



# 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 4 (b) of the provisional agenda\*

**Reports: Governments on the situation in their countries  
and on the progress made in the standardization of  
geographical names**

### Report of Italy

#### Summary\*\*

Since the 2023 session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, Italy has carried out the following activities:

- (a) Organization of three conferences, in collaboration with:
  - (i) The Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, on the theme “Literary, polar and extraterrestrial place names”, in Rome, on 23 and 24 November 2023;
  - (ii) The Romano-Hellenic Division of the Group of Experts, on the theme “Toponyms as a means of expressing identification, location, possession, belonging, division and respect for peoples’ cultures”, in close cooperation with the Italian Geographical Society, in Rome, from 11 to 13 September 2024;
  - (iii) The Italian Centre for Historical and Geographical Studies, on the theme “Place names, perceptions and territorial portraits: critical lessons, methods and new perspectives between research and didactics”, at the University of Salerno, Italy, on 10 and 11 December 2024;
- (b) Dissemination of actions relating to the importance of geographical names for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals through lessons and conferences;
- (c) Creation of a research group within the Italian Association of Geographers, the body that brings together all Italian academic geographers;
- (d) Implementation of a new Italian toponymic database.

\* GEGN.2/2025/1.

\*\* The full report was prepared by Andrea Cantile (Italy), President of the Commission for Italian Official Toponymy of the Military Geographic Institute of Italy. The report will be available at [https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/4th\\_session\\_2025/](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/4th_session_2025/), in the language of submission only, as document GEGN.2/2025/59/CRP.59.



For the next two-year period, the main Italian actions in the field of toponymic standardization will be aimed at:

- (a) Enriching and refining the new Italian toponymic database;
  - (b) Organizing a thematic conference on the theme “Toponyms of the historical Italian linguistic minorities”;
  - (c) Contributing to the publication of a volume on minority place-name standardization in Europe, edited by Peter Jordan (Austria);
  - (d) Arranging the fifth International Scientific Symposium of the Romano-Hellenic Division.
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