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**United Nations Group of Experts on  
Geographical Names****2019 session**

New York, 29 April–3 May 2019

Item 4 of the provisional agenda\*

**Reports of the Chair and the Secretariat****Report of the Secretariat****Summary\*\***

In keeping with the practice of the Group of Experts and in accordance with the draft agenda approved by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 2018/264, and pursuant to the resolutions and decisions adopted at the Eleventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names and the thirtieth session of the Group of Experts on Geographical Names, the Secretariat prepares a report detailing the activities undertaken by the Group during the intersessional period. The Group of Experts on Geographical Names is invited to review the report and to provide comments.

The full report provides a summary of the major activities conducted by the Group of Experts, such as a review of its working methods and rules of procedure. Other activities include coordinating the work of the Bureau and working groups, conducting publicity and awareness activities, supporting capacity development, strengthening relations with the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, maintaining and upgrading the Group's web pages, managing the World Geographical Names Database and coordinating preparations for the convening of the 2019 session of the Group of Experts. The report also provides details of the activities carried out in recognition of the fiftieth anniversary of the Group of Experts. Owing to the creation of the "new" Group of Experts in August 2017, the report includes issues and recommendations in support of further strengthening the operations and function of the Group in delivering its core mandate, which is to develop procedures and establish mechanisms for the standardization of geographical names in response to national requirements and specific requests. Recommendations include streamlining the Group's programme of work with the preparation, approval and implementation of a strategic plan.

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\* [GEGN.2/2019/1](#).

\*\* The full report will be available at [https://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/1st\\_session\\_UNGEGN.html](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/1st_session_UNGEGN.html), in the language of submission only, as document GEGN.2/2019/5/CRP.5.

