



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
28 April 2025

Original: English

United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

2025 session

New York, 28 April–2 May 2025

Draft report

Rapporteurs: Ana Cristina da Rocha Berenger **Resende** (Brazil)
Majdi Hamed **AlHarbi** (Saudi Arabia)¹

Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. Pursuant to Economic and Social Council decision 2023/338, the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names held its 2025 session at Headquarters from 28 April to 2 May 2025. It held ___ meetings.

B. Attendance

2. The session was attended by ___ participants representing ___ States Members of the United Nations and the linguistic and geographical divisions of the Group of Experts. The list of participants is contained in document [GEGN.2/2025/INF/1](#).

C. Officers of the session

3. The officers of the session were as follows:

Chair:

Pierre Jaillard (France)

Vice-Chairs:

Wendy Shaw (New Zealand)²

Sungjae Choo (Republic of Korea)

Rapporteurs:

Ana Cristina da Rocha Berenger Resende (Brazil)

Majdi Hamed AlHarbi (Saudi Arabia)

¹ Appointed by the Chair to complete the unexpired portion of the term of office of Wendy Shaw, who had relinquished her functions as Rapporteur.

² Appointed by the Chair to complete the unexpired portion of the term of office of Susan Birtles, who had relinquished her functions as Vice-Chair.



4. For a list of the geographical and linguistic divisions and the names of their Chairs, see <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/divisions/>. For a list of officers of the working groups, see <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/bureau/>.

D. Opening statements

5. The Chair opened the session on 28 April, made opening remarks and summarized the tasks ahead. The Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs made a statement.

E. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

6. At its 1st meeting, on 28 April, the Group of Experts adopted its provisional agenda (GEGN.2/2025/1) and approved its organization of work (GEGN.2/2025/3/Rev.1).

7. At the same meeting, the Group of Experts invited the following intergovernmental organizations and other entities to participate in the work of the session as observers: Environmental Systems Research Institute; Google; International Cartographic Association; International Council of Onomastic Sciences; International Geographical Union; King Abdulaziz University; Norwegian Language Council; Pan American Institute of Geography and History; Universidad Nacional Federico Villarreal; Université de Montréal; University of Geneva; and University of Latvia.

F. Documentation

8. The documents before the Group of Experts are available on the website of the Statistics Division at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/4th_session_2025/#documents.
