



# Economic and Social Council

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## United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

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Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda\*

Reports: Divisions of the Group of Experts

### Report of the Pacific South-West Division

#### Summary\*\*

The previous report by the Pacific South-West Division ([GEGN.2/2021/7](#)) was considered at the 2021 session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names. It provided information on the Division's formation, membership, background and purpose.

Very little progress has been made towards connecting Pacific island States. The members are Fiji, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tonga and Vanuatu. There are likely to be numerous reasons for non-participation, including higher priorities, lack of capacity and/or resources, costs and natural disasters. Nevertheless, the value of the Division in sharing its unique and interesting geographical naming remains important.

Australia and New Zealand regularly engage, but not under the auspices of the Division. Rather, their contact has been through the Place Names Working Group,<sup>1</sup> which operates under the Intergovernmental Committee on Surveying and Mapping,<sup>2</sup> a standing committee of the Australian and New Zealand Spatial Information Council.<sup>3</sup> Information on activities by the Working Group is provided in the report submitted by the Government of Australia ([GEGN.2/2025/67](#)).

In its report, the Division explores possible ways to activate and support the Division, examines how the Group of Experts could assist with the participation of Pacific island nations (possibly through training workshops), discusses the interim Chair arrangements and makes recommendations for possible further action.

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

\*\* The full report was prepared by Wendy Shaw (New Zealand), Interim Co-Chair of the Pacific South-West Division. 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.2/2025/61/CRP.61.

<sup>1</sup> See [www.icsm.gov.au/what-we-do/place-names-working-group](http://www.icsm.gov.au/what-we-do/place-names-working-group).

<sup>2</sup> See [www.icsm.gov.au/about](http://www.icsm.gov.au/about).

<sup>3</sup> See [www.anzlic.gov.au/](http://www.anzlic.gov.au/).

