

15 August 2017

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**United Nations Group of Experts on
Geographical Names****Thirtieth session**

7 and 18 August 2017

Draft report

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

Organization of the session**A. Opening and duration of the session**

1. Pursuant to Economic and Social Council decision 2016/259, the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names held its thirtieth session at United Nations Headquarters on 7 and 18 August 2017. 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/30/4](#).

C. Officers of the session

3. The Officers of the session were as follows:

Chair:

William Watt (Australia)

Vice-Chairs:

Ferjan Ormeling (Netherlands)

Naima Friha (Tunisia)

Rapporteurs:

Peder Gammeltoft (Denmark)

Trent Palmer (United States)



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

Coordinator:

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

Convener:

Tjeerd Tichelaar

Working Group on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage

Convener:

Annette Torensjö

Toponymic guidelines for map and other editors

Coordinator:

Gerhard Rampl

United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names secretariat

Stefan Schweinfest, Director of the Statistics Division, Department of
Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat
Cecille Blake, Statistics Division
Vilma Frani, Statistics Division

D. Opening statements

4. The Chair, William Watt (Australia), opened the thirtieth session of the Group of Experts at its 1st meeting, on 7 August 2017.

5. In his opening remarks, the Chair summarized the main tasks ahead, including preparations for the Eleventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names.

6. Stefan Schweinfest, Director of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, made an opening statement summarizing the recent accomplishments and highlighted the work of the Group of Experts.

E. Adoption of the agenda

7. Also at its 1st meeting, the Group of Experts adopted its provisional agenda (GEGN/30/1), as follows:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Reports 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 United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names.
9. Working groups for future requirements.
10. Provisional agenda for the thirty-first session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.
11. Other business.

8. At the same meeting, the Group of Experts approved its organization of work (GEGN/30/5/Rev.1).

9. At its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 7 August, the Group of Experts considered agenda item 3 and heard reports from the Convener of the Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers; the Convener of the Working Group on Romanization Systems; the Convener of the Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy; the Convener of the Working Group on Exonyms; the Convener of the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation; the Convener of the Working

Group on Publicity and Funding; the Coordinator for toponymic guidelines for map and other editors for international use; the Coordinator of the Task Team for Africa; and the Convener of the Working Group on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage.

10. At its 2nd meeting, the Group of Experts also considered agenda item 4 and heard reports by the International Council of Onomastic Sciences; the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers; the Joint International Cartographic Association/International Geographical Union Commission on Toponymy; the Working Group on Geographical Names of the Inter-state Council for Geodesy, Cartography, Cadastre and Earth Remote Sensing of the Commonwealth of Independent States; and the Pan American Institute of Geography and History.

11. Also at its 2nd meeting, the Group of Experts considered agenda item 5 and adopted the draft organization of work for the Conference.

F. Adoption of the report

12. At its 3rd meeting, on 18 August 2017, the Group of Experts adopted the draft report on the activities of its thirtieth session ([GEGN/30/L.1](#)) for submission to the Economic and Social Council, and authorized its Rapporteurs to finalize the report, in consultation with the bureau and secretariat of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.

G. Documentation

13 The documents before the Group of Experts at its thirtieth session are available at the website of the United Nations Statistics Division at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/ungegn/ungegnSession30.html>.

Annex I

List of geographic/linguistic 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
Latin America Division
Norden Division
Pacific South-West Division
Portuguese-speaking Division
Romano-Hellenic Division
United Kingdom Division
United States of America/Canada Division
