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STANDARDIZATION OF
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

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1967-2017

Promoting the collection, standardization
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PANEL DISCUSSION:

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES AUTHORITIES



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UNSCGN Resolution I/4 recommends that Geographical Names Authorities (GNA) be established for all countries.

A GNA should have a specific set of procedures and rules as a guide for national standardization.

However!

Just under half of the of member nations have a national GNA.

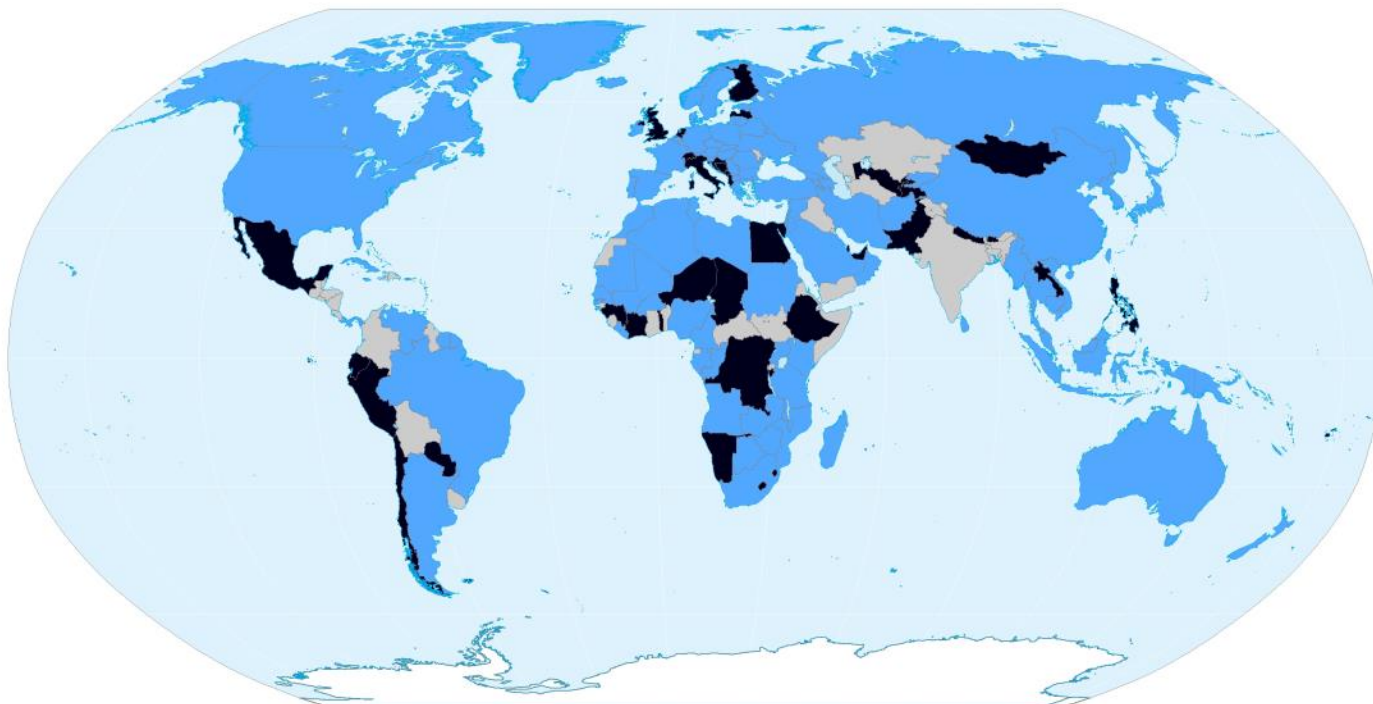


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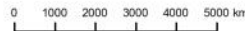
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Geographical Names Authorities (July 2016)



- With National Names Authority
- No National Names Authority
- Status Unknown



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

**Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by Parties.*

***Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined.*



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Just under half of the of member nations have a national GNA.

Some countries without a GNA do have standardizing bodies which regulate according to a set of rules.

Nonetheless, the recommendations of Resolution I/4 are still relevant and the question remains:

How do we get more nations to establish a GNA?



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National GNAs and their competences differ widely from country to country and their level of authority and power of decision is unique to each country.

This is only natural, as conditions and outlets for standardization differ from country to country.

However, for all GNAs there are some common, crucial themes to explore, and which this panel will try and address.



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National Geographical Names Authorities

PANEL PRESENTATION ROUND

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DISCUSSION POINTS:

1. To which extent are UNGEGN recommendations reflected in your GNAs work?
2. How important is a specific law for standardization of geographical names for the effectiveness of a geographical names authority?
3. Which are the best ways to secure geographical names standardization in multilingual areas?



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DISCUSSION POINTS:

4. How are dialectal differences treated in geographical names standardization?
5. How can tensions between wishes of local name users and fixed national standards best be avoided in standardization cases?
6. Which is more important?
 - a) A name standardized according to principles, or
 - b) A name with a universally accepted spelling?



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And finally, a question to us all:

*How do we get more nations to establish a
Geographical Names Authority?*



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