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English

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

2025 session

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Item 4 (b) of the provisional agenda *

**Reports: Governments on the situation in their countries
and on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names**

Activities of Oman in the field of geographical names

Submitted by Oman **

Summary:

During the period from 2023 to 2025, Oman witnessed remarkable activities in the field of geographical names. Various institutions, including the National Authority for Survey and Geospatial Information, were involved.

The activities consisted of participating in events and courses relating to geographical names held by the United Nations, in addition to conferences organized by the Arabic Division and workshops. Further information is provided in the report.

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The activities of the Sultanate of Oman in the field of geographical names from 2023– 2025

The Sultanate of Oman has long held a deep interest in place names, dating back to ancient times. This interest is evident in historical accounts documented by historians, the publication of various encyclopedias and dictionaries of Arabic and Omani place names, as well as poetry collections describing specific locations in Oman.

To regulate and standardize geographical names, Oman established the National Survey Authority in 1974. In 1983, the Council of Ministers assigned the authority responsibility for Oman's geographical policies, technical consultation on all surveying activities, and map production. In 2024, the authority was renamed the National Survey and Geospatial Information Authority to reflect its expanded role.

During the period from 2023 to 2025, the Sultanate of Oman witnessed significant activity in the field of geographical names. This activity was not limited to the National Survey for Geospatial Information Authority, but several other institutions were included.

This activity consisted of participating in events and courses in geographical names held by the United Nations, in addition to geographical names conferences organized by the Arab Division of Geographical Names. It also contained participating in courses and workshops in geographical names and products related to geographical names. The Sultanate of Oman's report will clarify further the details of these activities:

- Hosting the Ninth Conference of the Arab Division of Geographical Names Experts in Muscat from December 5–7, 2022.
- Elected as First Deputy Chairman of the Arab Division for Geographical Names Experts in 2022.
- Attending the Third Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) in New York from May 1–5, 2023, presenting a report on Oman's achievements.
- Participating in a United Nations-led workshop on geographical names in Indonesia in June 2023.

Geographical Name Review and Mapping Projects:

- Reviewing place names for the administrative division map of Oman (2022).
- Updating the 1:1,500,000 scale map of Oman.
- Producing and reviewing maps for Oman's 11 governorates (2024).
- Creating and reviewing names for the Omani Road Atlas.
- Providing and verifying maps and place names for the "Encyclopedia of Oman's Mountains"

Governmental and Policy Developments:

- In 2023, the Council of Ministers mandated the adoption of the Unified Arabic Transliteration System for transliterating geographical names from Arabic to Latin script across all government institutions.
- In 2024, the National Survey Authority was renamed the National Survey and Geospatial Information Authority to better reflect its broader responsibilities.

International Participation:

- Attending the 10th conference of Arab Experts in Geographical Names in Jeddah from November 10–12, 2024, presenting four research papers.