



UNITED NATIONS GROUP OF EXPERTS ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

Advancing geographical names standardization through inclusive, culturally-informed and evidence-based solutions to support sustainable development

2025 Session | 28 April – 2 May 2025 | @UNSD_GEGN, #2025UNGEGN



2025 UNGEGN Session

Newcomers Orientation to UNGEGN and the Session

Monday, 28 April 2025

Stefan Schweinfest
Director,
UN Statistics Division

Sungjae Choo
UNGEGN Vice Chair
Republic of Korea



UNGEGN

United Nations Group of Experts
on Geographical Names



United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

2025 Newcomers Orientation

Conference room DC2-1684



Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)



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WELCOME TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND TO THE GROUP OF EXPERTS ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES



UNGEGN

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WELCOME from UNGEGN Bureau and Secretariat

- The 2025 session of UNGEGN
 - operating under the adjusted methodology proposed at the 2017 United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names and decided by ECOSOC in July 2018
- Introducing newcomers
 - to UNGEGN and
 - the formal procedures of a United Nations inter-governmental meeting
- Hope to assist for a better understanding
 - for new delegates and observers
 - benefit more from the week's discussions



UNGE GN

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What is important to know?

1. The United Nations

2. Background on UNGEGN

- Aims
- History
- Bureau, Working Groups and Divisions
- Website and resolutions

3. Your role BEFORE/DURING/AFTER Sessions

- The New York Resource Guide
- Side events
- Rules of Procedure
- Interventions

4. Meeting Documents

- Annotated Provisional Agenda; Organization of work
- Reports/Conference room papers
- Other documents



... Questions ...



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The United Nations System

UN PRINCIPAL ORGANS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SECURITY COUNCIL

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

SECRETARIAT

INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL⁶

Subsidiary Organs

- Disarmament Commission
- Human Rights Council
- International Law Commission
- Joint Inspection Unit (JIU)
- Main Committees
- Standing committees and ad hoc bodies

Funds and Programmes⁷

- UNDP** United Nations Development Programme
 - **UNCDF** United Nations Capital Development Fund
 - **UNV** United Nations Volunteers
- UNEP**⁸ United Nations Environment Programme
- UNFPA** United Nations Population Fund
- UN-HABITAT**⁹ United Nations Human Settlements Programme
- UNICEF** United Nations Children's Fund
- WFP** World Food Programme (UN/FAO)

Research and Training

- UNIDIR** United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research
- UNITAR** United Nations Institute for Training and Research
- UNSSC** United Nations System Staff College
- UNU** United Nations University

Other Entities

- ITC** International Trade Centre (UN/WTO)
- UNCTAD**^{1,8} United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
- UNHCR**⁹ Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- UNOPS**¹ United Nations Office for Project Services
- UNRWA**¹ United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
- UN-WOMEN**⁹ United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

Related Organizations

- CTBTO PREPARATORY COMMISSION** Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization
- IAEA**^{1,2} International Atomic Energy Agency
- ICC** International Criminal Court
- IOM**¹ International Organization for Migration
- ISA** International Seabed Authority
- ITLOS** International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea
- OPCW**² Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
- WTO**^{1,4} World Trade Organization

Peacebuilding Commission

- HLPF** High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

Subsidiary Organs

- Counter-Terrorism Committee

- International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals
- Military Staff Committee

- Peacekeeping operations and political missions
- Sanctions committees (ad hoc)
- Standing committees and ad hoc bodies

Functional Commissions

- Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
- Narcotic Drugs
- Population and Development
- Science and Technology for Development
- Social Development
- Statistics
- Status of Women
- United Nations Forum on Forests

Regional Commissions⁸

- ECA** Economic Commission for Africa
- ECE** Economic Commission for Europe
- ECLAC** Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
- ESCAP** Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
- ESCWA** Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Other Bodies¹⁰

- Committee for Development Policy
- Committee of Experts on Public Administration
- Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations
- Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
- UNAIDS** Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
- UNGEGN** United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names
- UNGGIM** Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

Research and Training

- UNICRI** United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute
- UNRISD** United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

Departments and Offices⁹

- EOSSG** Executive Office of the Secretary-General
- DCO** Development Coordination Office
- DESA** Department of Economic and Social Affairs
- DGACM** Department for General Assembly and Conference Management
- DGC** Department of Global Communications
- DMSPC** Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance
- DOS** Department of Operational Support
- DPO** Department of Peace Operations
- DPPA** Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs
- DSS** Department of Safety and Security
- OCHA** Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

- OCT** Office of Counter-Terrorism
- ODA** Office for Disarmament Affairs
- OHCHR** Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
- OIOS** Office of Internal Oversight Services
- OLA** Office of Legal Affairs
- OSAA** Office of the Special Adviser on Africa
- SRSG/CAAC** Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict
- SRSG/SVC** Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict
- SRSG/VAC** Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children

- UNDRR** United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
- UNODC**¹ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
- UNOG** United Nations Office at Geneva
- UN-OHRLLS** Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States
- UNON** United Nations Office at Nairobi
- UNOP**² United Nations Office for Partnerships
- UNOV** United Nations Office at Vienna

Specialized Agencies^{1,5}

- FAO** Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- ICAO** International Civil Aviation Organization
- IFAD** International Fund for Agricultural Development
- ILO** International Labour Organization
- IMF** International Monetary Fund
- IMO** International Maritime Organization
- ITU** International Telecommunication Union
- UNESCO** United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
- UNIDO** United Nations Industrial Development Organization
- UNWTO** World Tourism Organization
- UPU** Universal Postal Union
- WHO** World Health Organization
- WIPO** World Intellectual Property Organization
- WMO** World Meteorological Organization
- WORLD BANK GROUP**⁷
 - **IBRD** International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
 - **IDA** International Development Association
 - **IFC** International Finance Corporation

Notes:

- Members of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB).
- UN Office for Partnerships (UNOP) is the UN's focal point vis-a-vis the United Nations Foundation, Inc.
- IAEA and OPCW report to the Security Council and the General Assembly (GA).
- WTO has no reporting obligation to the GA, but contributes on an ad hoc basis to GA and Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) work on, inter alia, finance and development issues.
- Specialized agencies are autonomous organizations whose work is coordinated through ECOSOC (intergovernmental level) and CEB (inter-secretariat level).
- The Trusteeship Council suspended operation on 1 November 1994, as on 1 October 1994 Palau, the last United Nations Trust Territory, became independent.
- International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) and Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) are not specialized agencies in accordance with Articles 57 and 63 of the Charter, but are part of the World Bank Group.
- The secretariats of these organs are part of the UN Secretariat.
- The Secretariat also includes the following offices: The Ethics Office, United Nations Ombudsman and Mediation Services, and the Office of Administration of Justice.
- For a complete list of ECOSOC Subsidiary Bodies see un.org/ecosoc.

This Chart is a reflection of the functional organization of the United Nations System and for informational purposes only. It does not include all offices or entities of the United Nations System.

UNGEEN

A subsidiary body of the UN Economic and Social Council

UNGEEN-UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names

1. A subsidiary body of ECOSOC
2. Promotes standardization of geographical names in response to national requirements
3. Creates and follows-up on the implementation of resolutions and decisions
4. Provides a forum for discussion – geographers, linguists, administrators, GIS specialists, cartographers ...
5. Supported by a Secretariat, Statistics Division, 'under the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)
6. Creates working groups and task teams to focus on specific areas of current concern and interest
7. Has 24 geographical/linguistic divisions for grassroots work



UNGEEN

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on Geographical Names



What UNGEGN is **NOT**



1. Decision maker on feature names
2. Arbitrator of disputes over names
3. Place to air political issues, even if they are related in some way to geographical names
4. Decision maker on what processes, legislation or policy is correct for any country



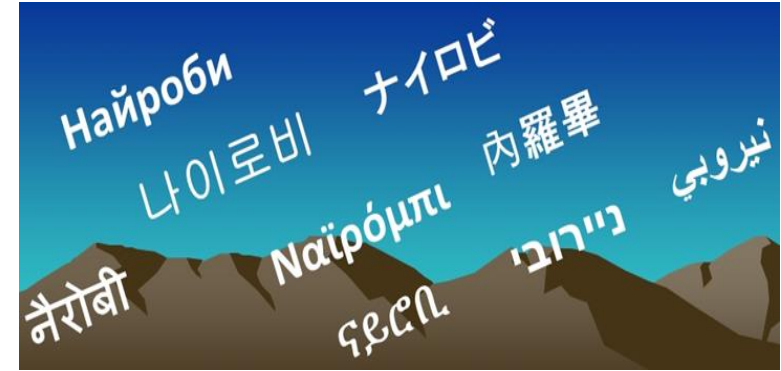
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on Geographical Names



UNGEGN's aims

- Encourage the creation of national names authorities
 - backed by legislation
 - respect local usage of names
 - collect, store and disseminate authorized names - for government and public use
- Raise awareness of the value and benefits of geographical names standardization
- Recognize the value of geographical names both to identify place and as elements of cultural heritage
- Develop single scientifically-based systems of romanization
- Contribute to work of UN bodies and collaborate with non-UN organizations – such as UNESCO, UNMaps, PAIGH and Google Maps



UNGEGN

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on Geographical Names

Early days of UNGEGN

- **1959 – Resolution 715A (XXVII) of ECOSOC**
 - To bring together experts to advise on geographical names for use in UN Cartography
- **1960 – 1st meeting of experts in New York**
 - USA, France, UK, Iran, Guatemala, China
- **1967 - First Conference held in Geneva**
 - 11 conferences every 5 years until 2017
 - New York, Geneva, London, Athens, Montréal, Berlin
 - 30 UNGEGN sessions – two (2) between conferences
 - New York, Geneva, Vienna, Nairobi, Bangkok



Meredith Burrill, USA



UNGEGN

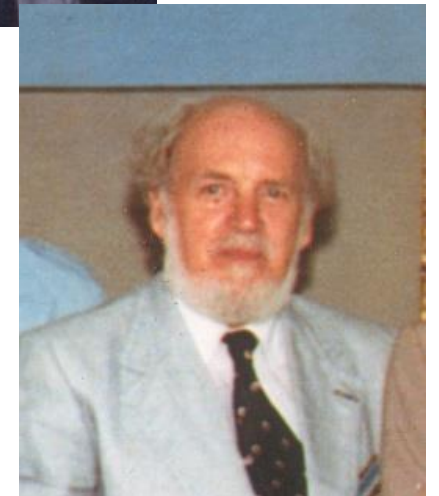
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on Geographical Names

Some Major Milestones – 1970s & 1980s

- 1970** First Working Groups
- 1972** “UNGEGN” and first Divisions
- 1979** Toponymic Guidelines started – e.g. Austria
- 1982** First Toponymy Training Course - Indonesia
- 1987** Compendium of Resolutions started
- 1988** First UNGEGN Newsletter (now Bulletin)



Josef Breu,
Austria



Ferjan Ormeling, Sr
Netherlands



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Milestones – 2000s

- 2001** First brochure published
- 2002** UNGEGN website launched
- 2004** Task Team for Africa
- 2004** Online UNGEGN World geo-names database
- 2010** Online database of Resolutions
- 2012** Web-based training course
- 2016** Formalized cooperation with UN-GGIM (started in 2010)



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Evolution of UNGEGN – recent history

- **2017 – Reorganization to “new” UNGEGN**
 - To convene every 2 years starting in 2019
 - Reports to ECOSOC
- **2019 – Strategic Plan and Programme of Work**
 - Document (CRP.94) approval at the 2019 session
- **2021 – Present – Implementation of the SP&PoW**
 - Member States encouraged to support the implementation of the SP&PoW
- **2023 – the National Dialogue introduced**
 - National reports interactively introduced and discussed each day



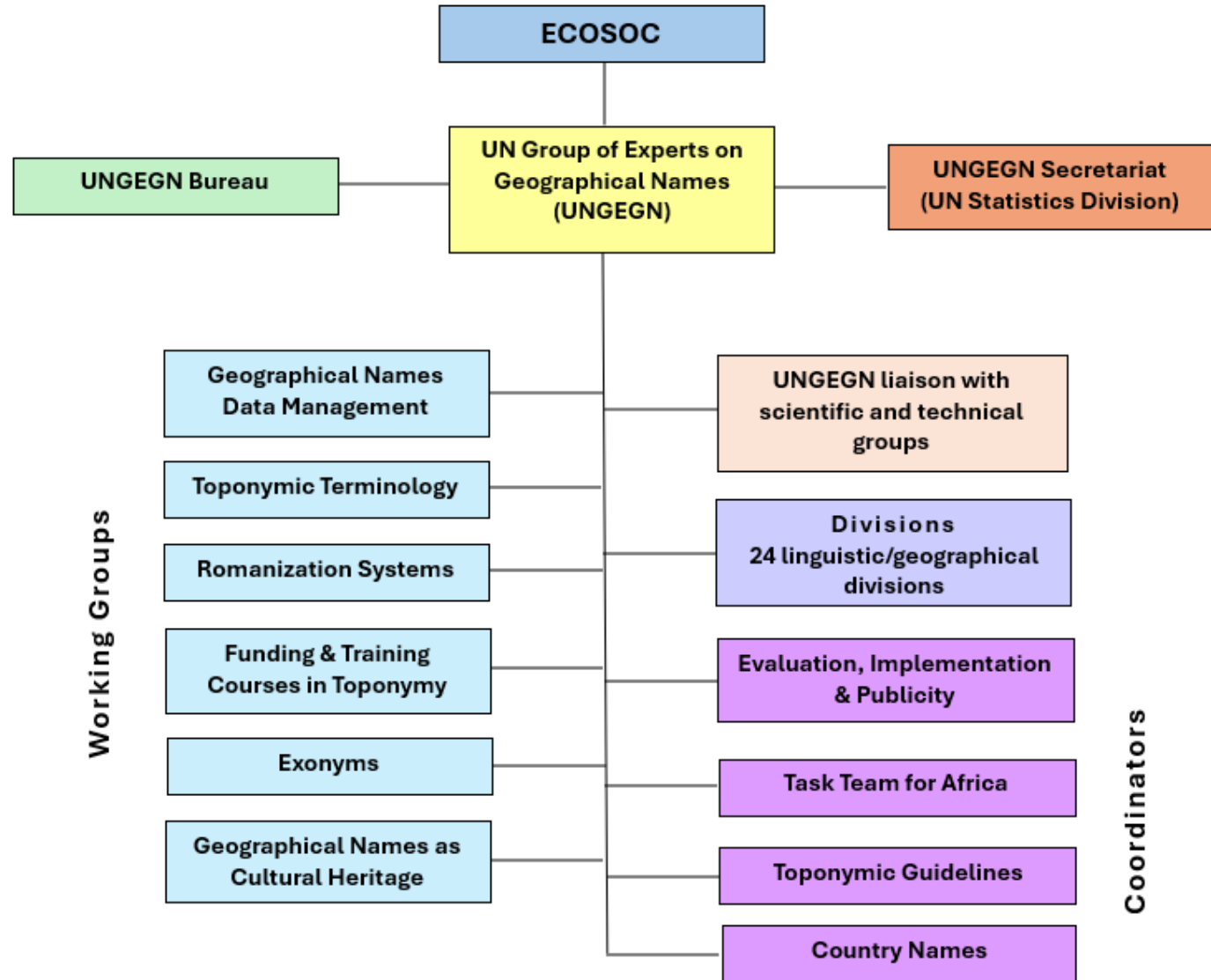
5 strategies



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UNGEGN Structure



UNGEGN

United Nations Group of Experts
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UNGEGN Bureau

Officers of UNGEGN

Chairperson

- Mr. Pierre Jaillard, France

Vice-Chairpersons

- Mr. Sungjae Choo, Republic of Korea
- Ms. Wendy Shaw, New Zealand

Rapporteurs

- Ms. Ana Cristina da Rocha Berenger Resende, Brazil
- Mr. Majdi Hamed AlHarbi, Saudi Arabia



UNGEGN Chairperson



Vice-Chairpersons



Rapporteurs



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UNGEGN Divisions (24)

Africa Central	Baltic	India
Africa East	Celtic	Latin America
Africa South	China	Norden
Africa West	Dutch- and German-speaking	Pacific South-West
Arabic	East Central and South-East Europe	Portuguese-speaking
Asia East (other than China)	Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia	Romano-Hellenic
Asia South-East	East Mediterranean (other than Arabic)	United Kingdom
Asia South-West (other than Arabic)	French-speaking	United States / Canada

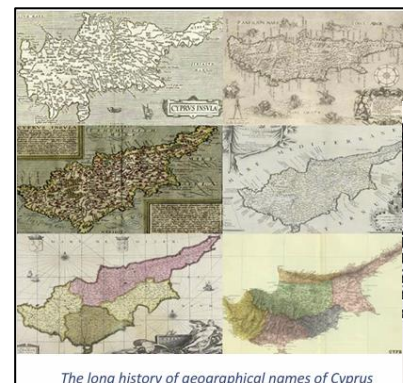


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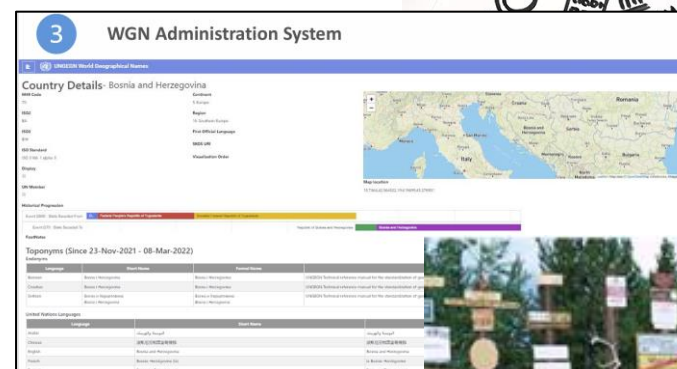
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UNGEGN working groups and Task Teams

1. Working Group on Geographical Names Data Management
 2. Working Group on Toponymic Terminology
 3. Working Group on Romanization Systems
 4. Working Group on Funding and Training Courses in Toponymy
 5. Working Group on Exonyms
 6. Working Group on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage
- A. Evaluation, Implementation and Publicity
 - B. Country Names
 - C. Task Team for Africa
 - D. Toponymic Guidelines for Map and Other Editors for International Use



The long history of geographical names of Cyprus



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UNGEGN Liaison with other Organizations

1. International Cartographic Association (**ICA**)
2. Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (**ICANN**)
3. International Council of Onomastic Sciences (**ICOS**)
4. International Geographical Union (IGU)
5. International Hydrographic Organization (**IHO**)
6. International Organization for Standardization (**ISO**) Technical Committee 211 (TC/211)
7. Pan-American Institute of Geography and History (**PAIGH**)
8. Unicode Consortium



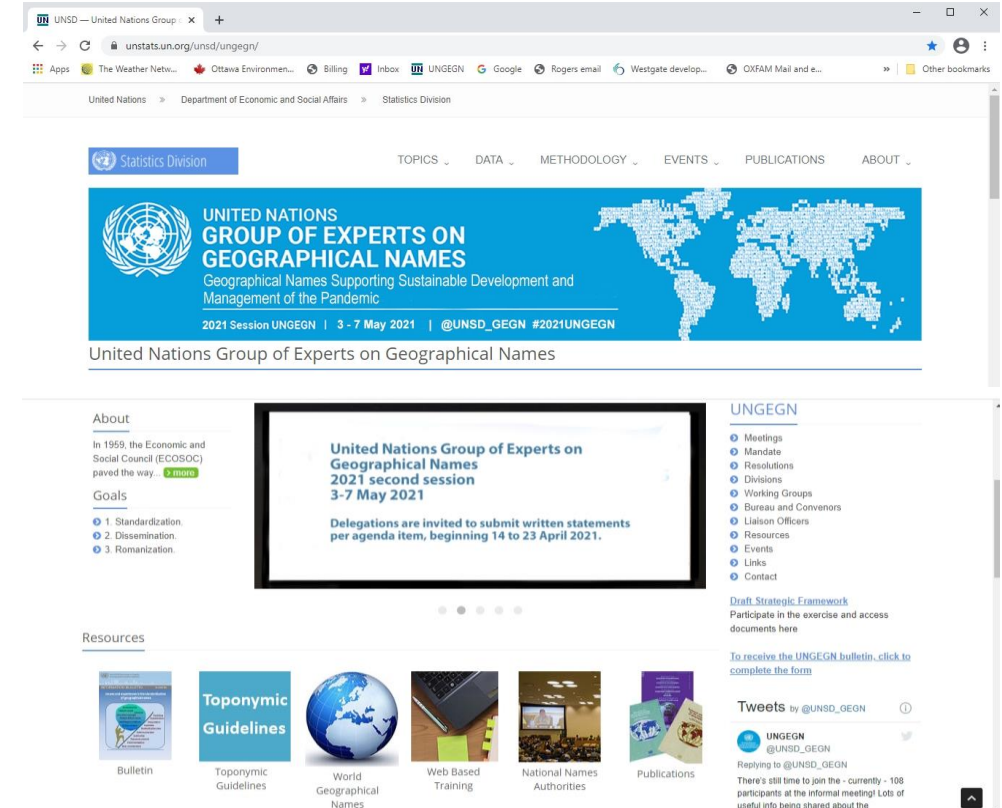
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UNGEGN Website

<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/>

- Last redesign was in 2019
- **Very large reference source**
 - UNGEGN Bulletin
 - Manuals, media kit, pamphlets
 - World Geographical Names Database
 - National authorities
 - Documents from conferences/sessions
 - Resolutions/recommendations
 - Web-based training
 - Events, Links, Tweets, and more



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Resolutions, Recommendations and Decisions

<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/resolutions/>

NEW <https://www.ngii.go.kr/portal/ungn/main.do>

- Resolutions, recommendations and decisions reflect the technical work discussed
- From 11 Conferences - 211 resolutions assembled and grouped by subject area (26 groups). Recently added were the Recommendations beginning with the 2019 session.
 - national standardization; toponymic guidelines
 - systems of romanization;
 - distribution of data through gazetteers (hard copy/web); data exchange in accepted formats;
 - training and education;
 - cultural heritage; exonyms



UNGEKN

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More about resolutions and recommendations

- **Available on the web**

- Searchable database
 - Arabic, English, French, Spanish
 - Korean

Compendium

- Arabic, English, French, Spanish
- Korean; Portuguese



- **“Revitalized” UNGEGN**

- 12 recommendations
- working decisions



UNGEGN Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation
UNCSGN Resolutions and UNGEGN Decisions Database

UNGEGN DECISIONS (2019~)

Recommendations by Session

[Third UNGEGN, New York, 2023](#)

3 recommendations

[Second UNGEGN, New York\(Online\), 2021](#)

3 recommendations

[First UNGEGN, New York, 2019](#)

6 recommendations

[Search for topics](#)



UNGEGN

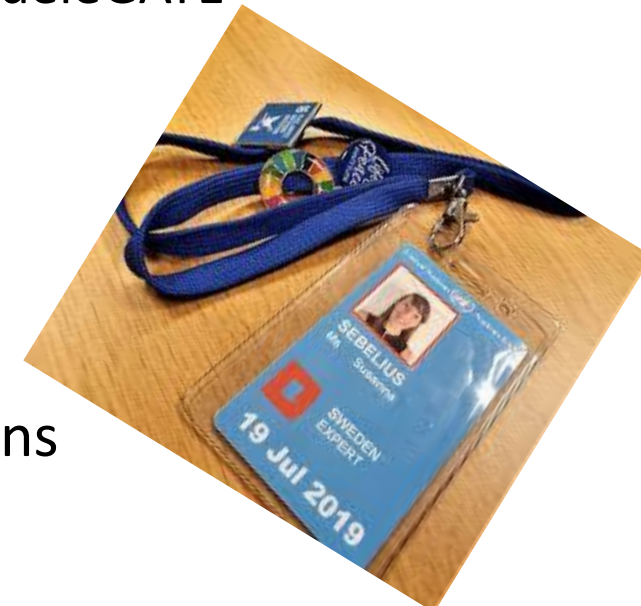
United Nations
on Geographical

Things you would have done BEFORE the Session

1. Prepared country reports, divisional reports and technical papers
2. Identify and know the responsible officer(s) with Foreign Affairs in Capital and at your Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York
 - Secure and submit accreditation for participation – registration by E-deleGATE
 - Make arrangements to process your UN grounds pass

Participants should continue to:

1. Monitor the UNGEGN website for updates and documents
2. Read the technical reports, discuss and decide on national positions and prepare statements/interventions.



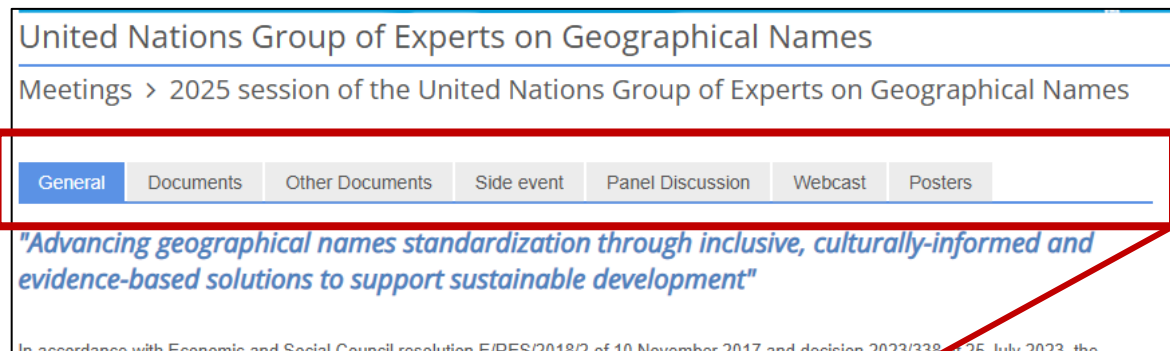
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The 2025 session webpage

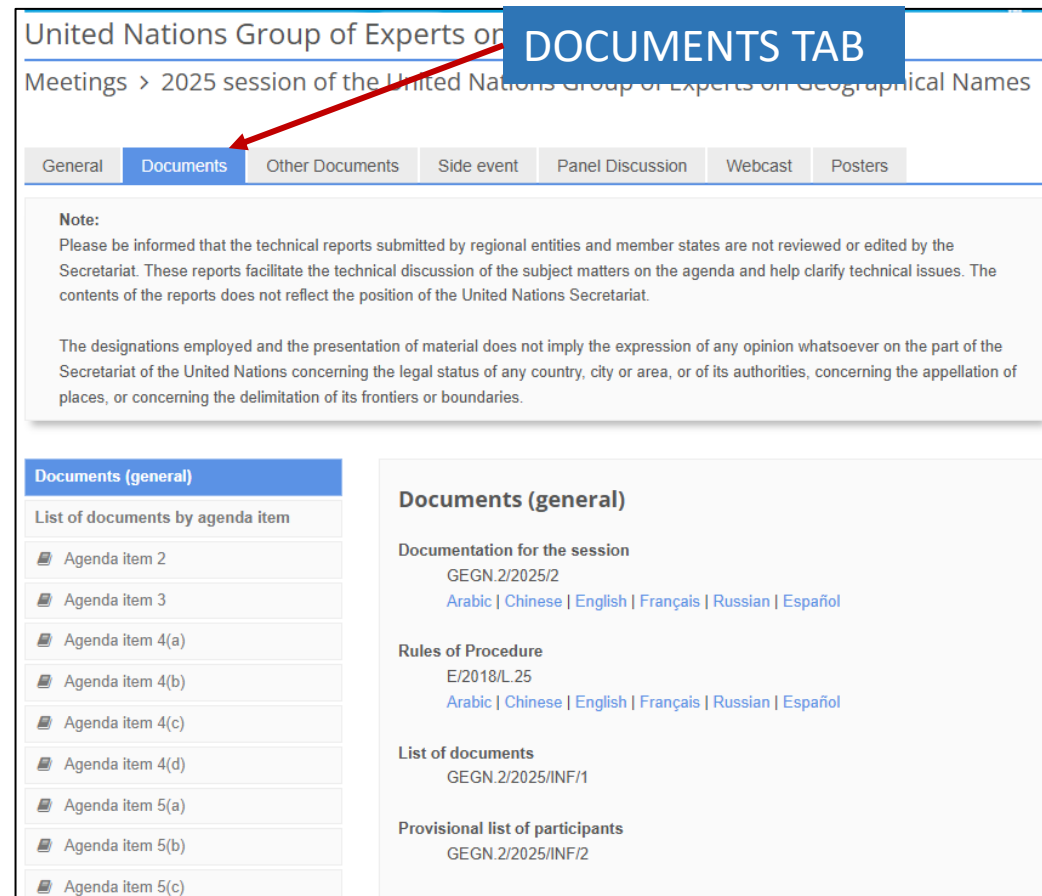
https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/4th_session_2025/



Session Information organized per Tab

- **General** – overview of session
- **Documents** – Procedural, summaries and conference room papers
- **Other Documents** – Note verbale, About the Venue etc.
- **Side event** – registration and calendar of side events
- **Posters** – Submission to the Virtual Poster Exhibition
- **Webcast** – links to UN Web TV to access in real time and after the meetings of the session

Other Tabs will be added as information becomes available.



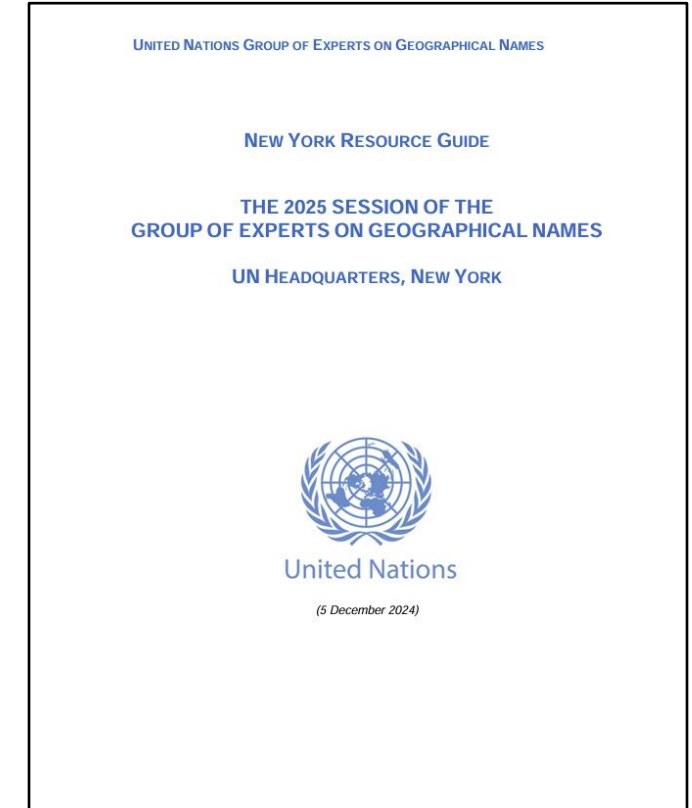
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The New York Resource Guide

The information helps to prepare you for your trip to and during your stay in New York. It covers:

1. Meeting administrative arrangements
2. Identification Badges and Grounds Passes
3. Visa and entry requirements
4. Restaurants and cafes within UN HQ
5. Secretariat Contact Information
6. General Information
 - Hotels – Address and Telephone Numbers
 - Airports
 - Transportation – Airport and local
 - Banks and Money
 - Postal Services
 - Time and Weather
 - Medical Services



Welcome to New York



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Calendar of Side Events

- Refer to the **Side Events tab** on the webpage for schedules and updated information on divisional and working group meetings and technical seminars during the week

[2025 Side Event Calendar – detailed
Printable Version](#)

- Identify the events you wish to attend and note the times and access arrangements.
Any changes will be reflected on the web-site
- Sides events may be closed or open.
Divisional and working group meetings are usually open to all delegates
- Interpretation is **not** provided for the side events



UNGEEN

United Nations Group of Experts
on Geographical Names

Rules of Procedure

Decision 2018/264

Rules of procedure of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names and draft agenda for its first session

At its 51st plenary meeting, on 24 July 2018, the Economic and Social Council, recalling its resolution 2018/2 of 10 November 2017, in which it decided that the rules of procedure of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names were to be drafted by the Bureau, in close consultation with the States Members of the United Nations, and be presented to the Council for adoption, decided:

- (a) To approve the rules of procedure of the Group, as set out in annex I to the present decision;
- (b) To approve the draft agenda for the first session of the Group, to be held in 2019, as set out in annex II to the present decision.

Annex I

Rules of procedure of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

Guiding principles

I. Aims

The basic aims of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names are:

- (a) To emphasize the importance of the standardization of geographical names at the national and international levels and to demonstrate the benefits to be derived from such standardization;
- (b) To collect the results of the work of national and international bodies dealing with the standardization of geographical names and to facilitate the dissemination of those results to States Members of the United Nations;
- (c) To study and propose principles, policies and methods suitable for resolving problems of national and international standardization;
- (d) To play an active role, by facilitating the supply of scientific and technical help, in particular to developing countries, in creating mechanisms for the national and international standardization of geographical names;
- (e) To provide a vehicle for liaison and coordination among Member States, and between Member States and international organizations, on work associated with the standardization of geographical names;

- The policies and regulations governing the meetings of the UNGEGN are laid out in the Rules of Procedure (Decision 2018/264).
- They constitute a set of procedures and conducts that ensure the proper functioning of meetings.
- All participants are obliged to respect these rules and follow the procedures.
- Outlines the duties of the Conference Secretary

The Rules of Procedure are available here:

<https://www.un.org/ecosoc/sites/www.un.org.ecosoc/files/documents/2018/decision.2018.264.pdf>

Rules of Procedure of
UNGEGN



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UNGEGN Rules of Procedure

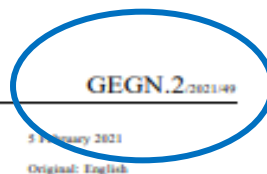
- **DEFINITIONS** Rule 2
- **COMPOSITION** Rule 3
- **REPRESENTATION FOR SESSIONS** Rule 4
- **SESSIONS** Rule 5
- **AGENDA** Rule 6
- **BUREAU** Rules 7 to 9
- **SECRETARIAT** Rules 10 to 12
- **CONDUCT OF BUSINESS** Rules 13 to 24
- **DECISION MAKING** Rules 25 to 36
- **ELECTIONS** Rules 37 to 39
- **LANGUAGES AND INTERPRETATION** Rules 40 to 41
- **DOCUMENTS** Rules 42 to 43
- **RECORDS AND MEETINGS** Rules 44 to 45
- **SUBSIDIARY BODIES** Rules 46 to 47
- **PARTICIPATION OF OBSERVERS** Rule 48
- **AMENDMENTS** Rule 49



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Meeting Document Symbols



Symbol
e.g. **GEGN.2/2021/49**

GEGN.2/2021/49

GEGN.2

Session number assigned to the “new” UNGEGN
(before the 1st session the symbol was **GEGN**)

/2021

Year of the session

/49

Document number

CRP

conference room paper

INF

Information (e.g. list of participants)

L

Limited distribution (generally draft documents)

-/Add...

Addendum

-/Rev...

Revision (replacing texts previously issued)

United Nations Group of Experts on
Geographical Names
2021 session
Virtual, 3–7 May 2021
Item 4 (a) 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 Sweden

Summary**

The report of Sweden is divided into six sections. The first section provides a short overview of the legislation and of the main authorities involved in the standardization of geographical names. The second, on names in multilingual areas, includes comments on the activities carried out to increase the density of minority language place names in the Sami and Tornedalen areas in Sweden. The third section offers a description of several government initiatives aimed at increasing support for national minorities and minority languages in Sweden. The Institute for Language and Folklore is one expert body that has been consulted on these initiatives. This section also reports on the Institute's efforts to enhance educational and cultural activities within minority language revitalization for the national minorities through government grant schemes. The fourth section offers a presentation of the work of the Geographical Names Network. The Network is consulted on specific name questions, including issuing recommendations on names of organizations and authorities and names relating to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs publication *Ortnamn* (a list of standardizations of names of countries and designations for their nationals). The fifth section presents the updated place names register at the Institute of Language and Folklore. Its collections of place names comprise, in total, some 3.7 million index cards. The database publishes place names used in Sweden from the earliest times to the present day, with information on their meanings, spelling and pronunciation. The final section provides a list of articles and books on place names and place name standardization written by Swedish experts.

The following resolutions adopted at the United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names are particularly relevant to the present work on name standardization in Sweden:

* UNGEGN.2/2021/5.

** This full report was prepared by Ebba Berling Axelson and Annette Torsvall. It will be available under document symbol GEGN.2/2021/49/CRP.49, in the language of submission only, at https://undocs.org/en/unggegn/sessions/2nd_session_2021.



Please recycle



UNGEGN

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Essential session documents

United Nations
Economic and Social Council

GEGN.2/2021/INF/1

6 January 2021
Original: English

United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names
Second session
New York, 3–7 May 2021

Documentation for the session
Note by the secretariat
Languages of submission and deadlines

**Symbol e.g.
GEGN.2/2025/2**

submitted with summaries, which should not exceed 500 words. Summaries should be submitted before 22 January 2021 in order for them to be translated and issued in the six official languages.

3. It is vital that Governments and experts comply with the above-mentioned deadlines so that their documents may be issued and made accessible on the website of the Group of Experts (https://unstats.un.org/unsd/legn/sessions/2nd_session_2021/), before the convening of the session.

Theme for the session

4. The theme for the second session is "Geographical names supporting sustainable development and management of the pandemic". It is aligned to the theme of the 2021 high-level political forum on sustainable development as defined by the General Assembly in resolution 74/298, "Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that promotes the economic, social and environmental

Documentation for the Session
Guidelines on preparation of documents

GEGN.2/2021/1/Rev.1

Dist.: General
22 March 2021
Original: English

United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names
2021 session
Virtual, 3–7 May 2021
Item 2 (a) of the provisional agenda
Organizational matters: adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda

- Opening of the session.
- Organizational matters:
-
-
- Working Group on Country Names:
- National and international meetings and conferences.
- Cooperation and liaison with other organizations:
 - International organizations;
 - Economic Commission for Africa and Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management.
- National and international standardization of geographical names:
 - Names collection, office treatment, national authorities, features beyond a single sovereignty and international cooperation;
 - Toponymic guidelines for map and other editors for international use.

**Symbol e.g.
GEGN.2/2025/Add.1/Rev.1**

Annotations to the Provisional Agenda
List of all items and documents to be considered during the session with Agenda Item numbering

GEGN.2/2021/3

22 March 2021
Original: English

United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names
2021 session
Virtual, 3–7 May 2021
Item 2 (b) of the provisional agenda*
Organizational matters

Organization of work
Note by the Secretariat

- The proposed organization of work and times for the 2021 session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.
- Facilities will be available for two informal meetings each day. Morning meetings will be held from 9 to 11 a.m. and afternoon meetings from 3 to 5 p.m.

**Symbol e.g.
GEGN.2/2025/3**

Organization of work
Detailed listing of Agenda Items that will be chronologically brought before the Group of Experts for considerations



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Summaries and full reports

Symbol e.g.
GEGN.2/2025/6

GEGN.2/2025/6

5 February 2021
Original: English

United Nations Group of Experts on
Geographical Names
2021 session
Virtual, 3–7 May 2021
Item 14 of the provisional agenda*
Toponymic data files and gazetteers

Linked data considerations for geographical name standardization

Summary**

Linked data is a set of design principles for sharing machine-readable, interlinked data on the Internet, and open data is a concept whereby data can be freely used, reused and redistributed with no or minimal restrictions. Together, considering linked open data approaches in relation to geographical names data management could further the aims of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names by making gazetteers and related information more interoperable and reusable.

The paper is prepared in response to decision 1/2019/13 of the Group of Experts, made at its 2019 session, in which it recognized technological methods such as linked data for the provision of geographical names data to be considered by the Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers in future. It contains a discussion on the opportunities and challenges to linked open data approaches for geographical names data management, accounts about national and regional developments and actions that could be taken by names authorities and the Group of Experts.

Summaries

- A brief of a report/technical paper
- Translated in all UN languages if submitted within the deadline

GEGN.2/2021/6/CRP.6

15 March 2021

English

United Nations Group of Experts on
Geographical Names
Second session
New York, 3 – 7 May 2021
Item 14 of the provisional agenda *
Toponymic data files and gazetteers

Symbol
GEGN.2/2025/6/CRP.6

Linked
standard

Submitted by Australia **

Summary

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* GEGN.2/2021/6/CRP.6
** Prepared by
Management

Reports/Technical Papers

- Provides points, topics for the substantive discussions

*What is the difference
between these symbols?*

GEGN.2/2025/96

This is a summary.

GEGN.2/2025/96/CRP.96

This report has a summary, so 96
appears twice.

GEGN.2/2025/CRP.106

A report only. A summary was not
submitted



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Some work Items to be discussed

1. Geographical names data management
2. Toponymic terminology
3. Writing systems and pronunciation
4. Social and economic benefits of supporting Sustainable Development
5. Toponymic guidelines for international use by map and other editors
6. Culture, heritage and language recognition
7. Exonyms
8. Toponymic training and education
9. Implementation of the UNGEGN Strategic Plan and Programme of Work 2021-2029
10. Strengthening relations within the UN system and with liaison bodies

See the Organization of Work [GEGN.2/2025/3/Rev.1](#)



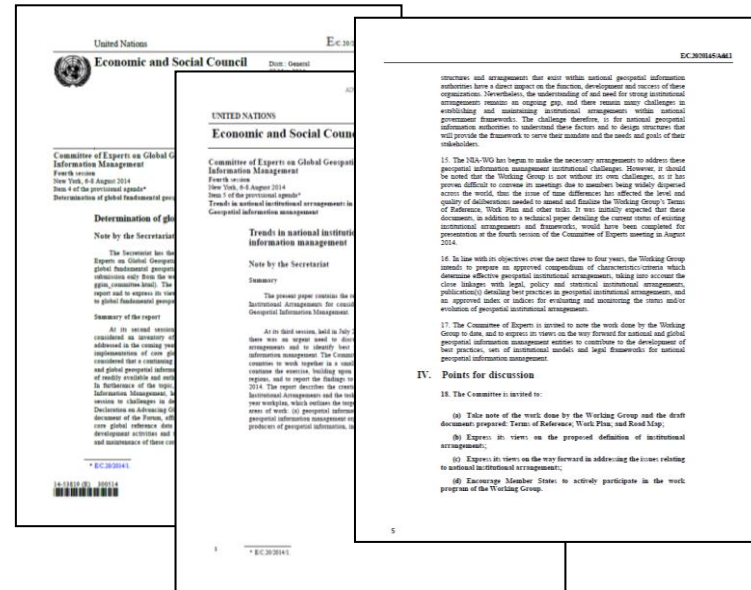
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Reports and Background Documents

Reports are prepared by working groups, divisions, Member States or the UNGEGN secretariat. They are available on the Session/Meeting webpages. All Documents have a number/symbol and a title (they may have a summary).

- The first 90 **Summaries** are available in all six official UN languages
- **Reports** are only available in the original language of submission
- Reports for Discussion are introduced and debated.
- Some reports are for information only
- 151 summaries and 156 reports were received for the 2025 session



Participants are encouraged to read relevant documents and identify **issues** to be discussed



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National Dialogue Facilitator –
Catherine Cheetham,
United Kingdom

Day and Theme	Country	Speaker	Report Number
Monday 28 April	Italy	Gianluca Casagrande	CRP.59
1. National names Standardization:	Poland	Maciej Zych	CRP.29
	Estonia	Peeter Päll	CRP.109
	Japan	Akira Sasagawa	CRP.23
	Malaysia	Saiful Wazlan	CRP.55
	Denmark	Rikke Steenholt Olesen	CRP.35
	Cyprus	Andreas Hadjiraftis	CRP.16
Tuesday 29 April	Saudi Arabia	Majdi al Harbi	CRP.169
2. Cultural aspects of geographical names standardization	Canada	Steve Westley	CRP.97
	Brunei Darussalam	Rafidah Haji Berudin	CRP.74
	Sweden	Leila Mattfolk	CRP.91
	Slovenia	Matjaž Geršič	CRP.15
Wednesday 30 April	Mexico	Roberto López García	CRP.106
3. Technology, innovation and standards for geographical names data management	Norway	Ben Worsley	CRP.77
	Republic of India	Mr. Hitesh Kumar S. Makwana	CRP.137
	Russian Federation	Diana Ismailova	CRP.85
	Hungary	Andrea Bölcskei	CRP.88
	Brazil	Ana Cristina Resende	CRP.103
Thursday 1 May	New Zealand	Wendy Shaw	CRP.62
4. Cooperation, training and promotion	Iceland	Emily Lethbridge	CRP.90
	Republic Of Korea	Young Ki Jang	CRP.162
	Czechia	Klára Steinerová	CRP.25

DURING the Session

Participants are encouraged to:

1. Contact your Permanent Mission in New York
2. Have your Mission register you on E-deleGATE
3. Become acquainted with the UNGEGN agenda work items
4. Actively contribute to the discussions through interventions – (statements and questions)
5. Share your experiences, ideas and solutions
6. Identify working groups in which to participate
7. Join in the side events

Why it is important to actively participate:

1. An ideal forum for networking
2. Recharge technically and reconnect with experts
3. Let your country's achievements and requirements be known



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What happens during the session

Meeting times – 2 meetings per day – 10:00 -1:00pm and 3:00 -6:00pm (New York time)

For this 2025 session there will be 9 meetings (instead of the normal 10 meetings). There has been a 10% reduction because of the current liquidity crisis.

Have on hand the Organization of Work

1. **Opening of the Session and procedural matters** – Agenda items 1 and 2
2. **Substantive matters** – Agenda items 3 to 10
 - i. Chair opens agenda item and invites introduction of papers for discussion
 - ii. Representatives/authors introduce papers for discussion
 - iii. Interventions from delegations accepted by Chair to speak under that agenda item.
 - iv. If time permits, additional interventions will be taken from the floor.
 - v. Delivery of the summary of the discussion by the facilitator/moderator of the agenda item.
3. **Review, finalization of decisions and adoption of report** on the 2025 session



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During the Session- role of the Chair

The Chair:

1. May declare the opening and closing of each plenary meeting,
2. Direct the discussions,
3. Ensure the observance of the Rules of Procedure,
4. Accord the right to speak,
5. Put questions to the vote and announce decisions
6. may propose the closure of the list of speakers,
7. Propose a limitation on the time to be allowed to speakers and on the number of times that each member may speak on an item
8. May ask Bureau and Working Group members preside over agenda items



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Guidelines for Speakers During the Session

- Delegates are seated by Divisions for agenda items 3-10
- Be short and concise in your interventions – **three (3) minutes**
- Address the Chair of session (when you address the Chair you address the Group of Experts as a whole).
- Wait to be asked to speak; your microphone will be unmuted
- Speak slowly to allow the Interpreters to do a good job.
- Responding only when invited by the Chair, not directly to another expert
- At all times show respect for other delegations as individuals and for the governments, states, nations and causes they represent.



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UNGEGN Meetings are Public

- All 9 meetings of the session will be broadcasted live on [UN Live United Nations Web TV](#)
- Interpretation available in all six (6) UN languages
- Recordings will be posted on the UNGEGN 2025 Session webpages, after the session

Welcome to the United Nations English

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Available languages: Original

24 Hour Live and pre-recorded Programming

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SCHEDULE

Monday, 26 April 2021

All indicated times are New York time (GMT-4)

Email Subscription Full Live Schedule

12:00 am	24 Hour Live and pre-recorded Programming.
09:00 am	1st meeting, UN Forum on Forests (UNFF16, 26-29 April 2021) - Launch of the Global Forest Goals Report 2021.
10:00 am	(1st meeting) Committee on Information, 43rd Session (26 April - 7 May 2021). Sudan and South Sudan - Security Council VTC briefing. From Emergency Relief to Humanitarian Multilateralism: The Legacy of Near East Philanthropy in the Age of Genocide.
12:00 pm	Daily Press Briefing by the Spokesperson of the Secretary-General and the Spokesperson



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UNGEGN 2025 Session Evaluation Survey



- Delegates are kindly encouraged to complete the online 2025 Session Evaluation Survey.
- The questions are divided in four sections.
- Your responses assist the UNGEGN Bureau and Working Groups to plan their work and prepare more efficient and effective meetings.
- The links to the online form will be posted on the Session webpage



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YOUR role BETWEEN Sessions

Participants are encouraged to:

- Contribute to advancing the **UNGEGN programme of work**
 - Communicate nationally the decisions from the previous conferences and current sessions
 - Advocate and implement nationally the resolutions, recommendations and decisions
 - Actively engage with your Divisions: activities; areas of focus; shared challenges, etc.
 - Use the vast body of knowledge contained in the papers and resolutions
- Participate in UNGEGN Division and Working Group meetings
- Contribute your documents, national experiences, etc. to the *UNGEGN Bulletin* and databases, maintained by the Secretariat and Working Groups
- Monitor the UNGEGN website for latest geographical names standardization activities

<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/>

Tweet at **@UNSD_GEGN**



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**UNGEGN Secretariat
United Nations
New York**

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X: @UNSD_GEGN, #2025UNGEGN



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