



Economic and Social Council

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United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

2025 session

New York, 28 April–2 May 2025

Item 2 (b) of the provisional agenda*

Organizational matters

Organization of work**

Note by the Secretariat

1. The proposed organization of work and times for the 2025 session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names has been prepared pursuant to relevant decisions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Bureau of the Group of Experts in order to facilitate the consideration of agenda items within the time and services allocated to the Group.
2. The first meeting of the 2025 session of the Group of Experts will be convened on Monday, 28 April 2025, at 10.30 a.m. Facilities will be available for two formal meetings each day. Morning meetings will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. (except on Monday, 28 April, when the first meeting will start at 10.30 a.m.); afternoon meetings will be held from 3 to 6 p.m.

* [GEGN.2/2025/1](#).

** The Chair may be assisted by a facilitator to facilitate the discussions of agenda items.



Proposed organization of work

<i>Date/time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Programme</i>
Monday, 28 April		
10.30 a.m.–1 p.m.	1. Opening of the session	Opening address by the Chair of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names Welcoming remarks by the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs
	2. Organizational matters	Adoption of the agenda, organization of work and credentials of observers
	(a) Adoption of the agenda	
	(b) Organization of work	
	(c) Credentials of observers	
	Special presentation	Decade of Indigenous languages (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)
	3. Reports of the Bureau and the Secretariat	Introduction of reports
	(a) Report of the Chair	General discussion and summary
	(b) Report of the Secretariat	
	(c) Monitoring and evaluation of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names strategic plan and programme of work 2021–2029	
	4. Reports	
	(a) Divisions of the Group of Experts	Introduction of divisional reports by the Chair of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names General discussion and summary
3–6 p.m.	4. Reports (<i>continued</i>)	
	(b) Governments on the situation in their countries and on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names	National dialogue Presentations, general discussion and summary
	(c) Activities on the standardization of geographical names in Africa	Introduction of reports, general discussion and summary
	(d) National and international meetings and conferences	Introduction of reports, general discussion and summary

<i>Date/time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Programme</i>
	6. Relationships, links and connections	Introduction by the facilitator on relationships, links and connections
	(a) Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management	Introduction and presentation of report
	(b) Economic Commission for Africa	General discussion and summary
	(c) International organizations, including academia	(No documents were received for this agenda item)
		Introduction and presentation of reports, general discussion and summary
	Panel discussion	Advancing geographical names standardization through inclusive, culturally informed and evidence-based solutions to support sustainable development, facilitated by the Vice-Chair of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names
Tuesday, 29 April		
10 a.m.–1 p.m.	Special presentation and panel discussion	Artificial intelligence and the future of geographical names standardization
	5. Technical expertise	Introduction by the Convener of the Working Group on Geographical Names Data Management
	(b) Geographical names data management	Presentation of documents and general discussion and summary
	(d) Toponymic terminology	Introduction and presentation by the Convener of the Working Group on Toponymic Terminology
3–6 p.m.	5. Technical expertise (<i>continued</i>)	
	(a) Names collection, office treatment, features beyond a single sovereignty and international cooperation	Introduction and presentation of documents
		General discussion and summary
	(c) Writing systems and pronunciation	Introduction and presentation by the Convener of the Working Group on Romanization Systems
	4. Reports (<i>continued</i>)	National dialogue
	(b) Governments on the situation in their countries and on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names	Presentations, general discussion and summary
	5. Technical expertise (<i>continued</i>)	
	(c) Country names	Introduction and presentation by the Coordinator of Country Names
		General discussion and summary

<i>Date/time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Programme</i>
Wednesday, 30 April		
10 a.m.–1 p.m.	8. Culture, heritage and language recognition:	Introduction by the Convener of the Working Group on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage
	(a) Geographical names as culture, heritage and identity	Presentation of documents
	(b) Indigenous, minority and regional languages and multilingual issues	General discussion and summary
	(c) Exonyms	Introduction and presentation by the Convener of the Working Group on Exonyms
3–6 p.m.	8. Culture, heritage and language recognition (<i>continued</i>)	Introduction and presentation of documents
	(c) Exonyms	General discussion and summary
	4. Reports (<i>continued</i>)	National dialogue
	(b) Governments on the situation in their countries and on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names	Presentations, general discussion and summary
	9. Promotion and capacity-building	Introduction and presentation by the Convener of the Working Group on Funding and Training Courses in Toponymy
	(a) Strengthening publicity and increasing awareness of the importance of standardized geographical names	Introduction and presentation of documents
		General discussion and summary
	(b) Toponymic training and education	
	(c) Funding of capacity-building initiatives	
	Panel discussion	Geographical names education, facilitated by the Convener of the Working Group on Funding and Training Courses in Toponymy
Thursday, 1 May		
10 a.m.–1 p.m.	Special presentation	Geographical names education (Norwegian Language Council)
	7. Effective work programmes	Introduction and presentation by the Co-Coordinator for Evaluation and Implementation

<i>Date/time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Programme</i>
	(a) Measures taken and proposed for the implementation of resolutions and recommendations	Introduction and presentation of documents General discussion and summary
	(b) Evaluation of the work of the Group of Experts	
	(c) Social and economic benefits of supporting sustainable development	
	(d) Toponymic guidelines for international use by map and other editors	Introduction and presentation by the Coordinator for this work item
3–6 p.m.	4. Reports (<i>continued</i>)	National dialogue
	(b) Governments on the situation in their countries and on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names	Presentations, general discussion and summary
	10. Other geographical names issues	Introduction and presentation of documents General discussion and summary
	12. Other business	General discussion and summary
Friday, 2 May		
10 a.m.–1 p.m.	11. Procedural matters	Presentation of informal papers Discussion and consideration of the draft decisions and the draft report
	(a) Presentation and adoption of decisions	Presentation of informal papers Interactive discussion and consideration of draft decisions
	(c) Arrangements for the 2027 session of the Group of Experts	Consideration of the draft provisional agenda of the 2027 session of the Group of Experts
	(b) Adoption of the report on the 2025 session	Presentation of the draft report
	13. Closing of the session	Conclusion of the session