



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
13 February 2025

Original: English

United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names 2025 session

New York, 28 April–2 May 2025

Item 7 (c) of the provisional agenda*

**Effective work programmes: social and economic benefits
of supporting sustainable development**

Linking Australian geographical names to the Sustainable Development Goals utilizing artificial intelligence

Summary**

Geographical names provide places with orientation and identity. They are location identifiers for cultural and physical features of the real world, such as regions, settlements or any feature of public or historical interest. They are often used as a proxy for other data themes, such as buildings and settlements.

Geographical names are essential to support the delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Goals cannot be delivered without reporting, which, in turn, cannot be undertaken without an authoritative list of geographical names, including those of roads, geographical features and localities.

Artificial intelligence is a powerful tool that can support research by reviewing thousands of documents and information available on the Internet. The artificial intelligence-generated results in the report have been enhanced by integrating prior work that links names to the Goals. This includes specific case studies and years of professional expertise, which further strengthen and validate the connections to the Goals.

The report includes an investigation into the why and how of connecting to the Goals through geographical naming, types of naming and case studies linked to the Goals, as well as how each Goal is connected to geographical naming.

Connecting place names to the Goals can be a productive and valuable way to raise awareness of and promote action towards sustainable development, which can be undertaken through a variety of naming approaches. Artificial intelligence has helped to build connections to the Goals and provided opportunities for further research and idea creation.

* [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.2/2025/70/CRP.70.



The Group of Experts on Geographical Names is invited to express its views on the report and discuss the issues raised in support of building connections to the Sustainable Development Goals.
