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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**

Report of Iceland

Summary**

The report will follow the new national reporting template as closely as possible. Key information is included under the following headings:

Member State report on the situation in the country. Significant developments include:

- Merger of the National Land Survey of Iceland (Landmælingar Íslands) with two other State institutes to form the Natural Science Institute of Iceland (Náttúrufræðistofnun)¹ in 2024
- Commencement of a new term of the Icelandic Place Name Committee (Örnefnanefnd)² in 2024, with a new Chair (Einar Sveinbjörnsson) and Committee appointed until 2028

National and international meetings, conferences, symposiums, publicity and publications. Significant activities include:

- Annual onomastics conferences (Nafnaþing) organized by the Icelandic Onomastics Society (Nafnfræðifélagið), which were held in October 2023 and October 2024 in Reykjavik and open to all
- Publication of a book (*Nöfn á nýrri öld: 20 greinar í tilefni 20 ára afmælis Nafnfræðifélagsins*) by the Árni Magnússon Institute for Icelandic Studies, in collaboration with the Icelandic Onomastics Society, in 2023, which covers

* GEGN.2/2025/1.

** The full report was prepared by Emily Lethbridge (Iceland), Árni Magnússon Institute for Icelandic Studies. 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.2/2025/90/CRP.90.

¹ See <https://www.natturufraedistofnun.is/>.

² See <https://www.arnastofnun.is/is/ornefnanefnd>.



aspects of Icelandic names (including geographical names) and is aimed at a general readership

Measures taken and proposed for the implementation of United Nations resolutions on the standardization of geographical names, including the economic and social benefits. Significant examples include:

- Plans to implement current legislation on geographical names in a more active and responsive way (linked to strategies 1 and 3 of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names)
- Measures taken to demonstrate the importance of Icelandic geographical names in the context of the country's cultural heritage and identity (linked to strategy 4 and action item 4-ii-7 of the Group of Experts)

National standardization. Significant activities and developments include:

- Small-scale efforts in field collection of names within research contexts
- Office treatment of names within research contexts
- Updated administrative structure of national names authorities, legislation, policies and procedures, including updated information about newly merged local administrative districts and their names

Geographical names as culture, heritage and identity. The report includes discussion of recent and ongoing public engagement on geographical names.

Toponymic data files and gazetteers. The report includes the updated figures for geographical names contained in the official place name database maintained by the National Land Survey of Iceland and the Natural Science Institute of Iceland.
