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Item 8 (a) of the provisional agenda*

**Culture, heritage and language recognition: geographical
names as culture, heritage and identity**

A changing Australian landscape: enhancing diverse communities through geographical names

Summary**

Diversity and inclusion in naming are essential to people's ability to live in a safe and equal society. The naming of places, geographical features and localities is an important way to recognize and celebrate the diversity of communities.

Australia has a rich history of extraordinary and diverse people who have shaped sectors, including academia, sports, the arts, politics and medicine. The challenge that it faces is ensuring that this diversity is represented in the names encountered throughout Australia and the world.

Geographical names should reflect the diversity of the peoples, languages and experiences that have shaped communities. Through deliberate action and collective commitment, the power of geographical names can be harnessed to foster understanding, respect and belonging across cultures, ultimately shaping a world where diversity and inclusion thrive.

The report covers several case studies of diverse and inclusive geographical naming across Australia, including through recognition of the multicultural nature of communities, gender trends in naming, First Nations language naming and the removal of offensive names.

The United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names is invited to express its views and discuss efforts made to recognize diverse Australian communities through geographical names.

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

** The full report was prepared by Rafe Benli (Australia), Place Names Working Group, Intergovernmental Committee on Surveying and Mapping. The report will be available at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/4th_session_2025/, in the language of submission only, as document GEGN.2/2025/68/CRP.68.

