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**Eleventh United Nations Conference on the
Standardization of Geographical Names**

New York, 8 to 17 August 2017

Item 8 of the provisional agenda*

**Measures taken and proposed to implement United Nations
resolutions on the standardization of geographical names,
including the economic and social benefits.**

**Actions taken on resolutions adopted by the Tenth United Nations
Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names**

Submitted by the UNGEGN Chair and UNGEGN Secretariat**

* E/CONF.105/1.

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Actions taken on resolutions adopted by the Tenth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names

William Watt, Chair, UNGEGN, Australia and
UNEGN Secretariat, United Nations Statistics Division

This document summarizes the follow-up actions taken by Member States, UNGEGN Working Groups and Divisions, and the Secretariat on the 11 resolutions adopted at the Tenth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, held in New York, 31 July to 9 August 2012.

The format that is used in this report was used in reporting on implementation of resolutions adopted at the Seventh United Nations Conference (1998), the Eighth United Nations Conference (2002) and other conferences thereafter.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE 10th UNCSGN	STATUS OF ACTION
X/1. Eleventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names and twenty-eighth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names	
<p><i>The Conference,</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Recommends</i> to the Economic and Social Council that the Eleventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names be convened in 2017; 2. <i>Also recommends</i> to the Council that the twenty-eighth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names be convened in the first half of 2014; 3. <i>Invites</i> the Bureau of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names to initiate a process of reflection on how to further improve the working methods of the Conference and its report for the next session. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 11 UNCSGN will be held in New York 8 to 17 August, 2017 in New York. • The 28th Session of the UNGEGN was held 28 April to 2 May 2014 in New York • The 29th Session of the UNGEGN was held 25 to 29 April 2016 in Bangkok, Thailand. • The 30th Session of the UNGEGN will be held on 7th and 18 August 2017 in New York. • The Bureau has prepared a concept note entitled “Operation Model – UNGEGN Sessions” outlining proposals to modernise UNGEGN’s working methods, that was circulated to working group convenors and the general membership on 15 March 2017 for review and comments. The proposal was favourably accepted. Further the Chair in consultation with the Bureau and Working Group Convenors prepared a zero-draft resolution entitled “Future organisation and methods of work of the Group of Experts on Geographical Names”. This document will be presented under agenda item 4 of the 11th UNCSGN for consideration and adoption. • The format of the report for the 28th Session in 2014 was review and simplified. This new format was also used to prepare the report for the 29th Session.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE 10th UNCSGN	STATUS OF ACTION
X/2. Organization of the twenty-eighth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names on the Asian Continent	
<p><i>The Conference,</i></p> <p><i>Recommends</i> that the twenty-eighth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names be held on the Asian continent, in cooperation with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, at a United Nations duty station, provided that the necessary support facilities, including for interpretation in the six official languages of the United Nations, are made available.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 28th Session of the UNGEGN was held 28 April to 2 May 2014 in New York • The 29th Session of the UNGEGN and exhibition was held 25-29 April 2016 in Bangkok, Thailand at the Conference centre of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. Interpretation was provided in all the six official languages of the United Nations. • The 29th Session was also streamed live on the web., the links to the video recordings are available on the webpage of the session.
X/3. Criteria for establishing and evaluating the nature of geographical names as cultural heritage	
<p><i>The Conference,</i></p> <p><i>Recommends</i> that, to recognize and protect such a geographical name or a corpus of geographical names, the following criteria be used:</p> <p>(a) The age of a name, as indicated by the date of the oldest possible record of the name;</p> <p>(b) The resilience of a name, as indicated by the duration of its continued use up to the present or by its notable capacity to transcend history;</p> <p>(c) The rarity of a name or of a toponymic phenomenon pointed out by the name;</p> <p>(d) The “testimoniality” of a name, or its capacity to clearly embody a cultural, geographical, historical, social or other reality that is specific to the place and an essential component of local, regional or national identity;</p> <p>(e) The appeal of a name, which corresponds to a feeling of belonging associated with the name and the place it designates;</p> <p>(f) The imageability of a name, or its capacity to inspire ideas or strong, rich images within users, without these images or ideas necessarily referring to history or local trivia.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Working Group on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage was created during the 10th Conference by restructuring and renaming the former Working Group on the Promotion of Indigenous and Minority Group Names. The Working Group organized a series of workshops; Seoul, November 2014; Copenhagen, September 2015; and Innsbruck, April 2017. • International conferences were organized to discuss principles and practices related to the geographical names as cultural heritage; Seoul, November 2014; Florence, March 2015; Clarens, September 2015. • The UNGEGN Bulletin number 48 (May 2015) was published with the special topic "Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage" • Implementation and following up on this resolution is the responsibility of individual Member States.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE 10th UNCSGN	STATUS OF ACTION
X/4. Discouraging the commercialization of geographical names	
<p><i>The Conference,</i> <i>Recommends</i> that national toponymic authorities discourage the designation of geographical names that seek a commercial purpose, as well as various practices involving the commercialization of geographical names, by adopting standards that address these issues.</p>	<p>Implementation and following up on this resolution is the responsibility of individual Member States.</p>
X/5. Split of the Asia South-East and Pacific South-West Division into the Asia South-East Division and the Pacific South-West Division	
<p><i>The Conference,</i> <i>Recommends</i> that the Asia South-East Division and the Pacific South-West Division be granted full recognition as linguistic/geographical divisions of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.</p>	<p>Full recognition was granted to both linguistic/geographic divisions. Asia South-East Division is chaired by the Philippines and Pacific South-West Division by Australia.</p>
X/6. Romanization of Belarusian geographical names	
<p><i>The Conference,</i> <i>Recommends</i> that the system, as set out in the conference room paper entitled “The Roman alphabet transliteration of Belarusian geographical names”,¹ be adopted as the international system for the Romanization of Belarusian geographical names.</p>	<p>This resolution is being monitored by the Working Group on Romanization Systems. Belarus has reported progress in implementing the romanization system of Belarusian. More information is given in the report of the Working Group on Romanization Systems, to the 11th UNCSGN (E/CONF.105/54/CRP.54) .</p>
X/7. Romanization of Bulgarian geographical names	
<p><i>The Conference,</i> <i>Recommends</i> that the system, as set out in the document entitled “Romanization system in Bulgaria”,² be adopted as the international system for the romanization of Bulgarian geographical names.</p>	<p>This resolution is being monitored by the Working Group on Romanization Systems. Bulgaria has reported progress in implementing the romanization system of Bulgarian. More information is given in the report of the Working Group on Romanization Systems to the 11th UNCSGN (E/CONF.105/54/CRP.54)</p>
X/8. Romanization of Iranian geographical names	

¹ The conference room papers are available from <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/uncsgnungegn/ungegnConf10.html>.

² See E/CONF.101/12/Add.1. The full text of the document is available from <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/uncsgnungegn/ungegnConf10.html>.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE 10th UNCSGN	STATUS OF ACTION
<p><i>The Conference,</i></p> <p><i>Recommends</i> that the “broad transcription” system, as set out in the document entitled “New Persian romanization system”,³ be adopted as the international system for the romanization of Iranian geographical names.</p>	<p>This resolution is being monitored by the Working Group on Romanization Systems. Islamic Republic of Iran has reported progress in implementing the romanization system of Persian. More information is given in the report of the Working Group on Romanization Systems to the 11th UNCSGN (E/CONF.105/54/CRP.54)</p>
<p>X/9. Romanization of Ukrainian geographical names</p>	
<p><i>The Conference,</i></p> <p><i>Recommends</i> that the system, as set out in the document entitled “Romanization system in Ukraine”,⁴ be adopted as the international system for the romanization of Ukrainian geographical names.</p>	<p>This resolution is being monitored by the Working Group on Romanization Systems. Ukraine has reported progress in implementing the romanization system of Ukrainian. More information is given in the report of the Working Group on Romanization Systems to the 11th UNCSGN (E/CONF.105/54/CRP.54)</p>
<p>X/10. Support for the work on the standardization of geographical names</p>	
<p><i>The Conference,</i></p> <p><i>Recommends</i> that, with the continued support of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names continue to pursue actively its responsibilities as defined in its statute and in accordance with the resolutions adopted by the present and past Conferences.</p>	<p>The Statistics Division and the UNGEGN Secretariat in collaboration with the Bureau has continued to support the standardization of geographic names in accordance with the body’s statute and resolutions. Detailed account of the work done is provided in document GEGN/29/11, that covers UNGEGN Publications, and social media, the UNGEGN website, capacity development – training, the UNGEGN Geographical Names Database, Strengthening UNGEGN relations and the review of UNGEGN operations.</p>
<p>X/11. Web-based course in toponymy</p>	
<p><i>The Conference,</i></p> <p><i>Recommends</i> that a web-based course in toponymy, developed by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy and the International Cartographic Association with financial support from the</p>	<p>The web-based course in toponymy has been incorporated on the UNGEGN website, with links on the main page and also on the page of the Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy. A few edits have been made to the course material.</p>

³ See E/CONF.101/118/Add.1. The full text of the document is available from <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/uncsgnungegn/ungegnConf10.html>.

⁴ See E/CONF.101/84/Add.1. The full text of the document is available from <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/uncsgnungegn/ungegnConf10.html>.

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<p>Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, be incorporated and maintained on the website of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, in order to contribute to the basic education and training of toponymic staff.</p>	<p>https://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/docs/_data_ICAcourses/index.html</p> <p>The web-based toponymy course has also been used at the contact courses held in Antananarivo (2012), Tunis (2015) and Rio de Janeiro (2017).</p>