

**Twenty-ninth session
Bangkok, Thailand, 25 – 29 April 2016**

Item 7 of the Provisional Agenda

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

**UNGEGN and UNCISG documents on the UNGEGN website
– the status quo**

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UNGEGN and UNCSGN documents on the UNGEGN website – the status quo

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Summary

One important task of UNGEGN, in keeping with its Aims, is to make materials on the standardization of geographical names widely available. Since the creation of the UNGEGN website, and in accordance with resolution VII/14, it has been possible to develop a central repository of the technical documents presented at both UN Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names (UNCSGN) and UNGEGN Sessions. Since the early inventories were made in the 1990s, much has been achieved in archiving these documents and the UNGEGN Secretariat has now made over three thousand of them publicly available on the UNGEGN website (<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/ungegn/>).

The unique document collection serves numerous functions and is almost in its final stages of completion. This paper brings up to date the information presented in WP 31/7 of the 28th UNGEGN Session in 2014.

Creating the resource of UNGEGN and UNCSGN documents on the website

The Aims of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) emphasize the importance of the standardization of geographical names, collecting the results of this work and facilitating its dissemination.

Based on resolutions I/1 and 1/5, the UNGEGN Secretariat plays a focal role in gathering documents on national geographical names standardization and in making this information widely available. Since 2002, the task to keep both UNGEGN experts and the general public aware of UNGEGN activities has become easier, through the use of the UNGEGN website (<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/ungegn/>).

One important element of the website is providing a collection of documents that have been written and presented by several generations of experts at UNGEGN Sessions and the UN Conferences (UNCSGN), since the first meetings of a small expert group held in 1960. In the 1990s, comprehensive lists of both sets of documents were created as Excel files (e.g. WP 8 at the 20th UNGEGN Session in 2000) and have since been kept up to date and are found on the UNGEGN website at (<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/ungegn/general.html> and <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/ungegn/confGeneral.html>).

Efforts were made to locate all the individual documents, in various library collections at the United Nations in New York and in the collections of countries that had consistently sent experts to the meetings. With the valuable assistance of the UNGEGN Secretariat many of these documents have been gathered into a robust body of knowledge covering over 55 years of geographical names standardization around the world. Documents from earlier gatherings have been scanned and documents from more recent times have been available digitally. This collection of over 3400 documents constitutes a unique resource only available through the UNGEGN website. It has much value and many uses – for instance, for background relevant to new UNGEGN experts and to new Member States of the UN, for Working Groups tracking their mandated tasks, for Divisions looking for previous structures and achievements, for those seeking the history of development in geographical names standardization, for those following particular threads of information or seeking particular documents, and for reference of the UNGEGN Secretariat in responding to public enquiries. Free and easy access to the pdf documents brings a vast wealth of reference material to a global audience.

For the progress made to date with the tasks of building this resource on the web, I thank Vilma Frani, Sabine Warschburger, Cecille Blake and their colleagues in the UN Statistics Division (including Hans Stabe, who in the 1990s helped catalogue the documents in their various locations), former staff of the UN Map Library who were so helpful in starting the scanning process, and Ferjan Ormeling, Hubert Bergmann, and Sirkka Paikkala who have helped fill the gaps in the collection.

Documents from UNGEGN Sessions

Technical documents from the First and Second Meetings held in New York in 1960 and 1966, together with those of the 28 sessions held between 1967 and 2014, now include some 1600 items and are virtually complete except for:

- 7th Session, 1977 WP 1 and WP 2 (unidentified content)
- Other documents, such as early Press Releases and Introductory Remarks (essentially unnumbered documents) are still welcome.

Documents from UN Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names (UNCSGN)

There are some 1800 Conference documents to be made available from the 10 Conferences held between 1967 and 2012. The situation is a little more complex than for the Sessions, as for the Conferences there were often UN-translated texts and abstracts released in addition to the original language document.

To obtain basic coverage of the Conference documents, we are still missing the following from early Conferences:

- 1st Conference:** E/CONF.53/C.1/1 Draft report of Committee I
E/CONF.53/INF/1 Add.1 General arrangements
E/CONF.53/INF/2 List of documents issued for the Conference
E/CONF.53/L.1/Add.2 Preparations ... by the UNGEGN Secretariat
E/CONF.53/ L. 26 Add.1, 27-34, 36, 52, 54, 56, 60-61, 63, 72, 77, 80, 86 ...
Technical documents (various language forms missing –
see website)
E/CONF.53/MISC.1 and /Add.1 Provisional lists of representatives
- 2nd Conference:** E/CONF.61/1 and /2 Agendas
E/CONF.61/3 Draft report
E/CONF.61/C.1/L.1; /C.2/L.1; /C.3/L.1; /C.4/L.1; /C.5/L.1 and /L.2 ... draft
committee reports
E/CONF.61/INF.1 Documentation for the Conference
E/CONF.61/INF.2 Advance information for participants
E/CONF.61/INF.3 List of documents
E/CONF.61/INF.4 Officers of the Conference
E/CONF.61/INF.5 List of participants
E/CONF.61/L.2-7, 52-54, 56 Add1, 60-113 ... Technical documents
(and various language versions of some other documents – see website)
- 3rd Conference:** E/CONF.69/1 Provisional agenda
E/CONF.69/2 Rules of procedure
E/CONF.69/3 Various parts of the draft report
E/CONF.69/INF.1 Documentation
E/CONF.69/INF.2 Advanced information
E/CONF.69/INF.5 Establishing technical committees
E/CONF.69/C.1/L.1-C.V/L.5 28 papers referring to draft resolutions
E/CONF.69/L.3-8, 12-13, 25-28, 32, 43-44, 53, 70, 88-92, 114, 134, 141, 145-147
... Technical documents
E/CONF.69/MISC. 7-9 Participants, notices, etc.
- 4th Conference:** E/CONF.74/INF.4/Add.1 & Rev.1 Updated lists of participants
E/CONF.74/INF.5 Opening remarks: Max D. de Henseler (English & French)
E/CONF.74/INF.6 Terminology presentation (English & French)
E/CONF.74/L.11-13, 19, 39, 68, 89, 102, 120-122 ... Technical documents
- 5th Conference:** E/CONF.79/1 Spanish: Programa provisional
E/CONF.79/2 French, Spanish of Rules of Procedure
- 6th Conference:** E/CONF.85/3/Add 1-3 Parts of Draft Report of Conference
E/CONF.85/CRP.5 Draft Report of Committee III

Proposal to approach completion of the Conference documents

In the above list, the most significant gaps are in the technical documents of the Conferences 1 to 4 and it would appear that we have almost come to a stop in acquiring further documents from UNGEGN experts. A solution can be found in using the contents of Vol. II for the early Conferences, and for some of the administrative documents, using Vol. I content.

I have been through the exercise of matching up the pages of Vol. II and Vol. I for the first four Conferences with the missing documents, and feel that with the help of the Secretariat to scan this material, we can (except for a very few gaps) complete our task of making this valuable resource available to all on the UNGEGN website. In the Annex 1 below, I indicate the source pages to complete this work.

ANNEX 1

Documents shown in ***bold italics*** could be extracted from Vol. I and Vol. II Reports of the Conferences.

1st Conference: E/CONF.53/C.1/1 Draft report of Committee I
 E/CONF.53/INF/1 Add.1 General arrangements
E/CONF.53/INF/2 List of documents issued for the Conference
see Vol. I, p. 24-28
 E/CONF.53/L.1/Add.2 Preparations ... by the UNGEGN Secretariat
 E/CONF.53/ L. 26 Add.1, 27-34, 36, 52, 54, 56, 60-61, 63, 72, 77, 80, 86 ...
 Technical documents (various language forms missing – see website)

| | <u>Vol. 2</u> | <u>English</u> | <u>French</u> |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | <u>Spanish</u> | | |
| L. 26 Add.1 | | | |
| <i>L.27</i> | <i>Vol. 2</i> | <i>p. 124-125</i> | |
| L.28 | | | |
| <i>L.29</i> | <i>Vol. 2</i> | <i>p.126-127</i> | |
| <i>L.30</i> | <i>Vol. 2</i> | <i>p. 50-52</i> | |
| <i>L.31</i> | <i>Vol. 2</i> | <i>p.125-126</i> | |
| <i>L.32</i> | <i>Vol. 2</i> | <i>p. 127-128</i> | |
| <i>L.33</i> | <i>Vol. 2</i> | <i>p. 105-115</i> | |
| L.34 | | | |
| <i>L.36</i> | <i>Vol. 2</i> | <i>p. 128-133</i> | |
| <i>L.52</i> | <i>Vol. 2</i> | <i>p. 137-143</i> | |
| <i>L.54</i> | <i>Vol. 2</i> | <i>p. 115-116</i> | |
| <i>L.60</i> | <i>Vol. 2</i> | <i>p. 94-95</i> | |
| <i>L.61</i> | <i>Vol. 2</i> | <i>p. 119-120</i> | |
| L.63 | | | |
| L.72 | | | |
| <i>L.77</i> | <i>Vol. 2</i> | <i>p. 91-92</i> | <i>(F) page ?</i> |
| <i>L.80</i> | <i>Vol. 2</i> | <i>p. 101-103</i> | |
| <i>L.86</i> | <i>Vol. 2</i> | <i>p. 71-72</i> | |
| E/CONF.53/MISC.1 and /Add.1 | | | Provisional lists of representatives |

2nd Conference: ***E/CONF.61/1 and /2 Agendas*** ***see Vol. I, p. 18, Annex 1***

E/CONF.61/3 Draft report
 E/CONF.61/C.1/L.1; /C.2/L.1; /C.3/L.1; /C.4/L.1; /C.5/L.1 and /L.2 ... draft committee reports
 E/CONF.61/INF.1 Documentation for the Conference
 E/CONF.61/INF.2 Advance information for participants
E/CONF.61/INF.3 List of documents ***see Vol. I, p.18-23***

E/CONF.61/INF.5 List of participants

E/CONF.61/L.2-7, 52-54, 56 Add1, 60-113 ... Technical documents

(and various language versions of some other documents – see website)

| | <u>Vol. II</u> | <u>English</u> | <u>French</u> |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| | <u>Spanish</u> | | |
| L.2 | Vol. II | p. 94-96 | |
| L.3 | Vol. II | p. 1 | |
| L.4 | Vol. II | p. 1 | |
| L.5 and Adds | Vol. II | p. 114-170 | |
| L.6 | Vol. II | p. 6 | |
| L.7 | Vol. II | p. 171-173 (F) | p. 181-183 |
| L.52/Add 1 | Vol. II | p. 196-198 | |
| L.53 | Vol. II | p. 86-87 | |
| L.54 | Vol. II | p. 203-206 | |
| L.56 Add 1 | | | |
| L.60 | Vol. II | p. 58-59 | |
| L.61 | Vol. II | p. 208 | |
| L.62 | Vol. II | p. 198-199 | |
| L.63 | Vol. II | p. 87 (F) | p. 92-93 |
| L.64 | Vol. II | p. 23-24 (F) | p. 25-26 |
| L.65 | Vol. II | p. 65 (F) | p. 93 |
| L.66 | Vol. II | p. 109 (F) | p. 116-117 |
| L.67 | Vol. II | p. 58 (F) | p. 61 |
| L.68 | Vol. II | p. 110 (F) | p. 117 |
| L.69 | Vol. II | p. 24-25 | |
| L.70 | Vol. II | p. 88-91 | |
| L.71 | Vol. II | p. 59 (S) | page ? |
| L.72 | Vol. II | p. 25-26 (S) | page ? |
| L.73 | Vol. II | p. 26-30 (S) | page ? |
| L.74 | Vol. II | p. 110-112 | |
| L.75 | Vol. II | p. 182-188 | |
| L.76 | Vol. II | p. 208-209 | |
| L.77 | Vol. II | p. 30-31 | |
| L.78 | Vol. II | p. 225-226 | |
| L.79 | Vol. II | p. 188-190 | |
| L.80 | Vol. II | p. 32-33 | |
| L.81 | Vol. II | p. 209 | |
| L.82 | Vol. II | p. 190-191 | |
| L.83 | Vol. II | p. 232 | |
| L.84 | Vol. II | p. 238 | |
| L.85 | Vol. II | p. 33-34 | |
| L.86 | Vol. II | p. 113 | |
| L.87 | Vol. II | p. 209-210 | |
| L.88 | Vol. II | p. 112 | |

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| L.89 | Vol. II | p. 113 | | |
| L.90 | Vol. II | p. 191-192 | | |
| L.91 | Vol. II | p. 211-212 | | |
| L.92 | | | | |
| L.93 | Vol. II | p. 34-38 | | |
| L.94 | Vol. II | p. 206-207 | | |
| L.95 | Vol. II | p. 39-40 | | |
| L.96 | Vol. II | p. 92 | (S) | page ? |
| L.97 | Vol. II | p. 193 | | |
| L.98 | Vol. II | p. 199 | | |
| L.99 | Vol. II | p. 93 | | |
| L.100 | Vol. II | p. 40 | | |
| L.101 | Vol. II | p. 40-41 | | |
| L.102 | Vol. II | p. 41-44 | | |
| L.103 | Vol. II | p. 236-238 | | |
| L.104 | Vol. II | p. 45 | | |
| L.105 | Vol. II | p. 45 | | |
| L.106 | Vol. II | p. 193-194 | | |
| L.107 | Vol. II | p. 232-235 | | |
| L.108 | Vol. II | p. 194 | | |
| L.109 | Vol. II | p. 46 | | |
| L.110 | Vol. II | p. 110 | | |
| L.111 | Vol. II | p. 46 | (F) | p. 49 |
| L.112 | Vol. II | p. 47 | (F) | p. 50 |
| L.113 | Vol. II | p. 46 | (S) | page ? |

3rd Conference: **E/CONF.69/1** **Provisional agenda** **see Vol. I, Annex I, p. 42-43**

E/CONF.69/2 **Rules of procedure** **see Vol. I, Annex 3, p. 59-65**
E/CONF.69/3 Various parts of the draft report
E/CONF.69/INF.1 Documentation
E/CONF.69/INF.2 Advanced information
E/CONF.69/INF.5 Establishing technical committees
E/CONF.69/C.1/L.1-C.V/L.5 28 papers referring to draft resolutions
E/CONF.69/L.3-8, 12-13, 25-28, 32, 43-44, 53, 70, 88-92, 114, 134, 141, 145-147
... Technical documents

Vol. II is trilingual E/F/S

| | | | | |
|-------------|----------------|-------------------|----------|----------|
| L.3 | Vol. II | p. 87-93 | S | |
| L.4 | Vol. II | p. 12-14 | S | |
| L.5 | Vol. II | p. 1-4 | | S |
| L.6 | Vol. II | p. 94-98 | S | |
| L.7 | Vol. II | p. 98-101 | S | |
| L.8 | Vol. II | p. 345-376 | S | |
| L.12 | Vol. II | p. 165-166 | | |
| L.13 | Vol. II | p. 249-250 | F | |

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|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|----------|
| L.25, Add1, Corr1 | Vol. II | p. 5 | |
| L.26 | Vol. II | p. 18-20 | |
| L.27 | Vol. II | p. 171 | |
| L.28 | Vol. II | p. 288-290 | |
| L.32 | Vol. II | p. 5-8 | |
| L.43 | Vol. II | p. 28-29 | |
| L.44 | Vol. II | p. 117-119 | |
| L.53 | Vol. II | p. 123-130 | |
| L.70 | Vol. II | p. 408-423 | |
| L.88 | Vol. II | p. 146-156 | |
| L.89 | Vol. II | p. 67-69 | F |
| L.90 | | | |
| L.91 | | | |
| L.92 | Vol. II | p. 218 | F |
| L.114 | Vol. II | p. 266-282 | S |
| L.134 | Vol. II | p. 80-83 | S |
| L.141 | (Draft resolution, III/27) | | |
| L.145 | (Draft resolution, III/24) | | |
| L.146 | Vol. II | p. 84 | |
| L.147 | Vol. II | p. 84-86 | |
| E/CONF.69/MISC. 7-9 | Participants, notices, etc. | | |

4th Conference: *E/CONF.74/INF.4/Add.1 & Rev.1 Updated lists of participants* see *Vol I, Annex III, p. 56-71*

E/CONF.74/INF.5 Opening remarks: Max D. de Henseler (English & French)

E/CONF.74/INF.6 Terminology presentation (English & French)
E/CONF.74/L.11-13, 19, 39, 68, 89, 102, 120-122 ... Technical documents

Vol. II is trilingual E/F/S

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|--------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------|
| L.11 | Vol. II | p. 125-127 | S |
| L.12 | Vol. II | p. 127-128 | S |
| L.13 | Vol. II | p. 128-129 | S |
| L.19 | Vol. II | p. 12-13 | F |
| L.39 | Vol. II | p. 200-205 | S |
| L.68 | Vol. II | p. 279-281 ... F/S/E summary | |
| L.89 | Vol. II | p. 361 | |
| L.102 | Vol. II | p. 225-229 | |
| L.120 | (Draft report of the Conference) | | |
| L.121 | Vol. II | p. 60-63 | |
| L.122 | Vol. II | p. 343-344 | |

Note: Vol. II is not currently available on the UNGEGN website

5th Conference: *E/CONF.79/1 Spanish: Programa provisional* see *Vol. I, (S), Anexo I, p. 18*

E/CONF.79/2 French, Spanish of Rules of Procedure *see Vol. I (F),
Annexe III, p. 25-27*

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see Vol. I (S), Anexo III, p.

6th Conference: E/CONF.85/3/Add 1-3 Parts of Draft Report of Conference
 E/CONF.85/CRP.5 Draft Report of Committee III