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

Panel discussion 1

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

28 April 2025
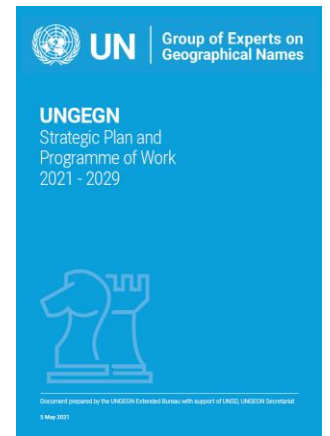Moderated by Sungjae Choo
Vice-Chair, UNGEGN

Three key principles:

- **Inclusivity** – ensuring that geographical names represent and respect all communities.

- **Culturally-informed** approaches – recognizing the historical, linguistic and societal significance of names.

- **Evidence-based** decision making – using research, data and best practices to guide standardization.

Aligned with Strategy 1 (Technical expertise) and Strategy 4 (Culture, heritage and language recognition)

Thematic issues/questions:

- **Inclusivity**
  - The nature of inclusive solutions
  - How to contribute to an inclusive/equal society?
  - How to impact marginalized/ minority communities?
  - Ensuring inclusive representation in naming?

- **Culturally-informed**
  - Should naming always be culturally-informed?
  - indicators of discerning culturally-informed names
  - always inherited from the past?
  - How to handle when overlap of different cultures at the same location exists?

Thematic issues/questions:

- **Evidence-based**
  - Should always be evidence-based?
  - What evidence? Quantitative or qualitative?
  - What evidence, e.g. fieldwork, documents, crowd-sourcing, etc.?
  - How to verify and validate names? Any reliability issues?
  - How UNGEGN strengthens evidence-based practices?

- **Supporting sustainable development**
  - How to support sustainable development?
  - Any examples where names promote social cohesion, economic growth or environmental sustainability?
  - Policies or practices contributing to long-term sustainability in names standardization

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United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN)