



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
17 February 2025

Original: English

United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names 2025 session

New York, 28 April–2 May 2025

Item 9 (a) of the provisional agenda*

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

Public engagement with geographical names in Iceland in social media contexts

Summary**

In Iceland, members of the public are often interested in geographical names. Questions are regularly submitted by individuals to the Icelandic Web of Science maintained by the University of Iceland¹ or sent in for the attention of experts on geographical names at the Árni Magnússon Institute for Icelandic Studies and the National Land Survey of Iceland/Natural Science Institute. Members of the public also engage with geographical names via social media and other Internet forums.

The report contains a review of topics discussed by members of the public on social media forums, where there are several groups dedicated to Icelandic place names. Particular attention is paid to whether such discussion relates to Sustainable Development Goals 3, 5 and 14. Consideration is also given to how public interest and opinions regarding geographical names are expressed via social media in the light of the theme of the 2025 session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, “Advancing geographical names standardization through inclusive, culturally informed and evidence-based solutions to support sustainable development”.

* [GEGN.2/2025/1](https://www.un.org/Depts/undersecretary/gegn/).

** The full report was prepared by Emily Lethbridge (Iceland), Árni Magnússon Institute for Icelandic Research. 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.2/2025/93/CRP.93.

¹ See, for example, www.visindavefur.is/search/?dosubmit=0&q=%C3%B6rnefni.

