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English

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**United Nations Group of Experts on  
Geographical Names**

**2025 session**

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Item 9 (a) of the provisional agenda \*

**Promotion and capacity-building: strengthening  
publicity and increasing awareness of the  
importance of standardized geographical names**

**Advancing geographical name standardization in Armenia to  
support sustainable development\*\***

Submitted by the Republic of Armenia

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\*\* Prepared by the Cadastre Committee of Armenia.

## **Introduction**

Geographical names standardization is an important tool for promoting implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, preserving cultural heritage and fostering effective communication. The Republic of Armenia has made significant strides in advancing the standardization of geographical names, recognizing the value of this task in supporting the broader Sustainable Development Goals.

This report outlines the efforts undertaken by Armenia to standardize geographical names, focusing on the updated developments in 2024. These efforts are aligned with the strategic vision of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN), emphasizing sustainable, inclusive, people-centered, human rights- and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

## **Technological Advancements in Geographical Name Standardization**

In recent years, Armenia has undertaken significant steps in leveraging advanced technological solutions to support the standardization of geographical names. A key milestone in this process was the integration of approximately 35,650 geographical objects into Geographic Information System (GIS) by 2023, and the adoption of the National Standard for Geographical Names in 2024. This integration marked a major step forward in consolidating geographical data, ensuring that all relevant geographical features were cataloged and available in a standardized format.

Building upon this achievement, substantial efforts were undertaken in 2024 to further expand and refine the GIS system. One of the key initiatives was the creation of geographical object passports, which provide detailed and comprehensive information about each geographical entity. These passports include photographs, brief descriptions, and other relevant data, offering a clearer and more accessible understanding of each geographical feature. Efforts have already been completed to create more than 2,000 geographical object passports, marking significant progress in the initiative.

The creation of geographical object passports is a critical component of Armenia's strategy to enhance public access to reliable, accurate, and up-to-date geographical data. These passports are made publicly available through Armenia's National Geo-Portal ([https://geoportal.am/map\\_geoportal?layer=geonames](https://geoportal.am/map_geoportal?layer=geonames)), a digital platform designed to make standardized geographical information easily accessible. By providing businesses, researchers, educators, and the general public with an open and user-friendly source of geographical data, Armenia is ensuring that accurate information is available to inform decision-making processes across various sectors of public life.

In addition to its broader benefits, the availability of these resources is expected to significantly contribute to the promotion of tourism and development of various regions of Armenia. By providing accessible and comprehensive information about the country's diverse geographical landscape, the geographical object passports will support tourism planning, regional development initiatives, and educational endeavors. Figure 1 below illustrates an example of a geographical object passport, showcasing the format and structure used to convey essential data about each geographical entity.

**State Catalog of Geographical Names  
of the Republic of Armenia**

**Saint Sargis**

<b>Basic Information</b>		
Geoname code	06.007.3.3.05.002	
Type	church	
Registration date	30/03/2007	
Date of naming	15/03/2007	
<b>Location of the Geographical Object</b>		
Region	Lori	
Community	Stepanavan	
Settlement	Stepanavan	
<b>Geographical Coordinates of the Object</b>		
Latitude	Longitude	
+41° 00' 38.97"	+44° 23' 18.28"	



**Description of the Geographical Object**

Church (19th century) in the Lori marz of the Republic of Armenia, on the right bank of the Sevget River, in the northern part of the city of Stepanavan, near Ekeghetsu Street.



**Figure 1. Example of a Geographical Object Passport**

### **Institutional Mechanisms: The Expert Commission on Geographical Names**

The Expert Commission on Geographical Names, originally established in 2000, plays a pivotal role in the standardization process by overseeing the creation, modification, and orthographic standardization of geographical names in Armenia. In 2024, the commission underwent a restructuring process to include representatives from a broader range of relevant governmental bodies and organizations. This restructuring enhances the commission's capacity to evaluate and approve geographical names, ensuring that these names align with Armenia's cultural, linguistic, and historical heritage while also meeting national and international standards.

The Expert Commission holds regular sessions to assess ongoing issues and address public requests related to geographical names. These sessions allow for in-depth discussions, technical evaluations, and the proposal of modifications or new names in accordance with both local traditions and global best practices.

This inclusive and systematic approach ensures that geographical names are standardized in a manner that reflects Armenia's national identity while contributing to international cooperation and the Sustainable Development Agenda.

## **Alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

The standardization of geographical names in Armenia is directly aligned with several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set out in the 2030 Agenda. In particular, the efforts in geographical names standardization support the following SDG targets:

**SDG 4 (Quality Education):** The provision of standardized and reliable geographical data enhances educational materials, supporting the dissemination of accurate information in schools and universities across Armenia.

**SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure):** The integration of geographical data into modern technological systems, such as GIS, supports the development of robust infrastructure and technological innovation in Armenia.

**SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities):** Standardized geographical names play a vital role in urban planning, resource management, and the development of sustainable cities and communities.

**SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions):** The work of the Expert Commission and the establishment of a transparent and standardized process for naming geographical features contribute to strengthening institutional frameworks and promoting justice and equity.

**SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals):** The standardization of geographical names fosters collaboration with international organizations, such as UNGEGN, and contributes to global cooperation for achieving the SDGs.

By supporting these SDG targets, Armenia is leveraging geographical name standardization as an essential tool for advancing long-term sustainable development.

## **Conclusion**

Armenia's approach to the standardization of geographical names serves as a model of how culturally-informed, technologically advanced, and evidence-based solutions can contribute to advancing the 2030 Agenda. The ongoing work of the Expert Commission on Geographical Names, combined with the development of comprehensive databases and technological tools, positions Armenia to continue making significant strides in this critical area.

The integration of geographical data into national and international systems, the preservation of Armenia's cultural and linguistic heritage, and the alignment of these efforts with the Sustainable Development Goals underscore the importance of geographical names standardization as a key instrument for strengthening national identity, fostering inclusivity, upholding human rights and supporting long-term economic, social, and environmental growth.