

**Twenty-eight session
New York, 28 April – 2 May 2014**

Item 7 of the Provisional Agenda

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

**Evaluation of the Tenth UNCSGN:
A Review of the Questionnaire Survey Results ***

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Evaluation of the Tenth UNCSGN: A Review of the Questionnaire Survey Results[†]

SUMMARY

A total of forty-six responses to the evaluation questionnaires were collected at the 10th UNCSGN. An analysis of the likert scale evaluations on the programs, contents and logistics of the Conference indicated an overall satisfaction with the Conference. All respondents gave a positive evaluation (expectations were met for all; 40 out of 46 evaluated the meeting to be successful or very successful). Special presentations were evaluated to be the most useful, followed by workshops, documents, and talking and networking with other delegates. With regards to the logistics of the meeting, such items as allocation of time, summarizing groups of documents, and resolutions elaborated by the Conference were given positive evaluation. For future Conferences were suggested such changes as reduction of Conference duration, reduction in the number of reports, better communication in Division and Working Group meetings, etc. Toponymic training was ranked at the top of the to-do list before the 11th Conference.

Overview

At the 10th UNCSGN in New York, 2012, one evaluation questionnaire form was circulated for responses in three languages: English, French and Spanish (see Annex 1). A total of forty-six responses were collected. For 15 respondents (32.6%) this was their first time participating in a UNCSGN, while for 16 respondents (34.8%) it was their second or third time attending, and 15 respondents (32.6%) had attended more than three times. The collection of responses and tabulation of basic statistics were conducted by the UNGEGN Secretariat.

Evaluations on the Programs and Contents

An overall assessment of the Conference was very positive. All respondents indicated that it had met their expectations (46 out of 46, 100%). Most of the respondents rated the success of the Conference highly or very highly (40 out of 46, 87.0%).

When divided by each element of the Conference, special presentations were evaluated to be the most useful. Workshops, documents, talking and networking with other delegates, and Working Group meetings also received very positive evaluations. Division meetings, exhibition and displays turned out to be moderately satisfactory.

With regards to the logistics of the Conference, such items as allocation of time, summarizing groups of documents, and resolutions elaborated by the Conference were evaluated positively with almost 80 percent 'positive' or 'very positive' evaluations, while time for Working Group and

[†] This working paper pertains to the UNCSGN resolutions VI/4 (Working group on evaluation) and X/1 (11th UNCSGN and 28th Session of the UNGEGN).

Division meetings and duration of the (8 day) Conference were evaluated less positively, receiving a few negative responses.

Table 1. Evaluation of the usefulness of each program and content of the Conference

	very high	high	moderate	low	very low	% high and very high
Usefulness of documents	10	28	11	0	0	77.6
Usefulness of special presentations	22	22	3	0	0	93.6
Usefulness of workshops	14	21	6	4	0	77.8
Usefulness of Working Group meetings	14	18	13	0	0	71.1
Usefulness of Division meetings	10	9	20	0	0	48.7
Usefulness of exhibition/displays	6	13	17	6	0	45.2
Usefulness of talking/networking with experts	15	21	11	0	0	76.6

Table 2. Evaluation of the logistics of the Conference

	very positive	positive	neutral	negative	very negative	% positive and very positive
Duration of Conference: 8 days	10	17	13	4	3	57.4
Allocation of time	9	25	6	3	0	79.1
Discussion versus information papers	11	17	13	2	0	65.1
Summarizing groups of documents	18	17	8	2	0	77.8
Resolutions developed by the Conference	10	21	9	0	0	77.5
Time for WG and Division meetings	3	3	8	1	0	40.0

Comments and Suggestions for the Next Conference

The following groups of comments and suggestions were noted for the next UNCSGN:

- reducing the Conference period (1 or 2 days)
- reducing reports
- increasing communication in Divisions and workshops
- not presenting and discussing Division reports
- preparing more academic presentations and addressing multiple questions
- having more discussion about topical issues

14 countries answered yes to the question on the assistance need for establishing a geographical names standardization programme. Assistance was mostly required in training based on examples of other countries and in capacity building for experts on the standardization of geographical names. Toponymic training was also ranked at the top of the do-to list before the 11th Conference.

Annex 1

EVALUATION

**10th United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names
New York, 31 July – 9 August 2012**

Your information: Country _____

How many times have you attended these Conferences? Once 2 or 3 times More than 3 times

Have you attended both Conferences and UNGEGN Sessions? Yes No

I. Overall Assessment

Did the Conference meet your expectations? Yes No

How would you rate the success of the Conference? Very high High Moderate Low Very low

II. Programs and Contents

1. How useful was each of the following programs and contents for you?

	very high	high	moderate	low	very low
a. Documents – reading and discussion					
b. Special presentations					
c. Workshops					
d. Working Group meetings					
e. Division meetings					
f. Exhibition/displays					
g. Talking and networking with other delegates					

2. What changes would you suggest for future Conferences? Please specify.

3. Please make suggestions for special presentations and workshops for the next UNGEGN Session (topics, presenters, organization, logistics, etc.).

4. What is your reaction to each of the following in reference to the 10th Conference?

	very positive	positive	neutral	negative	very negative
a. Duration of Conference: 8 days					
b. Allocation of time to agenda items and working papers					
c. Distinguishing "discussion" papers from "information" papers					
d. Summarizing groups of documents, rather than individual presentations					
e. Resolutions developed by the Conference					
f. Time available for WG and Division meetings outside the Conference					

5. What are the most important items that you would like to see UNGEGN undertake before the 11th Conference?

6. Does your country need assistance in establishing a geographical names standardization programme? Yes No

If yes, what type of help do you want? _____

7. Do you have any other comments you wish to make?
