

**Statement by Mr. Hitesh Kumar S. Makwana, Surveyor General of India,  
2025 Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names  
Agenda item 4 (b)**

**29 April, 2025**

**Mr. Chair,**

We are compelled to respond to the statement made by one Member State. It is deeply regrettable that this forum which is dedicated to technical dialogue and the exchange of best practices is being diverted from its intended purpose. The references made by the Chinese delegation are neither relevant to the agenda nor conducive to the spirit of this platform. We view such attempts to politicize the discussion as inappropriate and unacceptable.

**Mr. Chair**

In response to the observations made, we would like to highlight that the official map of India which has been used for the purpose of depicting the geographical distribution of the rich linguistic diversity represented by the Scheduled Languages, as mentioned in the Constitution of India. The map used for the said purpose is official in nature and is prepared in accordance with India's established framework and practice of drawing Maps on the basis of territorial sovereignty and integrity.

We reiterate our commitment to engage in constructive and meaningful result-oriented deliberations on the topic within this distinguished forum of United Nations Group of Experts for Geographical Names (UNGEGN).

**Thank you Mr. Chair.**