names standardization across all regions, in particular in developing countries where such expertise is crucial for sustainable development and cultural heritage preservation.

* [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.2/2025/14/CRP.14.

