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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 7 (b) of the provisional agenda \*

**Effective work programmes: evaluation of the work  
of the Group of Experts**

**Report of the Co-Coordination for Evaluation and  
Implementation and Publicity**

Submitted by the Coordinator(s) for Evaluation, Implementation and  
Publicity\*\*

**Summary:**

At its 2023 session, the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names established the Coordinator for Evaluation, Implementation and Publicity, taking over the tasks of the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation and the publicity responsibilities of the Working Group on Publicity and Funding, both of which were then disbanded.

The report provides information on the progress made in those areas since the 2023 session, including an analysis of working papers submitted by Member States, updates to the resolutions/recommendations database and the results of the evaluation survey conducted at the end of the session.

Since the session, four issues of the Information Bulletin have been published, featuring a range of topics relevant to the work of the Group of Experts.

The report also provides information on publicity efforts to enhance the digital presence of the Group of Experts through website updates and the development of online resources to ensure alignment with the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names strategic plan and programme of work 2021–2029.

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\* GEGN.2/2025/1

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## Report of the Co-Coordiators for Evaluation and Implementation and Publicity<sup>1</sup>

### **Background**

The 2023 session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) established the roles of the Coordinator(s) for Evaluation, Implementation and Publicity, taking over the responsibilities of the former Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation and the publicity responsibilities of the former Working Group on Publicity and Funding, both of which were disbanded (Decisions [3/2023/11](#) and [3/2023/21](#)).

In accordance with these decisions, two Co-coordinators were appointed. The Co-coordinator for Evaluation & Implementation is tasked with:

- Evaluating the implementation of resolutions, recommendations, and other decisions to ensure their effective application (3-ii-5);
- Maintaining the resolutions/recommendation database to track progress and compliance (3-ii-6); and
- Conducting surveys to evaluate UNGEGN sessions and reporting the results to facilitate continuous improvement and adaptability (3-iii-10).

The Co-coordinator for Publicity is responsible for overseeing tasks related to the promotion and dissemination of information to raise awareness of the UNGEGN mission and objectives:

- Overseeing publication of the UNGEGN Bulletin, which allows Member States to share toponymical experiences and best practices (5-ii-4);
- Maintaining the UNGEGN website as an up-to-date resource for documents, publications and news about UNGEGN activities and initiatives, as well as facilitating access to working group reports and recommendations (5-ii-3); and
- Engaging in social media outreach to raise awareness and promote the significance of geographical names and linguistic diversity (5-iii-6).

\* Brackets indicate relevant action items of the [UNGEGN Strategic Plan and Programme of Work 2021-2029](#) (SP&PoW).

### **Implementation of resolutions, recommendations, and other decisions (3-ii-5)**

The work of UNGEGN is grounded in its statute and the resolutions and recommendations adopted at each Conference and session, which also serve as a recommended basis for the geographical names standardization of each Member State. This principle is articulated in UNCSGN resolution X/10 (2012) and the action item 3-ii-5 of the UNGEGN SP&PoW. The documentation guidelines for UNGEGN sessions require each working paper to specify the resolution(s) and/or recommendation(s) relevant to its theme.

An analysis of the implementation trends of resolutions and recommendations, as documented in the reports submitted to the 2023 session of UNGEGN, indicates that the compliance rate is not particularly high. Of the 132 reports (excluding 9 procedural-related reports from a total of 141), only 39 referenced the implementation of the 211 resolutions from the United Nations Conference on the

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<sup>1</sup> This working paper pertains to Recommendation 1 of the 2<sup>nd</sup> session of UNGEGN (Adoption of the Strategic Plan and Programme of Work 2021-2029), UNCSGN resolutions V/4 (Work performed by the UNGEGN and its future activities) and X/10 (Support for the work on the standardization of geographical names).

Standardization of Geographical Names (UNCSGN) and the 9 recommendations adopted during the UNGEGN sessions from 2019 to 2021. Among these, 18 reports addressed the implementation of the SP&PoW (Recommendation 2023/R/1). Excluding 4 duplicate reports, only 35 out of 132 working papers (26.5%) discussed the implementation of resolutions and recommendations. While this marks a slight increase from 25.6% in 2019 and 23.7% in 2021, the improvement appears to be largely driven by the rise in reports on the implementation of the SP&PoW.

Excluding reports on the implementation of the SP&PoW, the reports citing resolutions and recommendations include 4 submitted by the Bureau and the Secretariat, 4 by working groups, and 13 by Member States (3 from the Republic of Korea, 2 from Canada, and 1 each from Austria, Australia, Cameroon, France, Latvia, the Netherlands, South Africa, and Ukraine). Reports on the implementation of the SP&PoW include 2 from the Bureau and the Secretariat, 6 from Divisions (Africa Central, Arabic, Latin America, Norden, Portuguese, and United States-Canada), 2 from working groups (Evaluation and Implementation, Toponymic Terminology), and 8 from Member States (Cabo Verde, Canada, Costa Rica, Mexico, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, and South Africa).

The most frequently cited resolutions are:

- I/4. National standardization: 6 papers
- VIII/1. Promotion of minority group and indigenous geographical names: 4 papers
- VII/9. Standardization of geographical names utilizing the Internet: 3 papers
- VIII/9. Geographical names as cultural heritage: 3 papers
- X/3. Criteria for establishing and evaluating the nature of geographical names as cultural heritage: 3 papers

The evaluation survey conducted during the 2023 session indicates that resolutions and recommendations are considered beneficial for advancing the standardization of geographical names, with 24 out of 39 respondents rating them as 'very useful' and 10 as 'useful,' accounting for 87.1%. Additionally, the implementation of these resolutions and recommendations is deemed important for each country's work on geographical names, with 21 out of 39 respondents rating them as 'very important' and 15 as 'important' (84.6%).

However, challenges have been identified, including the outdated nature of certain resolutions, and the difficulties in applying generalized resolutions and recommendations to specific national and linguistic contexts. It was suggested that more effective promotion of resolutions and recommendations is needed, along with the development of simplified versions to make them more accessible and actionable for Member States.

### **UNCSGN resolutions and UNGEGN recommendations database**

Three recommendations adopted at the 2023 session were added to the UNCSGN resolutions and UNGEGN recommendations database in Arabic, English, French, Spanish, and Korean. The titles of these recommendations are as follows:

- Recommendation 1: Contribution to SDGs and Cooperation between UNGEGN and UN Maps
- Recommendation 2: Redevelopment of the World Geographical Names Database
- Recommendation 3: 4th session of the Group of Experts in 2025

The numbering system for recommendations adopted since 2019 has been refined. This includes the addition of the session year and an 'R' to signify recommendations. E.g., 2023/R/1, 2023/R/2, 2023/R/3 (Recommendations 1, 2 and 3 from the 2023 session). Furthermore, a new column has been introduced to display the numbers assigned by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to UNGEGN recommendations (e.g., 2023/R/1 corresponds to Decision 2023/336, 2023/R/2 to Decision 2023/337, and 2023/R/3 to Decision 2023/338). To date, there are 211 resolutions

and 12 recommendations recorded.

### **Evaluation of the 2023 session**

A total of thirty-nine responses to the evaluation questionnaire were received from the participants of the 2023 session of UNGEGN. The session was generally rated as successful, with 12 participants rating it as very high and 16 as high, accounting for a total success rate of 87.2%. All respondents affirmed that the session met their expectations. The most anticipated aspect of participating in the session was 'learning from other countries' experiences' (35 responses). This was followed by 'learning about updates on standardization issues' (31 responses), and 'informing others of their country's accomplishments' (30 responses).

The 2023 session marked the return of in-person meetings after four years, following the first session in 2019. This was well-received for the immediacy of presentations and discussions, as well as for fostering stronger networking opportunities. Participants highlighted benefits such as the smoother dynamics of speeches and conversations, the opportunity for communication and interaction with colleagues (11 responses), direct engagement between participants, the ability to informally discuss topics during breaks (4 responses), direct interactions with experts from various countries, and participation in working group meetings and side events (6 and 2 responses, respectively). The diversity of topics and agendas was appreciated (2 responses). However, some dissatisfaction was noted regarding the limited networking opportunities due to short breaks and the high cost of travel.

Noteworthy evaluations and suggestions include:

- Satisfaction with the dynamic presentations, discussions, exchanges, mutual networking, and participation in working groups and side events.
- The thematic approach to national report sessions was highly effective.
- More time should be allocated to agenda items addressing substantive topics.
- Suggested topics for special lectures include geographical names as cultural heritage, undersea feature names, the role of artificial intelligence in geographical names, the use of geographical names in media and social media, derogatory names, and geographical education.
- Adoption of recommendations focused on substantive rather than procedural issues, is necessary.

(see Appendix 1 for more details).

The evaluation for the 2025 session will be conducted through an online survey. The link to the survey will be provided during the meeting.

### **Webpage**

Efforts have been directed towards maintaining the UNGEGN website as an up-to-date and accessible resource for documents, session materials, and publications. Since the 2023 session, updates have included:

- Improved navigation for easier access to working group reports and recommendations.
- Expansion of the toponymic training and guidelines section to support Member States.
- Increased availability of session materials and recordings for reference and training.
- Reorganization of the UNGEGN Publications page and the addition of a Publications Archive page to enhance access to past and present resources.
- Update of the Media Kit to ensure consistency in UNGEN branding and communication.

Further enhancements are planned to align with the Strategic Plan and Programme of Work (2021–2029), ensuring that UNGEGN resources remain relevant, accessible and user-friendly. The UNGEGN website can be found at <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/>.

The Coordinator welcomes input and suggestions to further improve the site's content, usability and accessibility. Member States and working groups are encouraged to submit updates, resources, or recommendations to ensure the UNGEGN website remains a valuable reference for all UNGEGN stakeholders.

### **UNEGN Information Bulletin**

The biannual Information Bulletin remains a key platform for sharing updates, research, and best practices from Member States and experts. Since the 2023 session, four issues have been published, each focusing on a thematic area to encourage engagement:

- Issue #65 (June 2023): Indigenous and Minority Language Names
- Issue #66 (November 2023): Geographical Names in Digital Cartography
- Issue #67 (June 2024): Names and Borders – The Impact of Geopolitical Changes
- Issue #68 (November 2024): Innovations in Geographical Names Standardization

The Bulletin continues to serve as a widely read publication, and contributions from experts and Member States are strongly encouraged to maintain its relevance and diversity of perspectives.

### **Raising Awareness of UNGEGN Publications**

Recognizing the value of past UNGEGN publications for new representatives and experts, work has been undertaken to increase awareness and accessibility of these materials:

- A dedicated slide on UNGEGN publications to be included in the newcomers' orientation session at the 2025 UNGEGN session, introducing new experts to key resources.
- An article in UNGEGN Bulletin #69 (upcoming) to highlight the importance of these publications, outlining how they support standardization efforts and where they can be accessed.
- The UNGEGN publications page was reviewed and restructured to improve user access and navigation.

These efforts aim to ensure that historical and technical publications remain accessible and useful for experts, particularly those from newly revitalized divisions such as the Portuguese-speaking and Latin America divisions.

### **Points for discussion:**

#### **The Group of Experts is invited to:**

- (a) Take note of the report and progress made by the Coordinator(s) for Evaluation, Implementation and Publicity;
- (b) Recognize the current status of implementing UNCSGN resolutions and UNGEGN recommendations among Member States, and provide feedback on promoting more effective implementation, including suggestions to enhance relevance and user-friendliness;
- (c) Consider the evaluations and feedback from Member States highlighted in the 2023 session evaluation survey, and appropriately utilize this information in planning future sessions;

- (d) Provide input on how best to promote awareness and engagement with UNGEGN resources, including website improvements, digital resources and the Bulletin; and
- (e) Discuss strategies for strengthening publicity efforts, digital outreach and capacity-building resources, particularly for newly revitalized regional divisions and new Member States.

**APPENDIX 1. Results of the Evaluation Survey of the 3rd Session, New York, 1-5 May 2023****1. Overall Assessment****Question 1. What were your expectations on participating in this session?** (Choose all that apply)

	Selection	%
Informing others of your country's or organizations accomplishments	30	76.9
Learning from others countries' or organization's experiences	35	89.7
Learning of updates on standardization issues	31	79.5
Other	4	10.3

**Question 2 & 3**

Question 2	Yes			No		
Did the session meet expectation specified above?	39 (100%)			0 (0%)		
Question 3	Very High	High	Moderate	Low	Very Low	Very High and High (%)
How would you rate the success of the session?	16	18	5	0	0	87.2

**Question 4. It was the first in-person meeting in four years after May 2019. Could you specify what was satisfactory and what was not satisfactory about participation in this in-person meeting?**

Satisfactory was:	Not Satisfactory was:
The smoother dynamics of speeches and conversations; The possibility to communicate and interact with colleagues (11)	Time management should be improved (11)
Contact between people. Being able to discuss directly and comment on topics even during breaks (4)	The lack of breaks during the first day of the conference (4)
Direct talks with experts from different countries; Working group meetings in person (6)	Expensive stay in New York; Time distance (3)
Participate in side events. Exchange views and establish a network of contacts with other delegates (2)	High travel costs (2)
A wide range of topics and agenda were covered (2)	The sequence of giving the floor in the plenary (1)

**2. Programs and Contents****Question 1. How useful was each of the following for you?**

	Very useful	Useful	Moderately Useful	Of little use	Not Useful	Not Applicable	Very useful and Useful (%)
Documents – content, reading and discussion	20	15	3	1	-	-	89.7
Special presentations	19	14	6	-	-	-	84.6
Panel discussions	17	14	6	-	1	1	79.5
Working Group meetings	19	15	4	-	-	1	87.2
Division meetings	16	14	2	-	-	7	76.9

Talking and networking with other delegates	31	4	3	-	-	1	89.7
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### Additional Comments

1. Most useful was the ECSEED meeting because it was attended by delegates who do not normally attend these meetings. And we have updated contacts..
2. Business meeting on exonyms was useful, especially for the wealth of opinions expressed and for the interesting opposition between the two factions for and against the previous UN recommendation in this field.
3. Indigenous and minority languages geographical names, because it was the first step to create a working group with high expectations of interesting topics to work on. Toponymic capacitation, because in the latin american division most of the member states require orientation.
4. That each day's sessions have fewer hours (8 a.m. to 2 p.m.) and special cases are dealt with in work groups or round tables with those interested.
5. Longer breaks for networking. We had no breaks for the first two or three days.
6. Panel discussions should be granted more time (Especially the first panel had not time enough.)

### Question 2 (To first-time participants)

Question				Yes		No		Not applicable	
Did you attend the orientation briefing held on 1 May, 8:30-10:00?				15 (38.5%)		6 (15.4%)		18 (46.2%)	
Question	very useful	useful	moderately useful	of little use	not useful	Not applicable		very useful and useful (%)	
If yes, how useful was it?	9	7	1	0	0	22		41	

### Additional Comments / Suggestions

1. Have multilingual slides/speakers if interpretation can't be provided.
2. Please brief the "interpretation-headphone" better next time.
3. Take I would encourage participants who have not been to UNGEGN in a few years to attend. Things do change, and it is useful to learn the latest information.
4. Take sufficient time to show newcomers the whole process of standardization of geographical names.
5. We need to keep going to what is the future needed (the development) and we have to increase our meeting.

### Question 3. Compared to previous meetings (Conferences and sessions), do you recognize any changes (positive or negative) in this session? If yes, please specify. (To more than one-time participants)

1. That they have separated the themes, as was the case with the national reports, allowed the experiences to be shared in the room and the other members in the room participated with questions.
2. There was less time for the working papers presentations and we really had to speed up on thursday to keep up with the agenda, on subjects that I feel would have welcomed discussion.
3. No enough time for networking in session 3. Loved the special presentations. Also enjoyed the panel discussions. Could've spent more time on discussing practical process solutions for some of the challenges that were raised.
4. The absence of coffee breaks during the first two days was not good at all (compare importance of informal conversations.)
5. The reporting and decision-making agenda items at the end of the session seemed very rushed.
6. The room layout was not the best - very spread out, impossible to see across the room, and the space allocated to divisions and countries was not aligned to their delegation size.

7. There was an advantage because two or more participants better represent their countries because they exchange before giving the message in relation to their country.

**Question 4. Please make suggestions for special presentations, workshops and panel discussions for the next UNGEGN Session (topics, presenters, organization, logistics, etc.).**

1. Inform attendees which countries will be participating in the national dialogue.
2. Topic: Use of place names as cultural heritage and its significance for UN SDGs.
3. Topic: SCUFN presentation on the work they are doing with naming of undersea features - especially seamounts.
4. Topic: How to use Artificial Intelligence in unifying geographical names between different resources.
5. Topic: geographical names on media and social media. Presenter: globally recognized newspaper or magazine (national geographic?), twitter, facebook, etc.
6. To give more visibility to the UNGEGN, I suggest that each year regional meeting be held in one of the member regions: Africa, America, Asia, Oceania.
7. Workshops and panel discussions that address or propose approaches to address priority matters identified in the strategic plan.
8. How to support countries that have limited financial and organisational support for experts in their country (not only for travel to New York, but to establish, develop, and maintain expertise and naming organisations in their country.)
9. I think some space for those countries that have nothing published regarding geographic names, with some kind of step-by-step presentations on how to start working on name standardization?
10. Additional presentations or panel discussions on derogatory placenames would be of value.
11. How national boards gather concerns from the public and how they are being dealt with.
12. How the topic of toponymy is being taught in school geography classes.
13. As far as I was concerned, in addition to the presentations from the reports of the Member States, the representatives of the divisions and working groups and the Committee, it was necessary to include presentations that encompass the entire process of national and international toponymic standardization prepared by the representatives of the countries that are ahead of others in this process.

**Question 5. Please evaluate the following matters in reference to the 2nd (2021) session of UNGEGN.**

	excel- lent	good	adequate	poor	very poor	No Opinion	excellent and good (%)
Duration of the meetings(5 days)	12	19	6	1	1	-	79.5
Allocation of time to agenda items and working papers	7	14	17	1	-	-	55.3
Distinguishing between papers for presentation and for information	10	18	7	1	-	3	73.7
Discussions in response to papers and presentations	8	21	7	3	-	-	76.3
Way of considering national reports	19	14	5	-	-	1	86.8
Way of considering divisional reports	14	12	10	-	-	3	68.4
Summarizing groups of documents by topic or by agenda item	14	18	4	1	-	2	84.2
Recommendations and decisions developed by the session	12	16	8	2	-	1	73.7
Cooperation with GGIM	8	16	6	4	-	5	63.1
Cooperation with other bodies	9	14	12	-	-	4	60.5

**Additional Comments / Recommendations**

1. Time in the agenda was noticeably rushed for the Culture and Heritage section that had many papers, but went very long for the Exonyms section. Recommend breaking the culture and heritage section into more groups or planning for more time on that section.
2. Previously, the Conferences resolutions could be used as a guide to the standardization of place naming that could be used by the member states to develop their own guidelines; to me, the UNGEGN recommendations since 2019 are more organisational/administrative/political elements and are not as useful for the member states as the previous.
3. Decisions should be more specific. The summarizing of groups of documents is also mostly too general and unspecific.
4. Some working papers suggested new actions or procedures for UNGEGN but still there was not enough discussion (sometimes not at all). Could it be possible to handle these kind of papers somehow differently? To ensure that member states have read and pondered them beforehand? Or to fuel up the discussions with beforehand asked comments etc.?
5. Maybe a minor increase in the duration of the meeting would be preferable. Furthermore, interesting/sensitive issues such as cultural heritage and exonyms should be placed on different days.
6. I think the distribution of delegates by division so many days was a bit confusing.
7. Presentations should be synthesized and presentation and discussion time increased.
8. Reduce number of topics or presentations and increase QA and discussion sessions.
9. GGIM and GEGN have different roles, and I think we already have adequate cooperation.

### 3. Resolutions and General Work of UNGEGN/(former)UNCSGN

**Question 1. How useful do you think it is for managers of geographical names, including yourself, to refer to resolutions of the former UNCSGN and recommendations of new UNGEGN in promoting geographical names standardization?**

Very useful	Useful	Moderately Useful	Of little use	Not Useful	Very useful and Useful (%)
24	10	5	0	0	87.1

**Question 2. How important do you think it is to implement UNGEGN/(former)UNCSGN resolutions in each country's work on geographical names?**

Very important	Important	Moderately important	Of little importance	Not important	Very important and Important (%)
21	12	5	1	0	84.6

**Question 3. What would you suggest in order to improve the implementation of resolutions/recommendations?**

1. Many resolutions are outdated; the situation of individual countries/languages is so specific that general resolutions do not quite fit all. (3)
2. Extending the number of national name boards, establishing (or extending the number) of regional name boards, intensifying the dissemination into academia, e.g. by close cooperation with scientific associations like ICA, IGU, ICOS. (2)
3. More effective promotion of resolutions/recommendations. (2)
4. Simplified resumes of the resolutions/recommendations would be great. It will be easier to read these quickly and it will be easier to implement them in our daily work. (2)
5. Representatives to share reports with stakeholders in their respective nations, and actively engage the stakeholders in the inter-session period.
6. Having specific reports to be accomplished by members and monitoring progress.
7. Countries whose geographical name management structures are still weak should benefit from technical support and capacity building from the UNGEGN.

**Question 4. How useful do you think it is for managers of geographical names, including yourself, to refer to the 2021-2029 UNGEGN Strategic Plan and Programme of Work in geographical names standardization at the national level?**

Very useful	Useful	Moderately useful	Of little use	Not useful	No Opinion	Very important and Important (%)
15	14	7	2	0	1	76.3

**Question 5. Could you explain your answer above?**

1. This is useful in ensuring coordinated activities at national level, tapping into the available resources such as technical expertise, networks and knowledge, and ensuring that the efforts are in alignment with the SDGs.
2. It was good, but need to develop more connections between the Plan and implementation.
3. 2021-2029 UNGEGN Strategic Plan and Programme provided clear vision and strategy for member countries to implement their tasks, base on this strategic plan, each country can propose its national strategic plan to respective government for consideration and approval.
4. I believe that even though UNGEGN Strategic Plan and Programme of Work contains many important aspects it is perhaps too extensive to be executed effectively. As we found out in the session, many action items had had only little activity.

**Question 6. What are the most important work items that you would like to see UNGEGN undertake before the 2025 Session, when considering strategies and action items of the 2021-2029 UNGEGN Strategic Plan and Programme of Work?**

1. Links between the UNGEGN strategies and other bodies' agenda items like UN SDGs.
2. Better promotion of resolutions; better promotion of romanization systems (on the UNGEGN website); improving contacts with national authorities to emphasize the importance of geographical names standardization work.
3. Progress on Indigenous names, and other cultural heritage aspects of naming.
4. Ensuring that countries lagging behind in the management of geographical names can make up for this delay: Finding ways to supporting countries that don't have government programs in place.
5. How to enhance the achievement of sustainable development indicators using 2021-2029 UNGEGN Strategic Plan.
6. World Geographic Names Database, More focus on Indigenous Names and Derogatory Names.

**Question 7. Do you receive the UNGEGN Bulletin published semiannually?**

Yes	No
30 (76.9%)	9 (23.1%)
If Yes, what sections are useful to your work? (Choose all that apply)	
Special feature	18 (64.3%)
From the Divisions	17 (60.7%)
From the Working Groups	22 (78.6%)
From the Countries	18 (64.3%)
Education and Training	17 (60.7%)
Special Projects and News Items	21 (75%)
Upcoming Meetings	21 (75%)

**What special feature topics would you suggest for future bulletins?**

1. Practical use of place names as cultural heritages.
2. Connections to the International Decade of Indigenous Languages; Geonames supporting inclusion/health/biodiversity.

3. Standardization of geographical names in regions using Chinese characters.
4. The role of geographical names in space management; Geographic names and space security; Geographic names and space planning.
5. Standardization of minority names.
6. Microtoponyms; For whom do we standardize?; The delicate relationship between standardization and the wealth of place names.
7. From the Countries, from the Working Group and Education and Training.

**Question 8. Does your country need assistance in establishing a geographical names standardization program?**

Yes	No
12 (30.8%)	27 (69.2%)

**If yes, what type of help do you want? (e.g. training course, expert visit, publication of materials)**

1. Training course, expert visit and publication materials
2. Research to understand the current situation, challenges, and opportunities, and support to grow networks of experts and encourage new toponymic study to support governments.

**Question 9. Do you have any other comments you wish to make?**

1. Some countries and institutions could provide scholarships to study courses on the subject of geographical names at the UN or to train us.
2. Our country does not have a national geographical names authority at present. Though, theoretically, the function of geographical name administration falls under the Department of National Planning in the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, the responsible directorship seems unaware of this work. This has resulted in less coordination in geographical names administration. I will soon be submitting the report of my recent UNGEGN attendance and plan to continue engaging the government officials and other stakeholders. The Ministry has also indicated their wish to receive communication from the UNGEGN Secretariat.
3. It was difficult to identify which country people were representing when seated in divisions only for so many days, and there were a lot of empty seats in some divisions while others were extremely crowded, hopefully there is a better way of planning seats based on knowing which delegates are in attendance.
4. The group photo from this session is very bad - I would kindly ask you to send/upload at least a 300 dpi sharp photo.
5. When UNGEGN wants to remain relevant, decision structures and procedures have to be improved. Thus, the in principle existing bottom-up decision process could be enforced by registered Working Group membership resulting in the right to vote on decisions in the WG, accumulating knowledge on the WG's topic by more continuity and avoiding or minimizing fluctuation of participants, which has the detrimental effect that many discussions start several times from the very beginning, always new participants come in and intervene without the profound knowledge of the more permanent participants and the WG never arrives at final decisions.
6. In our country, trainings related to the standardization of geographical names would come first because so far we have only one candidate who participated in the training of trainers that took place in Antananarivo, Madagascar from 17 to 21 June 2013. So we need other trained personnel to better advance in this process.