

**Twenty-sixth session
Vienna, 2-6 May 2011**

Item 7 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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Report of the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation

ABSTRACT

The Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation had two joint meetings with Working Group on Publicity and Funding in May 2009 and in June 2010. In these meetings, the current working conditions and procedures of UNGEGN were reviewed and suggestions were made to improve its tasks. As a result of the Working Group activities, an on-line database of UNCISG resolutions in English is currently in operation for better access to them with searching by conference, subject, title or word. It is now expected to develop a proposal of research on resolutions, which will include not just the methods of assessing the extent of their implementation but also extended subjects of evaluating the effectiveness of each substantive resolution to achieve the goals of national and global standardization of geographical names.

Aims

This Working Group was established to address resolution 4 of the Fifth United Nations Conference in 1987. The resolution V/4 specifies that the Conference recommends a working group be established to:

- evaluate the activities of the Group and investigate fresh approaches and new avenues to achieve its goals and objectives in the most efficient manner;
- review the resolutions adopted by the United Nations conferences on the standardization of geographical names and report on their implementation; and
- report on its findings to the Group at its fourteenth session.

Disbanded in 1992 in favor of a new working group to consider particular important aspects of publicity and funding, the Working Group was re-established during the 20th Session of UNGEGN (2000), as the work of evaluation of UNGEGN and Conferences needs to be considered on a continual basis. The current work plan of the Working Group includes:

- evaluating the functioning and efficacy of UNGEGN and the Conferences and the implementation of resolutions;
- finding ways to involve member states not currently participating in UNGEGN;
- looking at the needs of developing countries to achieve national standardization of their geographical names;
- proposing actions to increase the effectiveness of the UN Conferences, UNGEGN and its Divisions and Working Groups.

Working Group Meetings

During the 25th Session of UNGEGN, the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation had a joint meeting with the Working Group on Publicity and Funding on the morning of May 11,

2009. Seventeen experts from twelve countries attended. Objectives and work programs of the Working Group were reviewed with regards to maintaining UN Resolutions database.

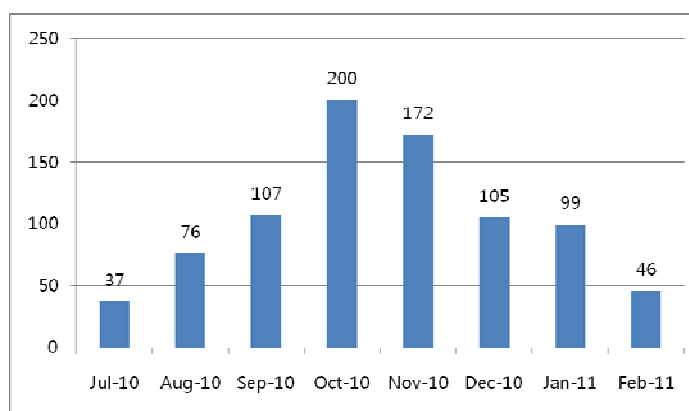
A second joint meeting was held at Hilton Metrotown Hotel, Vancouver, Canada, on June 21-23, 2010. Eight experts including convenors of Working Groups, UNGEGN chair and vice chair attended, and the staff of the UN Statistics Division participated through a teleconference for part of the meeting. Two experts from National Geographic Information Institute of the Republic of Korea joined 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, including the work of the 26th Session. The meeting was enriched by a special lecture on 'First Nations and place names in Northern British Columbia' by anthropologist Dr. Patrick Moore and a half-day visit to the Anthropology Museum of the University of British Columbia. More details of this meeting can be found in the appendix.

The next joint meeting will be held in Vienna in May 2011 during the 26th Session of UNGEGN, to be followed by another joint meeting in Seoul in association with the GGIM World Forum in October 2011.

UNCSGN Resolutions Database

Following a consensus reached in the Working Group meeting in April 2008, a database was created for the 195 UNCSGN resolutions to improve access to them on-line. This allows search by conference, subject, title or word, with downloading of complete texts of the resolutions. The database can be accessed at the website <http://www.land.go.kr/ungegn> hosted by National Geographic Information Institute (NGII) of the Republic of Korea. It is linked through the UNGEGN web page: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEKN/confGeneral.html>.

From July 2010 to February 2011, more than eight-hundred page views were made on this website with the peak recorded in October 2010.



Number of page views on the UN Resolutions DB website

It should be noted that NGII is prepared to provide the database software to the French-speaking Division to establish a database of resolutions in French. Similar steps could be taken for UN resolutions in the other UN languages.

Research on Resolutions

One of the major functions of the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation is to review the resolutions and report on their implementation. In order to achieve this function, an attempt of surveying UNGEGN experts was made in 1992. Considerable discussion was resumed in the Working Group meeting in April 2008 about assessing the extent of implementation and effectiveness of resolutions. A suggestion followed in the Working Group meeting in June 2010 to develop a proposal of research on resolutions.

Research on resolutions needs to focus on the methods of assessing the extent of implementation. It should be based on some background information, such as classifications of resolutions by subject, substantiality or adoption process, or evolution of resolutions by conference. It could be extended to evaluate effectiveness of each substantive resolution to achieve the goals of national and global standardization of geographical names.

Appendix: *Joint Meeting of Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation and Working Group on Publicity and Funding, June 21-23, 2010*

Participants

Mr. Ki-Suk Lee, Convener, WG on Evaluation and Implementation (Republic of Korea)
Mr. David Munro, Convener, WG on Publicity and Funding (United Kingdom)
Ms. Helen Kerfoot, Chairperson, UNGEGN (Canada)
Mr. Ferjan Ormeling, Vice Chairperson, UNGEGN (The Netherlands)
Mr. Botolv Helleland, Rapporteur (Norway)
Mr. Sungjae Choo, Professor, Kyung Hee University (Republic of Korea)
Mr. Peter Raper, Former Chairperson, UNGEGN (South Africa)
Ms. Hyo Hyun Sung, Professor, Ewha Womans University (Republic of Korea)

Mr. Stefan Schweinfest (UN Statistics Division) on phone for part of the meeting
Ms. Sabine Warschburger (UN Statistics Division) on phone for part of the meeting
Mr. Amor Laaribi (UN Statistics Division) on phone for part of the meeting

Mr. Heon-Ryang Im, National Geographic Information Institute (Republic of Korea)
Ms. Gi-Hi Kang, National Geographic Information Institute (Republic of Korea)

Agenda

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 UNGEGN in Kenya, May 2009
5. Report from the UNGEGN Secretariat
 - a. Completed items since the 25th Session of UNGEGN
 - b. Staff changes
 - c. A look ahead (including UNGEGN World Geonames Database; UNGEGN national names authorities contacts database; status of funding for training, Information Bulletin, UNGEGN

- website, UN Global Geospatial Information Management)
6. Progress Report of the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation
 7. Improving the work of UNGEGN (including recommendations to the UNGEGN Bureau)
 - a. Review of evaluation questionnaire forms received at the 25th UNGEGN
 - b. Planning for UNGEGN 2011 (recommendations to UNGEGN Bureau)
 - i. Location and dates
 - ii. Suggestions for approaches to optimize a 5-day session
 - iii. Ideas for special presentations, displays, workshops
 - iv. Contests of World Wide Toponymy Issues
 - c. Resolutions from the Conferences
 - i. Resolutions database on the web
 - ii. Synthesizing important resolutions?
 - iii. Implementation of resolutions
 - iv. New resolutions
 - d. Continuing efforts to make the work of (some) Divisions more effective
 - e. Progress report of the Task Team for Africa
 - f. New suggestions for UNGEGN Bulletin, UNGEGN Website
 8. Progress Report of the Working Group on Publicity and Funding
 9. Current and future work projects in publicity and funding
 - a. Publicity
 - i. Publications
 - ii. Through participation at Conferences
 - iii. For 26th UNGEGN Session
 - iv. Other
 - b. Funding
 - i. Funding needs
 - ii. Sources
 - iii. Actions of Working Groups
 - c. Conferences
 - d. Press Kit
 - e. Other publications
 10. Future of the two Working Groups (membership, convenors, ongoing work)
 11. Any other business
 - a. IHO Working Group on the Revision of Special Publication 23 (S-23 WG)
 - b. IGU possible new Commission on Toponymy: need proposal
 - c. UN Global Geospatial Information Management (GGIM) and 2011 Global Forum in Seoul
 - d. Lifetime achievement awards
 12. Summary of actions
 13. Next meeting
 14. Acceptance of the report of the meeting
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