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### United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

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Item 4 (d) of the provisional agenda\*

Reports: national and international meetings and conferences

### Tenth Arab Forum on Geographical Names

#### Summary\*\*

In accordance with telegram No. 74708 of His Excellency, the head of the Royal Court, dated 16 Shawwal A.H. 1445 (25 April 2024), a directive was issued authorizing the General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Information of Saudi Arabia to host the tenth Arab Forum on Geographical Names in the second half of 2024. The Forum was held from 10 to 12 November 2024, in Jeddah Governorate, under the patronage of the Minister of Defence and Chair of the Board of Directors of the General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Information, His Royal Highness, Prince Khalid bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, under the theme “Strengthening relationships and links between Arab States in the field of geographical names”. The Forum brought together 450 participants, including officials, experts and specialists representing 22 Arab countries and 7 foreign countries. The diverse academic contributions included more than 90 research papers and 6 specialized discussion sessions given by 70 speakers and experts on geographical names. Forum activities included an accompanying exhibition featuring contributions from 17 entities from the governmental, private and non-profit sectors and a scientific exhibition involving more than 25 research displays relating to geographical names. Forum activities also included a meeting of the Arabic Division, attended by 17 representatives of the States members of the Division, the head of the Council of Economic Unity of the League of Arab States, the Chair of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names and the secretariat of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names. During the meeting, a presentation was given on the progress made on the agenda items of the Arabic Division, and a number of decisions and recommendations were agreed.

The report presents a concise overview of the tenth Arab Forum on Geographical Names.

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

\*\* The full report was prepared by Majdi Alharbi, General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Information, Saudi Arabia. The report will be available under document symbol GEGN.2/2025/27/CRP.45, in the language of submission only, at [https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/4th\\_session\\_2025/](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/4th_session_2025/).

