

United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names
2025 Session

28 April – 2 May 2025

Item 3 (c) of the provisional agenda

**Reports of the Bureau and the Secretariat: Monitoring and
evaluation of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical
Names strategic plan and programme of work 2021-2029**

Background document
Available in English only

**Implementation of 51 action items of the Strategic Plan and Programme of Work 2021-
2029 (As of February 2025)**

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Implementation of 51 action items of the Strategic Plan and Programme of Work 2021-2029 (As of February 2025)

Action items	Progress	Actors/responsibility	Output and time frame
Strategy 1. Technical expertise			
1-i-1. Provide consultancy to the developments related to the UNGEGN database, UNECA “UNECA Africa GeoNyms database/gazetteer initiative”, the INSPIRE initiative, the UN and European gazetteer projects, the GIS web-based World Geonames Application and other projects of developing countries.	2021-2023 Connecting to UNECA is being attempted.	Bureau, WG GNDM, TT Africa	Report on progress for each UNGEGN session to 2029 (if appropriate to be included in the report of the WG GNDM) Contributions to Training Courses on Toponymy to be assessed annually
	2023-2025 In progress for all items but UNECA (pending)		
1-i-2. Evaluate and assess exchange standards for geographical names information and for web services (gazetteer, feature and mapping) for the provision of geographical names information (comprising the review of Part II of the UNGEGN Technical Reference Manual).	2021-2023 A discussion paper "On geographical names data modelling and transfer related standards, manuals, or guidelines" has been prepared. It includes ideas for geographical names data modelling and transfer related standards, manuals, or guidelines. The compilation shall contribute and be the rationale for a paper submitted to the 2023 UNGEGN Session and could become the rationale for an updated structure for ‘Part two. Toponymic data transfer standards and formats’ of UNGEGN’s ‘Technical Reference Manual for the National Standardization of Geographical Names (2007)’. The content of the document could be published through the UNGEGN wiki / website.	WG GNDM	Report on exchange standards in 2023 - Completed
	2023-2025 The document, submitted to the 2023 session as CRP.99 by WG GNDM, has been uploaded at the Publications page of the UNGEGN website.		
1-i-3. Present geographical names data management topics at national and international conferences organized in the	2021-2023 Discussion is in progress in the WG on Geographical Names Data Management regarding how to find better ways to inform the WG members and to get information.	WG GNDM	Assess annually

fields of geospatial information management.	2023-2025 1. UNGEGN experts (from Indonesia and Germany) participated and presented at the UN-GGIM meeting in Aug 2024 (main session and a side event on Integrated Geospatial Information Management). 2. Convenor of the WG GNDM participated in the UNSC side event on SDG localization and presented on the importance of geographic identifiers.		
1-i-4. Promote, agree and disseminate romanization systems for national and global use.	2021-2023 On-going work by the WG on Romanization Systems <hr/> 2023-2025 1. On-going work by the WG on Romanization Systems. Connection attempts made to a number of member states to ascertain current progress. 2. The 2024 Arab Division Forum, held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, addressed the Arabic Romanization System, attended by the former co-convenor of the WG on Romanization Systems.	WG GNDM, WG GNCH, WG RS	Assess annually
1-i-5. Promote and support the establishment of an authoritative international database/gazetteer of geographical names to be disseminated to the public through UNGEGN.	2021-2023 The UNGEGN World Geographical Names Database (WGND) has been redesigned and readied for re-launch. <hr/> 2023-2025 As a contribution to the WGND implementation the concept for unique identifiers for cities has been developed. It shall be adopted/endorsed with a dedicated decision at the next UNGEGN session in 2025. * This action item has been linked to 1-i-2 and tackles all issues related to the WGND.	Bureau, WG GNDM, WG GNCH, WG RS, Secretariat	Re-develop UNGEGN World Geographical Names webpage (May 2023).
1-ii-6. Examine processes and recommend good practice a. on how single and multi-	2021-2023 For sub-item b, a workshop on LOD was held in September 2022 (see 1-iii-9).	WG GNDM, WG GNCH, WG RS	Report on good practices for each UNGEGN session to 2029

jurisdictional Member States record, store, disseminate and manage their geographical names b. for the reuse and validation of volunteered geographic Information, crowd sourced data and Linked Open Data (LOD) as part of national geographical names standardization work c. for the use of standardized geographical names as fundamental data theme in national spatial data infrastructures (SDIs) within the monitoring of the SDG indicator framework in order to analyze and monitor the changes in a country	2023-2025 On-going work		
1-ii-7. Promote the use of the online discussion forum (Wiki).	2021-2023 On-going work by Wiki moderators of the WG on Geographical Names Data Management	WG GNDM	Assess annually
	2023-2025 On-going work by Wiki moderators of the WG on Geographical Names Data Management		
1-iii-8. Monitor the availability of free and easily-accessible authorized digital geographical names data as it is seen as a key driver in encouraging the use of nationally-standardized geographical names.	2021-2023 A survey on free, accessible and open geographical names data was conducted and replies from more than 25 countries were collected.	WG GNDM	Assess annually
	2023-2025 1. Google and ESRI shared their experiences at the 2023 session. 2. A document has been published on UNGEGN's website (see 1-i-2).		
1-iii-9. Organize workshops and on innovative, research and/or technical issues/topics like e.g. volunteered geographic information, crowd sourced data,	2021-2023 Two webinars were held; "Developing digital gazetteers using free and open-source software" on 10 May 2022 and "Linked Open Data" on 30 September 2022. Details of the second one were reported in UNGEGN Bulletin 64	WG GNDM, WG GNCH	Workshops in 2022-2025 (likely in conjunction with Division meetings)

Linked Open Data or speech technology.	2023-2025 No further webinars have been conducted in this period. However, new ideas were raised for follow-up workshops, including i) Linked data implementation "best practices", ii) Different ontologies, and iii) Different data bases (types, formats)		
1-iii-10. Evaluate and assess innovative methods to be used for Romanization, e.g. machine transliteration.	2021-2023 1. A contact was made by the developer of “Interscript” in August 2021. Co-convenor of the WG on Romanization Systems suggested that a chance be given to the company to introduce its product in UNGEGN Bulletin. 2. A proposal was presented to make an evaluation of the effective application of the romanization systems adopted by the UNGEGN, both by the countries themselves and by the international cartographic producers. 2023-2025 The convenor of the WG RS attended the UNESCO Language Technologies for All Conference in February 2025, which looked at scientific and technological solutions, including AI, to facilitate digitisation of under-resourced languages; the WG will consider how such technologies can be harnessed for romanization.	WG RS	Report on innovative methods for Romanization for each UNGEGN session to 2029
Strategy 2. Relationships, links and connections			
2-i-1. UNGEGN Bureau to contribute to ECOSOC requirements and to assess annually contributions to the UN-HLPF and the themes determined by ECOSOC for annual focus, and Agenda 2030.	2021-2023 1. UNGEGN was involved in several ECOSOC arrangements, e.g. participation in the ECOSOC Coordination Segment in February 2022 and February 2023. 2. UNGEGN contributed to the ECOSOC Review of its Functional Commissions and Expert Bodies in March 2022. 3. UNGEGN adopted ECOSOC focus for the theme of the 2nd UNGEGN session. 2023-2025 1. UNGEGN Chair presented at the ECOSOC Coordination Segment in Jan 2024 and Feb 2025. 2. UNGEGN contributed to the ECOSOC 2024 HLPF. UNGEGN’s paper is accessible at the HLPF webpage at "Inputs to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development." 3. The 2025 session theme was decided in alignment with the ECOSOC's theme for 2025. 4. Infographic highlighting UNGEGN's objectives and work was prepared and placed on the ECOSOC website, 2024 and 2025	Chair, Bureau	Assess requirements annually

<p>2-i-2. Interaction with UN-GGIM to be continuously reviewed and evaluated for upgrading the activity level in relation to over-arching activities, such as addressing the SDGs.</p>	<p>2021-2023 1. UNGEGN participated and reported in the 11th and 12th sessions of UN-GGIM. 2. "Strengthening collaboration between UNGEGN and UN-GGIM" project was initiated and is currently under discussion.</p> <p>2023-2025 1. UNGEGN Bulletin 67 (June 2024) called for examples from member states of good practices between national geospatial and geographical names authorities. Developing a compendium of good practices is in progress with coordination of the United States and Indonesian experts, which was supported at the 14th UN-GGIM session and UN-GGIM Regional Committee side event. 2. UNGEGN submitted reports to the 13th and 14th UN-GGIM sessions which were welcomed. 3. The UNGEGN Secretariat organized and delivered the side event "Why standardize geographical names and the UN-GGIM-UNGEGN collaborative project at the Tenth Session of the UN-GGIM Regional Committee for the Americas on 17 October 2023.</p>	<p>Chair, Bureau, WG GNDM</p>	<p>Assess relevant activities annually</p>
<p>2-i-3. Work with UNECA to establish stronger and more permanent ties aimed to: a. Increase national geographical names standardization in Africa. b. Re-activate the Gaborone Action Plan (GAP) initiated with UNECA. c. Re-activate Africa GeoNyms project to provide free database/gazetteer software to countries in Africa.</p>	<p>2021-2023 1. The news that Burundi established a names committee was delivered in Sep 2021 and conversation was made to discuss how to help them. 2. The coordinator of the Task Team for Africa participated in the meeting of UN-GGIM- Regional Committee for Africa in October 2022 with invitation of UNECA. Details were reported by the Task Team for Africa in UNGEGN Bulletin 64 (November 2022)</p> <p>2023-2025 No actions.</p>	<p>a. TT Africa, UNGEGN Divisions in Africa b. TT Africa, UNGEGN Divisions in Africa c. TT Africa, UNGEGN Divisions in Africa, WG GNDM</p>	<p>a, b and c: Re-establish ties in 2021 Develop workable programmes and establish goals by 2023</p> <p>Report progress for each UNGEGN session to 2029</p>
<p>2-i-4. Further explore links with UNESCO to: a. Find a path to</p>	<p>2021-2023 No actions.</p>	<p>Bureau, WG GNCH, Member States</p>	<p>a. Develop practical links with UNESCO regarding</p>

recognition of geographical names as a part of intangible cultural heritage of Member States. b. Cooperate in recognition of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages (IDIL), 2022-2032.	2023-2025 1. UNGEGN Chair had meetings with UNESCO's staff on IDIL in Oct 2024 and discussed possible collaboration between UNGEGN and IDIL, notably linked with the 2003 Convention on Intangible Cultural Heritage. 2. WG GNCH Focus Group on Indigenous names has provided questions for potential inclusion in IDIL Global Action Plan survey to assess progress on Activity 5.2, including use of Indigenous languages on official signage. 3. In 2023, Canada organized an outdoor public exhibit promoting Indigenous geographical names and languages through photos and narratives of official names for landscapes and locations across the country, which was shared through UNGEGN Bulletin #68 (p.15). 4. A special presentation by an IDIL representative is planned at the 2025 session.		intangible cultural heritage by 2025 b. Liaise with the Global Task Force of IDIL to establish possible areas of cooperation by 2023
2-i-5. Build on existing initiatives and cooperation to enhance the use of nationally-standardized geographical names and to provide advice to the UN Documentation Division and UN managers of SALB.	2021-2023 No actions.	Bureau, WG RS, Coordinator CN	Establish ongoing liaison with UN Documentation Division and with UN managers of SALB in 2023
	2023-2025 No actions.		
2-ii-6. Continue to communicate and liaise with existing groups and explore further effective ways of cooperation with: ICA, ICOS, IGU, IHO, ISO, OGC, PAIGH, SCAR (SCAGI), Unicode Consortium.	2021-2023 1. Information on the conferences of ICA, ICOS and IGU has been shared. 2. IHO's comment at the 12th session of UN-GGIM was received and reviewed.	Existing liaison arrangements, individual Member States, individual experts	Explore more formal arrangement with IGU (as requested) by 2023
	2023-2025 1. PAIGH decided to organize the Geographical Names Committee and have it represent PAIGH in UNGEGN.2. SCAGI held its annual meeting in Aug 2024 which was attended by the UNGEGN liaison officer and the Bureau.3. UNGEGN experts participated in the 30th ICOS in Aug 2024.4. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia invited two ICA experts to the 10th Arab Division Forum.		
2-iii-7. Encourage collaboration with academia to ensure continued availability of expertise in fields required to strengthen	2021-2023 On-going work Information on the online lectures organized by ICOS has been shared.	WG F&TC, WG GNCH, Member States	Establish goals by 2023, report to each UNGEGN session afterwards

geographical names standardization.	2023-2025 On-going work Channels of collaboration with the newly established ICOS Working Group on Toponymy were suggested.		
2-iii-8. Initiate appropriate links with UNPFII, ICIPN and other indigenous groups to enhance UNGEGN’s understanding of the significance of geographical names to indigenous peoples and the retention of their languages.	2021-2023 Being prepared.	WG GNCH, individual Member States	Initiate links and establish suitable ongoing communication with UNPFII by 2023
	2023-2025 UNGEGN Chair had meetings with UNESCO's staff on IDIL in Oct 2024 and discussed possible collaboration between UNGEGN and IDIL, notably linked with the 2003 Convention on Intangible Cultural Heritage.		
2-iii-9. Establish cooperation with sub-groups/initiatives of UN-GGIM (e.g. CARIGEO) to help create or enhance national standardization of geographical names worldwide.	2021-2023 A webinar on "Geographical names standardization supporting national development" was organized and convened on 31 August 2021 with UN-GGIM Americas/CARIGEO and the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Details were reported by the Secretariat in UNGEGN Bulletin 62 (November 2021)	WG F&TC	Determine UN-GGIM sub-groups/initiatives that are related to geographical names by 2023 (ongoing)
	2023-2025 No actions.		
2-iii-10. Reach out to a wider world of potential geographical names users, both inside and outside the United Nations, and to encourage their participation at UNGEGN Sessions.	2021-2023 Suggestion was made to 1. Make a list of those who presented or participated in former UNGEGN/UNCSGN meetings within their realm of expertise related to geographical names and contact them to encourage participation in upcoming UNGEGN sessions, and 2. Contact experts of the UN and non-UN bodies who participated in GGIM session as observers and encourage participation in upcoming UNGEGN sessions.	Appoint an individual point person or Coordinator EI&P	Ongoing activity, with reporting to UNGEGN sessions to 2029
	2023-2025 On-going work		
Strategy 3. Effective work programmes			
3-i-1. Encourage Member States to participate in UNGEGN	2021-2023 On-going work	Bureau, WG F&TC, Secretariat	Assess annually

sessions and activities; Secure funds to support participation of those who need assistance (see also Strategy 5).	2023-2025 On-going work		
3-ii-2. Review the current versions of UNGEGN publications, establish a plan to revise or add to them, and implement it.	2021-2023 Seven UNGEGN publications were reviewed. 1. Manual for the National Standardization of Geographical Names (2006): archive the current manual, but create a collection of new texts to address major issues of standardization. A call for contributions for a new Manual announced through Bulletin 63 (June 2022). 2. Technical reference manual for the standardization of geographical names (2007): A rationale for Part 2 was provided (action item 1-i-2). 3. Media Kit has been updated and revised. 4. Updating Glossary of Terms for the Standardization of Geographical Names was discussed at the meeting of the Working Group on Toponymic Terminology in September 2022. 5. Geographical names as vital keys for accessing information in our globalized and digital world (2007): review in progress taking into consideration existing translations and future printing possibilities. 6. UNGEGN Brochure (2001): review in progress taking into consideration existing translations and future printing possibilities. 7. Toponymy Training Manual (2017): retain current content in online format.	Bureau, Coordinator EI&P, WG RS, WG GNDM, WG TT, Coordinator CN	Review and plan in 2021; if needed, draft, edit and publish by 2023 - Completed

	<p>2023-2025</p> <p>1. The UNGEGN publications page has been reorganized with i) Toponymy Training Manual (2017), ii) On geographical names data modelling and transfer...(CRP.99 of the 2023 session. see 1-i-2), iii) Glossary of Terms for the Standardization of Geographical Names (2002 and 2007 Addendum), iv) Geographical names as vital keys for accessing information in our globalized and digital world, and v) UNGEGN Brochure.</p> <p>2. "Publication archive" page has been created, which includes i) Manual for the National Standardization of Geographical Names (2006), ii) Technical reference manual for the standardization of geographical names (2007), and iii) Technical Terminology Employed in the Standardization of Geographical Names (1987, 1984).</p> <p>3. Media Kit has been updated.</p> <p>4. Materials on romanization systems were reviewed and added at the UNGEGN website.</p>		
3-ii-3. Take measures to encourage and promote the publication and revision of the Toponymic Guidelines.	<p>2021-2023</p> <p>1. An article "How toponymic guidelines support the dissemination of standardized geographical names" was published in UNGEGN Bulletin 63 (June 2022) by the coordinator for Toponymic guidelines for map and other editors.</p> <p>2. Discussion in progress to make website entries more organized.</p>	Coordinator TG, WG F&TC	Assess annually. Take note in training courses
	<p>2023-2025</p> <p>On-going work</p>		
3-ii-4. Codify the resolutions and recommendations into a coherent and hierarchical whole.	<p>2021-2023A preliminary study was conducted.</p>	Bureau, Coordinator EI&P	Review and plan in 2021; prior work done by 2023; subsequent work after 2023, if needed
	<p>2023-2025</p> <p>No actions</p>		
3-ii-5. Encourage experts to refer to the resolutions and recommendations in their work and particularly in preparing working papers.	<p>2021-2023</p> <p>A phrase was inserted in the documentation guidelines for the 3rd session.</p>	Bureau, Coordinator EI&P, Secretariat	Report to every session; announce in the documentation
	<p>2023-2025</p> <p>1. Documentation guidelines with the same phrase were circulated for the 2025 session.</p> <p>2. An analysis was conducted on the working papers submitted to the 2023 session that referred to resolutions and</p>		

	recommendations. The result will be reported at the 2025 session.		
3-ii-6. Continue to maintain and update the compendium and database of the resolutions and recommendations.	2021-2023 The UNCSDN resolutions database has been re-designed to include recommendations of the new UNGEGN	Coordinator EI&P, Secretariat	Redesign the compendium and database in 2021; update following every session
	2023-2025 Recommendations of the 2023 session was added. The database has been restructured with the addition of ECOSOC numbers.		
3-iii-7. Review the function and operation of Bureau, Working Groups and Divisions and consider any change in the organizational structure of UNGEGN.	2021-2023 1. Three meetings of the Bureau and Division chairs were held to share divisions' roles and activities, and suggest responsibilities of Chairs. Meetings were in November 2021, and December 2022 and March 2023. 2. A review of the current organizational structure of working groups and task teams was initiated and discussion is in progress.	Bureau, WG convenors, Division chairs	Initiate in 2021; rounds of discussions and feedbacks by 2023; and then an adjustment made by 2025, if needed.
	2023-2025 1. Follow-ups of the changes of working groups and coordinators decided at the 2023 session have been conducted (homepage information, Strategic Plan and Programme of Work, etc.) 2. An incubator group has been formulated to discuss how to revitalize the Working Group on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage. A survey is being finalized aiming to assess Member States' engagement in geographical names as cultural heritage (see action items of Strategy 4). 3. Three meetings of the Bureau and Division chairs were held in April 2024, Nov 2024 and March 2025.		
3-iii-8. Review the documentation guidelines and submission schedule for national/divisional reports and, if needed, elaborate them.	2021-2023 1. Documentation guidelines were reviewed and revised ones were announced. 2. Discussion was conducted on the template of national/divisional reports, including the template proposed by the East Central and South-East Europe Division.	Bureau, Coordinator EI&P, Secretariat	Assess for every session

	2023-2025 1. Documentation guidelines for the 2025 session were reviewed and circulated, including submission schedule, reminder of new format of the meeting agenda and reference to resolutions/recommendations. 2. Discussion on how to efficiently deliver national reports was made. "National dialogue" sessions will be thematically organized on each day of the 2025 session.		
3-iii-9. Encourage WG convenors and Division chairs to share and develop ideas of linking and cooperating with each other.	2021-2023 On-going work	Bureau, all WGs, Coordinators, Division chairs	Ongoing up to 2029
	2023-2025 The Arab Division Secretariat prepared a draft of strategic plan for 2025–2034, aligned with the UNGEGN Strategic Plan.		
3-iii-10. Monitor and evaluate UNGEGN's work programme regularly including the operation of sessions.	2021-2023 Results of the evaluation survey of the 2nd session were reviewed.	Bureau, Coordinator EI&P, WG F&TC	Assess annually; organize Bureau and WG meetings regularly
	2023-2025 Results of the evaluation survey of the 2023 session were reported and referenced in the preparation of the 2025 session.		
3-iii-11. Elaborate relevant aspects of UNGEGN to the goals and targets of sustainable development and find ways to develop them in its work programmes.	2021-2023 On-going work	Bureau, all WGs, Coordinators	Assess annually; plan a report on implementing SDGs in UNGEGN by 2023, progress reports in 2025, 2027, 2029
	2023-2025 On-going work		
3-iv-12. Elaborate measures to increase the number of Member States that have functioning authorities for geographical names standardization.	2021-2023 On-going work	Bureau, Coordinator EI&P, WG F&TC, WG GNCH	Ongoing; encourage organizing discussion forums
	2023-2025 1. A survey was conducted to Member States in order to seek information on existence of a national body responsible for toponymic research. 2. There was an inquiry from the Sudan National Board of Geographical Names, to which the UNGEGN Secretariat provided basic information.		

Strategy 4. Culture, heritage and language recognition

4-i-1. Liaise with UNPFII and its members to better appreciate geographical names as part of indigenous cultural heritage and language retention	2021-2023 Discussion is in progress regarding how to connect to Focus Group 1 (Geographical names in relation to minorities and indigenous people) of the WG on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage.	Bureau, WG GNCH, Member States	On-going work (action item under review)
	2023-2025 UNGEKN Chair had meetings with UNESCO's staff on IDIL in Oct 2024 and discussed possible collaboration between UNGEKN and IDIL, notably linked with the 2003 Convention on Intangible Cultural Heritage.		
4-i-2. Provide supportive evidence (e.g. pamphlet) as to the significance of geographical names on culture, identity and language	2021-2023 No actions yet (being prepared).	WG GNCH (Focus Group 2), WG P&F	On-going work (action item under review)
	2023-2025 UNGEKN Bulletin 68 was published with a special feature of the role of geographical names in preserving cultural heritage. 17 Member States and 1 academic group shared their experiences.		
4-i-3. Investigate the need for cooperation to advise on and share experiences on methods for crowd sourcing relating to urban naming and street naming processes, and the relationship with relevant SDGs (e.g. sustainable cities)	2021-2023 Discussion is in progress regarding how to connect to Focus Group 4 (Crowd sourcing for collecting stories behind the names) of the WG on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage.	Bureau, WG GNCH (Focus Groups 3 & 4)	On-going work (action item under review)
	2023-2025 No actions yet (being prepared).		
4-i-4. Share experience on cooperation with emergency services, tourism operators, brand consultants and other providers of services useful to society, e.g. plurilingual societies	2021-2023 Discussion is in progress regarding how to connect to Focus Group 6 (Naming within tourism and branding) of the WG on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage.	WG GNCH (Focus Groups 1 & 6), Member States	On-going work (action item under review)
	2023-2025 New Zealand Geographic Board maintains close liaison with Fire and Emergency NZ, which was shared with UNGEKN experts.		
4-ii-5. Share Member States' treatment of geographical names in indigenous, minority and regional language groups (policies and principles, field collection	2021-2023 Discussion is in progress regarding how to connect to Focus Group 1 (Geographical names in relation to minorities and indigenous people) of the WG on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage.	WG GNCH (Focus Group 1), Member States	On-going work (action item under review)

methodology, naming of both cultural and physical features, etc.)	2023-2025 1. New Zealand has launched a new set of Māori and Moriori place names maps, which was shared with UNGEGN experts. 2. Brazil launched a project of publishing the Manual for the collection of geographical names focusing on the stories behind the names, which was shared with UNGEGN experts. 3. WG GNCH FG looking at Indigenous and minority language geographical names has prepared updates to UNGEGN webpage, which will provide access to a compilation of linked documents on Indigenous names from UNGEGN Sessions, Conferences and Bulletins		
4-ii-6. Share effective practices and applications on culturally-oriented resolutions, such as commemorative naming and commercialization of naming	2021-2023 Discussion is in progress regarding how to connect to Focus Group 3 (Commercial and commemorative naming, including urban naming) of the WG on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage.	WG GNCH (Focus Group 2), Coordinator EI&P	On-going work (action item under review)
	2023-2025 No actions yet (being prepared).		
4-ii-7. Encourage presentations and discussions relevant to current key cultural aspects of naming and renaming, and to naming in particular environments	2021-2023 Experts participated in the IGU/ICA Commission on Toponymy in Paris, July 2022 with the theme "Place names as (positive or negative) brands" and the results were reported in UNGEGN Bulletin 64 (November 2022).	WG GNCH, Member States	On-going work (action item under review)
	2023-2025 1. Romano-Hellenic Division hosted a 4th International Scientific Symposium, September 2024, titled "Toponyms as a means of expressing identification, location, possession, belonging, division, and respect for peoples' cultures". 2. New Zealand presented to the Māori GIS community on "Mapping places and stories" in Feb 2024, which was shared with UNGEGN experts. 3. The Tenth Arab Division Forum, themed "Strengthening Relations and Ties between Arab Countries in Geographical Names," took place in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, in November 2024.		
4-ii-8. Investigate recognition of geographical names by UNESCO	2021-2023 No actions yet (being prepared).	Bureau, WG GNCH, Member States	On-going work (action item under review)

as part of intangible cultural heritage	2023-2025 UNGEGN Chair had meetings with IDIL'd staff and shared ideas to prepare a programme to safeguard geographical names in non-written languages threatened by climate change.		
4-ii-9. Cooperate with academia, so that geographical name datasets collected (by academics, for example, historical or linguistic variants) are geo-referenced and linked to standardized datasets	2021-2023 On-going work	WG GNCH, WG GNDM	On-going work (action item under review)
	2023-2025 On-going work		
4-iii-10. The Working Group on Exonyms to continue the examination of and publications on, the treatment, use and reduction of exonyms in the context of geographical names standardization and effective UN communication.	2021-2023 Working Group on Exonyms held a meeting in Ljubljana, August-September 2022 and continued discussion on exonyms	WG E	Exonyms: ongoing reporting
	2023-2025 1. Working Group on Exonyms held a meeting in Prague, May 2024 and continued discussion on exonyms. 2. Virtual meeting were held in Oct 2024 and Jan 2025, reaching an agreement on a draft decision to reconcile exonyms and geographical names as cultural heritage.		
4-iv-11. Contribute to the rationale for creation of national authorities with legal rights/obligations to standardize geographical names.	2021-2023 Discussion is in progress regarding how to connect to Focus Group 2 (Legislation, policies & best practices relating to geographical names) of the WG on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage.	WG GNCH (Focus Group 2), Coordinator EI&P	On-going work (action item under review)
	2023-2025 No actions yet (being prepared).		
4-iv-12. Investigate principles and methodology for recording and writing geographical names from unwritten languages	2021-2023 Discussion is in progress regarding how to connect to Focus Group 5 (The names of unwritten languages) of the WG on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage.	WG GNCH (Focus Group 5), WG RS	On-going work (action item under review)
	2023-2025 No actions yet (being prepared).		
Strategy 5. Promotion and capacity building			

5-i-1. Develop plans for awareness raising and increase promotion of UNGEGN geographical names standardization	2021-2023 1. A webinar on "Geographical names standardization supporting national development" was organized and convened on 31 August 2021 with UN-GGIM Americas/CARIGEO and the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Details were reported by the Secretariat in UNGEGN Bulletin 62 (November 2021). 2. Representatives of UNGEGN participated in the UN Maps Conference in Valencia, Spain, March 2023, to promote UNGEGN to wider UN community	TT Africa, Chair, WG F&TC, Coordinator EI&P	1. Implement model for regular production and circulation of information sheet pertinent to standardization issues in Africa (2024). 2. Implement cooperation with UN-GGIM and its sub-units to promote the value of standardized geographical names and processes involved to achieve this (2023). 3. Implement procedures for ensuring strong involvement of users of geographical names as speakers and observers at UNGEGN sessions (2023).
	2023-2025 1. Representatives of UNGEGN participated in the UN Maps Conference in Valencia, Spain, 20-24 May 2024, to promote UNGEGN to a wider UN community. 2. A representative of UNGEGN participated in the UN Statistical Commission side event on SDG localization, Feb 2025, to promote UNGEGN to the wider UN community.		
5-i-2. Monitor and evaluate promotion and capacity building	2021-2023 On-going work	WG F&TC	1. Ensure relevant and updated capacity building material is available at UNGEGN website (2022). - Completed 2. Implement review procedure for updating capacity-building material (2023). - Completed
	2023-2025 No actions yet (being prepared).		
5-ii-3. UNGEGN Website development and maintenance	2021-2023 Website contents have been updated.	Coordinator EI&P	1. Develop plan for stricter monitoring of UNGEGN

	<p>2023-2025</p> <p>Website contents have been updated, including Publications, WG RS, Coordinator EI&P</p>		<p>website with higher member nation involvement to ensure content maintains up-to-date, including review procedures for updating and creation of content and better visual representation of achievements (e.g. Member States with names authorities, toponymic guidelines, etc.).</p> <p>2. Update UNGEGN website content and link the UNGEGN webpage with the related toponymic webpages from the Member States (2022).</p> <p>3. Implement system for ensuring up-to-date information on UNGEGN website (2022). Implement website modernizations at 6 years intervals (2025).</p>
5-ii-4. Ensuring relevance, development and dissemination of UNGEGN Bulletin	<p>2021-2023</p> <p>Topics of the special feature in the UNGEGN Bulletin have been discussed and adopted.</p>	Coordinator EI&P	<p>1. Implement yearly evaluations of future topics and ensure focus on the topics investigated in issues (2021)</p> <p>Expand distribution of UNGEGN Bulletin (2021-2029)</p>
	<p>2023-2025</p> <p>Issues of UNGEGN Bulletin were published in Aug 2023 (No.65), Dec 2023 (No.66), Jun 2024 (No. 67) and Dec 2024 (No.68), with the following special features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No.65: Strengthening relationships, links and connections in geographical names standardization and for sustainable development and pandemic recovery - No.66: Geographical names supporting the international decade of indigenous languages - No.67: Good practices emerging from relations between national mapping/geospatial data management agencies and geographical names authorities - No.68: The role of geographical names in preserving cultural heritage 		

5-iii-5. Ensuring international Toponymy Training Courses for the future.	2021-2023 On-going work	WG F&TC	1. Establish and maintain a complete group of trainers for international Toponymy Training Courses (2021). 2. Ensure as complete competences as possible in Toponymy Training (2022). 3. Implement procedures for regular review, update and content creation relating to toponymic training materials (2024). Implement online courses and workshops on specific topics for training relevant to national geographical names standardization (2024).
	2023-2025 1.Training courses carried out: Bali, Indonesia, May 2023 2.Webinars carried out: October 2024, in conjunction with PAIGH 3.Training courses in planning: Africa 2026		
5-iii-6. Establish social-media group to increase level of activity	2021-2023 Discussion is in progress to stablsh social-media group to increase level of activity.	Coordinator EI&P	1. Implement robust model for and organization of social media presence (2023)
	2023-2025 A content admin group has been established for social media.		
5-iv-7. Explore possibility of UNGEGN trust fund for capacity building and enabling participation	2021-2023 Discussion in progress regarding the possibilities for a trust fund.	WG F&TC	1. Identify areas of UNGEGN in need of funding (2021) 2. Establish legal framework of UNGEGN trust fund, puropose and range of activities (2023). 3. Begin attracting funding to UNGEGN trust fund, if previous point suggests viability (2024) Launch UNGEGN Trust Fund (2027, or earlier)
	2023-2025 No actions		