



Discussion Panel: *Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage*

- **Chair:** Naima FRIHA (Tunisia)
- **Panellists:**
 - BEN RAMDHANE Farid (Algeria)
 - **BISSON Marie-Ève (Canada)**
 - CHOO Sungjae (Republic of Korea)
 - DE OLIVIERA NAGEM Vania (Brazil)
 - GAMMELTOF Peder (Denemark)
 - KHASAWNA Mohamed Awni (Jordan)
 - ORIEBY Eman (Egypt)
 - TORENSJÖ Annette (Sweden)



Discussion Panel: *Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage*

- The term cultural heritage encompasses several main categories of heritage including tangible heritage and intangible heritage.
- Geographical names could be considered as part of the intangible cultural heritage, as they do not only reference places, they also have historical, linguistic, political, cultural, sociological, and anthropological depths.
- As geographical names evolve through time and circumstances, they may be distorted or even abandoned that could lead to a loss of the message they may convey. This is why they must be protected and preserved.

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- Nowadays the community is getting more and more involved in paying attention to such an important topic as part of countries' cultural heritage.
- From its side, UNGEGN recognizes cultural heritage as more significant for its mission and work on sensitizing its member states about the importance of geographical names as cultural heritage. This is particularly through its Working Group on cultural heritage that has organized relevant meetings and workshops, adoption of related resolutions, etc...

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- In this panel, we'll try to have experts participating from different countries, thus illustrating different histories and cultural heritages, to discuss and share their views about the topic with reference to their countries' experience and history and how efforts including UNGEGN' contribution are deployed to preserve this valuable patrimony.



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Question1: Can you give a quick overview on the geographical names' landscape in your country?



Question2: Geographical names are often twinned with cartography where they are just an information layer in the mapping. Is the mapping agency in your country involved in the standardization of geographical names as a key tool in their preservation as cultural heritage?



Question3: What measurements should be taken to preserve them as cultural heritage? Can you provide a few examples of threatened names and how they can be protected?



Question4: What are the contributions of UNGEGN in preserving the geographical names as cultural heritage? What would you suggest to UNGEGN to better promote this topic and assist countries in doing so?



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION