Item 8 of the provisional agenda

**Implementation of resolutions and activities relating to the Working Group
on Evaluation and Implementation**

Report of the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation[*]

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Evaluation and Implementation.**

Report of the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation

ABSTRACT

The Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation had a joint meeting with the Working Group on Publicity and Funding in San Francisco, U.S.A., in April 2008. In this meeting, the current working conditions and procedures of UNGEGN were reviewed and suggestions were made for the improvement of its tasks. On the basis of a consensus reached in this meeting, a database has been created for the 195 UNCSGN resolutions to improve access to them by conference, topic and word search.

1. Working Group Meeting, 21-23 April 2008

The Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation had a joint meeting with the Working Group on Publicity and Funding at Sheraton Fisherman's Wharf Hotel, San Francisco, California, in April 2008. Participants were Conveners of the Working Groups, Ki-Suk Lee and David Munro, UNGEGN Chair, Helen Kerfoot, Vice Chair, Brahim Atoui, Rapporteur of the Working Group, Botolv Helleland, Sungjae Choo and Yeon-Taek Ryu (Republic of Korea). Stefan Schweinfest and Yacob Zewoldi from the UN Statistics Division participated through a teleconference for a part of the meeting. Two experts from National Geographic Information Institute of the Republic of Korea, Hung-Muk Cho and Young-Jun Ahn participated as observers.

The meeting was generally intended to review the current working conditions and procedures of UNGEGN and make suggestions for the improvement of its tasks. First of all, through a review of evaluation questionnaire forms received at the 9th Conference, some suggestions made by delegates for a more efficient management of the meeting have been noted, including drawing more attention to issues and resolution of these issues rather than presenting country reports or general information, making full use of Division meetings and reports, and using more digitalized methods of communication, e.g. power-point presentations or wireless internet.

Discussion was made on assessing the extent of implementation and effectiveness of the 195 resolutions adopted at the past nine Conferences. A consensus was reached that, before conducting further surveys on this topic, it would be more useful to develop a more user-friendly web-structured access to resolutions by subject and by key word. Discussion was also extended on how to make the work of Divisions more effective, and on how to activate the Task Team for Africa. For the latter topic, an emphasis was placed on the importance of the UNGEGN special session at the 31st IGC to be held in Tunis, August 2008.

Looking ahead to the 25th session of UNGEGN in 2009, date and venue was tentatively confirmed: 5-12 May at the UN facility in Nairobi, Kenya. For a more systemized and diversified operation of the meeting, many ideas were suggested to organize special presentations, displays, especially African, and workshops. Topics could encompass from related works of UN organizations, e.g. UNEP or UNESCO, issue areas, e.g. Darfur or Bantu, databases,

to large company, e.g. ESRI or Google.

The meeting was enriched by a visit to the Google Headquarter in Silicon Valley on the morning of 23 April. Through a two-hour orientation, presentation and discussion, a better understanding was shared on how geographical names were treated in both the UN and business sides.

The next meeting of the Working Group will be held in Nairobi, May 2009. For a detailed agenda of the meeting, please see the appendix.

2. Creating a resolutions database

Following a consensus reached in the Working Group meeting, April 2008, a database has been created for the 195 UNCSGN resolutions to improve access to them by conference, topic and word search. The first version of the database is now open to public at the following UNGEGN web page: http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/uncsgnresolutions.htm. This work has been done by the sponsorship of National Geographic Information Institute of the Republic of Korea.

Appendix: Agenda, *Joint Meeting of Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation and Working Group on Publicity and Funding, April 21-23, 2008*

1.   Welcome

2.   Administrative matters (chairs, rapporteur, times, etc.)

3.   Mandate, objectives, etc. of the two Working Groups

4.   Summary of any outstanding business from the joint meeting held during the UN Conference in New York, August 2007

5.   Report from the UNGEGN Secretariat
        a.   Completed items since the 9th UNCSGN
        b.   Staff changes
        c.   A look ahead (including UNGEGN World Geonames database; UNGEGN national names authorities contacts database; status of funding for training etc. in 2008, etc.)

6.   The work of UNGEGN
        (including recommendations to the UNGEGN Bureau)
        a.   Review of evaluation questionnaire forms received at the 9th UNCSGN
                    - What is recommended?
                    - What could be implemented?
        b.   Planning for UNGEGN 2009   (recommendations to UNGEGN Bureau)
                    i.   Questions of location and preparations
                    ii.   Suggestions for approaches for any particular agenda items
                    iii.   Ideas for special presentations, displays, workshops
        c.   Resolutions from the Conferences
                    i.   Reviewing the idea of a synthesis of important resolutions
                    ii.   Implementation of resolutions and how to judge effectiveness

d. How to make the work of (some) Divisions more effective
e. Interim report of the Task Team for Africa
f. Contact with and outreach to multinational companies
g. New suggestions for UNGEGN Information Bulletin, UNGEGN Website

7. Publicity
   a. Websites
   b. UNGEGN Information Bulletin
   c. Conferences
   d. Press Kit
   e. Other publications

8. Funding
   a. Implementation of 9th Conference Resolution on Publicity and Funding
   b. Publications
   c. Training Courses

9. Future Meetings

10. Any other business

11. Summary of future work of these two Working Groups

12. Next meeting

13. Acceptance of the report of the meeting