



# Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General  
14 February 2025

Original: English

---

## United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

2025 session

New York, 28 April–2 May 2025

Item 8 (c) of the provisional agenda\*

**Culture, heritage and language recognition: exonyms**

## Report of the Working Group on Exonyms

### Summary\*\*

The report provides a description of the activities of the Working Group on Exonyms since the 2023 session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, held in New York from 1 to 5 May 2023. The twenty-fifth meeting of the Working Group, a business meeting, was held on 1 May 2023 as a side event of the 2023 session.

The twenty-sixth meeting of the Working Group was held in the form of a workshop on 14 and 15 May 2024 in Prague. The meeting was hosted by the Institute of Ethnology of the Czech Academy of Sciences and the Czech Office for Surveying, Mapping and Cadastre. It was held back to back with the twenty-eighth meeting of the East Central and South-East Europe Division.

The two main themes of the twenty-sixth meeting were the draft resolution on the use and safeguarding of exonyms and the remaining ambiguities of the endonym/exonym divide. The meeting was attended in person by 25 experts from 14 countries and was live-streamed. Twelve papers on various aspects of exonyms were presented and discussed. The discussion led to a general agreement on a new draft text that contained a call for the reconsideration of past resolutions of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names in which a blanket reduction of exonym use had been requested. Two online meetings were subsequently held to consolidate the draft text.

---

\* [GEGN.2/2025/1](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/gegn/sessions/4th_session_2025/).

\*\* The full report was prepared by Kohei Watanabe, Convener of the Working Group on Exonyms. The report will be available at [https://unstats.un.org/unsd/gegn/sessions/4th\\_session\\_2025/](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/gegn/sessions/4th_session_2025/), in the language of submission only, as document GEGN.2/2025/71/CRP.71.

