Economic and Social Council

**United Nations Group of Experts on
Geographical Names**
2025 session
New York, 28 April–2 May 2025
Item 5 (b) of the provisional agenda*
Technical expertise: geographical names data management

Report of the Working Group on Geographical Names Data Management for 2023–2024

Summary**

The Working Group on Geographical Names Data Management of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, in response to United Nations data needs, addresses issues relating to the processing of geographical names data, including the creation, maintenance and dissemination of geographical names data files and gazetteers, as well as aspects of geographical names data exchange formats and standards. The Working Group is guided by the Group of Experts strategic plan and programme of work 2021–2029.

Experts of the Working Group have collaborated to prepare the present report, which covers the activities conducted in 2023 and 2024.

The report provides an overview of the tasks being performed to implement strategy 1 (technical expertise) and is focused on the first findings, the challenges faced and the obstacles encountered. It includes: (a) the delivery of technical expertise and advice to national authorities regarding geographical names standardization (including romanization); (b) the activities carried out to promote efficient and effective geographical names data and gazetteer management; and (c) interoperability requirements within each key element (e.g. data, applications/services, infrastructure, security, standards and performance).

Technical developments, the sharing of good data management practices, the identification of trends in development and future direction for geographical names data management are also addressed.

The report concludes with an outlook and proposals for forthcoming activities in the period from 2025 to 2027.

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* GEGN.2/2025/1.

** The full report was prepared by Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu (Germany) on behalf of the Working Group on Geographical Names Data Management. The report will be available under document symbol GEGN.2/2025/82/CRP.82, in the language of submission only, at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/4th_session_2025.

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