

28 April 2016

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**United Nations Group of Experts on
Geographical Names**
Twenty-ninth session
Bangkok, 25-29 April 2016

Draft report

Rapporteurs: Peder **Gammeltoft** (Denmark)
Trent **Palmer** (United States of America)

**I. Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social
Council or brought to its attention**

A. Draft decisions for adoption by the Council

Draft decisions for adoption by the Council

1. The United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names recommends to the Council the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I

**Report of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names
on its twenty-ninth session, the provisional agenda and dates for the
thirtieth session, and the dates for the Eleventh United Nations Conference
on the Standardization of Geographical Names**

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names on its twenty-ninth session;

(b) Decides that the thirtieth session of the Group of Experts shall be held in New York on 7 and 18 August 2017, and approves the provisional agenda for the session as set out below:



Provisional agenda for the thirtieth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Report of the working groups.
4. Reports of the liaison officers.
5. Organizational matters concerning the Eleventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names.
6. Review of the statute of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.
7. Election of officers.
8. Planning for the implementation of the recommendations of the Eleventh Conference.
9. Working groups for future requirements.
10. Provisional agenda for the thirty-first session of the Group of Experts.
11. Other business.

(c) Decides that the Eleventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names shall be held in New York from 8 to 17 August 2017, and approves the revised provisional agenda for the Conference as set out below:

Revised provisional agenda for the Eleventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names

1. Opening of the Conference.
2. Election of the President of the Conference.
3. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Adoption of the rules of procedure;
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda;
 - (c) Election of officers other than the President;
 - (d) Organization of work;
 - (e) Credentials of representatives to the Conference.
4. Reflection on the past, present and future: the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names.
5. Reports by Governments on the situation in their countries and on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names since the Ninth Conference (for distribution only).

6. Reports on the work of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names and its divisions, working groups and task teams since the Tenth Conference.
7. National and international meetings, conferences, symposiums, publicity and publications.
8. Measures taken and proposed to implement United Nations resolutions on the standardization of geographical names, including the economic and social benefits.
9. National standardization:
 - (a) Field collection of names;
 - (b) Office treatment of names;
 - (c) Treatment of names in multilingual areas;
 - (d) Administrative structure of national names authorities, legislation, policies and procedures;
 - (e) Toponymic guidelines for map editors and other editors.
10. Geographical names as culture, heritage and identity (including indigenous, minority and regional language names).
11. Exonyms.
12. Toponymic data files and gazetteers:
 - (a) Content requirements and standards;
 - (b) Data management and interoperability;
 - (c) Data services, applications and products (for example, gazetteers and web services).
13. Terminology in the standardization of geographical names.
14. Writing systems and pronunciation:
 - (a) Romanization;
 - (b) Conversion into non-Roman writing systems;
 - (c) Writing of names in unwritten languages;
 - (d) Pronunciation.
15. Country names.
16. Toponymic education.
17. Features beyond a single sovereignty and international cooperation:
 - (a) Features common to two or more nations;
 - (b) Bilateral/multilateral agreements.
18. Arrangements for the Twelfth Conference.
19. Adoption of resolutions of the Conference.

20. Adoption of the report of the Conference.
21. Closing of the Conference.

Draft decision II

Amendments to the statute of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

The Economic and Social Council decides to approve the amendments to the statute of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names proposed by the Group of Experts as follows:

1. Add, after paragraph I (c), “(d) To emphasize, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, respecting the equality among ~~peoples and~~ languages, the significance of geographical names as a part of the historical and cultural heritage and identity of nations.” and renumber the subsequent sub-paragraphs;
2. Add, after paragraph II (4) (b), “(c) The standardization of geographical names must be conducted paying attention to the inherited geographical names and their significance in the preservation of local, regional and national heritage and identity.”; and
3. Add, after paragraph III (7), “8. To increase the awareness and respect for different languages, nations and cultures in an equal manner by promoting the use of geographical names which have been standardized on national basis and which therefore respect local, regional and national heritage and identity” and renumber the subsequent sub-paragraphs.

B. Decisions brought to the attention of the Council

2. The following decisions adopted by the Group of Experts are brought to the attention of the Council:

[Insert substantive decisions adopted on 29 April on agenda items 2 (Report of the Chair) to 18 (Other toponymic issues)]

II. Items considered by the Group of Experts

- A. Report of the Chair**
- B. Report of the secretariat of the Group of Experts**
- C. Reports of the divisions**
- D. Report of the liaison officers and international organizations**
- E. Report of the Task Team for Africa**
- ... Q. Other toponymic issues**
- R. Preparation for the Eleventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names**
- S. Review of the Statute of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names**
- T. Special presentations**

[Insert in each section information on when the agenda item was considered, what working papers were submitted, what presentations were made, experts from which Divisions made comments and raised questions, and what decisions were adopted.]

III. Date, venue and provisional agenda for the thirtieth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

[Insert the description of the adoption of draft decision I “Report of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names on its twenty-ninth session, the provisional agenda and dates for the thirtieth session, and the dates for the Eleventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names” (see page 1 of the present draft report) on 28 April.]

IV. Adoption of the report

[Insert the description of the adoption of the present draft report on 29 April.]

V. Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. Pursuant to Economic and Social Council decision 2014/240, the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names held its twenty-ninth session in Bangkok from 25 to 29 April 2016. The Group of Experts held [] meetings.

B. Attendance

2. The session was attended by [] participants representing the geographic/linguistic divisions of the Group of Experts (see annex). The list of participants is contained in document [GEGN/29/4](#).

C. Officers of the session

3. The officers of the session were as follows:

Chair:

Bill Watt (Australia)

Vice-Chairs:

Ferjan Ormeling (Netherlands)

Naima Friha (Tunisia)

Rapporteurs:

Peder Gammeltoft (Denmark)

Trent Palmer (United States of America)

For the names of the Chairs of the divisions, see <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/ungegn/divisions.html>. The officers of the working groups were:

Task Team for Africa

Convener:

Brahim Atoui

Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy

Convener:

Ferjan Ormeling

Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers

Convener:

Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu

Working Group on Toponymic Terminology

Convener:

Staffan Nyström

Working Group on Romanization Systems

Convener:

Peeter Päll

Working Group on Country Names

Conveners:

Élisabeth Calvarin
Leo Dillon

Working Group on Publicity and Funding

Convener:

Peder Gammeltoft

Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation

Convener:

Sungjae Choo

Working Group on Exonyms

Convener:

Peter Jordan

Working Group on Pronunciation

Conveners:

Tjeerd Tichelaar
Dónall Mac Giolla Easpaig

Working Group on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage

Conveners:

Annette Torensjö
Leif Nilsson
Bill Watt

D. Opening statements

4. The Chair opened the session on 25 April 2016. In his opening remarks, he summarized the main tasks ahead, including making the best use of current technology to enhance the work of the Group of Experts.

5. The Director of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs made an opening statement in which he summarized the recent accomplishments and highlights of the work of the Group of Experts.

E. Adoption of the agenda

6. At its 1st meeting, on 25 April 2016, the Group of Experts adopted its agenda ([GEGN/29/1](#)), which read as follows:

1. Adoption of the agenda and of the provisional programme of work.
2. Report of the Chair.
3. Report of the secretariat of the Group of Experts.
4. Reports of the divisions.
5. Reports of the liaison officers and international organizations.

6. Activities relating to the Task Team for Africa.
 7. Implementation of resolutions and activities relating to the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation.
 8. Activities relating to the Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy.
 9. Activities relating to the Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers.
 10. Activities relating to the Working Group on Toponymic Terminology.
 11. Activities relating to the Working Group on Romanization Systems.
 12. Activities relating to the Working Group on Country Names.
 13. Activities relating to the Working Group on Publicity and Funding.
 14. Activities relating to the Working Group on Exonyms.
 15. Activities relating to the Working Group on Pronunciation.
 16. Activities relating to the Working Group on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage.
 17. Toponymic guidelines for map and other editors for international use.
 18. Other toponymic issues.
 19. Preparation for the Eleventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names.
 20. Review of the statute of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.
 21. Dates, venue and provisional agenda for the thirtieth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.
 22. Adoption of the report.
7. Also at its 1st meeting, the Group of Experts adopted its organization of work ([GEGN/29/12](#)).

F. Adoption of the report

8. At its []th meeting, on 29 April 2016, the Group of Experts adopted the draft report on its twenty-ninth session ([GEGN/29/L.3](#)) for submission to the Economic and Social Council and authorized its Rapporteurs to finalize the report, in consultation with the Bureau and the secretariat of the Group.

G. Documentation

9. The documents before the Group of Experts at its twenty-ninth session are available at the website of the Statistics Division at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/ungegn/ungegnSession29.html>.

Annex

List of participating divisions

Africa Central Division
Africa East Division
Africa South Division
Africa West Division
Arabic Division
Asia East Division (other than China)
Asia South-East Division
Asia South-West Division (other than Arabic)
Baltic Division
Celtic Division
China Division
Dutch- and German-speaking Division
East Central and South-East Europe Division
Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia Division
East Mediterranean Division (other than Arabic)
French-speaking Division
India Division
Latin America Division
Norden Division
Pacific South-West Division
Portuguese-speaking Division
Romano-Hellenic Division
United Kingdom Division
United States of America/Canada Division
