

10 March 2025

English:
Original: Arabic

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

New York, 28 April – 2 May 2025

Item 9 (a) of the provisional agenda *

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

The Role of Saudipedia Encyclopedia in Documenting and Updating Geographical Names in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Summary **

Geographical names are a key component of geospatial information that supports many sectors in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Despite the linguistic and cultural challenges in documenting these names, Saudipedia encyclopedia plays a role in highlighting the importance of geographical names and providing integrated data about them through its regularly updated content that aligns with the cultural, historical, and geographical richness of Saudi Arabia.

Geographical names represent one of the prominent areas covered by articles in the encyclopedia, with a dedicated section on "Geography" that covers all matters related to Saudi Arabia's geography.

This research paper aims to highlight the efforts of Saudipedia in documenting the cultural, historical, and national aspects of geographical names in Saudi Arabia, by answering the following question: "How does Saudipedia address the gap in updated information about geographical names?"

The paper addresses six main points: the first focuses on documenting geographical names and their origins in Saudipedia, where the encyclopedia contributes to preserving geographical names in Saudi Arabia from a cultural and historical perspective, helping preserve national identity.

The second discusses the cultural and historical dimensions of geographical names that Saudipedia emphasizes, while the third focuses on Saudipedia's efforts to publish geographical names in global languages. The fourth point covers the collaboration between Saudipedia and the National Committee for Geographical names.

* GEGN.2/2025/1.

** The full report was prepared by Hamed Alshehri, The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Ministry of Media. . The report will be available under document symbol GEGN.2/2025/160/CRP.160, in the language of submission only, at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/4th_session_2025/

The fifth point explores the alignment of publishing geographical names in Saudipedia with SEO standards, aiming to enhance user experience and improve rankings in search engines. The sixth point discusses the main challenges and proposed solutions for Saudipedia's role in documenting and updating geographical names.