

2. THE ROLE OF UNGEGN IS ONE OF ...

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... creating awareness of the need for standardization of geographical names, so that these names can play a role of links between humankind and the topographical objects or features around it, and a role of links between different geospatial datasets

- animating UN member countries through its resolutions to set up names bureaus, launch names programmes, helps in producing gazetteers and sets exchange formats.
- UNGEGN takes on this role because the UN realizes the potentially essential and indispensable role of standardized and up-to-date geographical names in search and rescue/disaster situations, famines, etc. .

UNGEKN realizes its task

- by showing and formulating principles and best practices to adhere to for names collection , standardization and dissemination, with the help of manuals, literature and working papers from member countries
- by providing education programmes, in the form of courses in the countries that apply for them, and by providing webcourses (these are now being developed in English, French and Spanish). The proceedings of many of the courses are available and can be downloaded [here](#).
- by providing incentives for joint action for groups of countries with similar challenges (through a system of UNGEGN-divisions)
- by checking whether the resolutions proposed by UNGEGN and endorsed by ECOSOC are being followed and implemented by member countries
- by providing fora for discussion regarding practical issues, such as standards and best practices, on a global or regional basis
- by organizing scientific meetings either directly or within the divisions or working groups
- by disseminating the results of these actions and linking the professional community engaged in the work of standardization of geographical names through the UNGEGN Bulletin.
- by providing the results of its own name standardization programme for actions by other UN divisions
- by providing a collective memory of toponymical actions, experience and activities in its archive (where all papers tabled at its 10 conferences and 27 UNGEGN sessions are stored and can be downloaded [here](#) ([pdf](#)).

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