

United Nations Nations Unies

SECRETARIAT OF UNITED NATIONS GROUP
OF EXPERTS ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
UN STATISTICS DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS
TWO UNITED NATIONS PLAZA, DC2-1670, NEW YORK, NY 10017
TELEPHONE NO: 1 (917) 367-4130; FAX NO: 1 (212) 963-9851
Internet location: geoinfo_unsd@un.org

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Dear Colleague,

Preparation of the UNGEGN draft Strategic Plan and Programme of Work

On behalf of the Bureau of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN), I am pleased to invite you to participate in the development of the draft strategic plan and programme of work that will be used to guide the work for the new UNGEGN for the period 2021 to 2029.

Reference is made to report [E/2019/75](#) and Recommendation 1 on the development of a draft strategic plan and programme of work, agreed on at the first session of the Group of Experts, 29 April to 3 May 2019 and further, decision 2019/230 adopted by the United Nations Economic and Social Council at its management meeting in July 2019 (E/2019/99).

Recommendation 1 states the following:

The Economic and Social Council:

- (a) Decides that, in close consultation with States Members of the United Nations, the Bureau of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names should undertake the development of a draft strategic plan and programme of work for the new Group of Experts, which, inter alia, should take into account:
 - (i) The mandate and structure of the Group;
 - (ii) Support for the creation of new national geographical names authorities and strengthening the operation of existing ones;
 - (iii) The establishment of funding mechanisms (such as a trust fund) to support the implementation of the strategic plan;
 - (iv) Appropriate branding and publicity for the Group;
 - (v) The focus and core goals of its parent body, the Economic and Social Council;
 - (vi) A suitable planning time frame;
- (b) Also decides that the draft strategic plan and programme of work shall be circulated to Member States for consideration prior to adoption at the second session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.

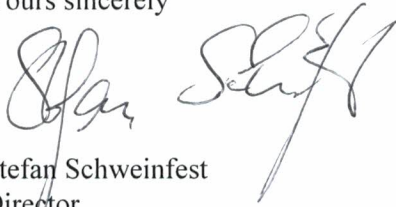
In compliance with this decision Member States are kindly invited to contribute to the preparation of the draft strategic plan and programme of work. To begin the exercise the Bureau has prepared a rough time table for the preparation of the UNGEGN draft strategic plan and programme of work and an outline/structure for the draft strategic plan, both attached for your reference.

The Bureau therefore kindly asks Member States to give their input to be considered for inclusion in the draft plan and work programme, referring particularly to your national geographical names standardization issues and proposing priority actions to be pursued by UNGEGN. These inputs should be prepared taking into account the aims and objectives of the new UNGEGN as stated by its Rules of Procedure ([E/2018/L.25](#)) attached for easy reference.

We would therefore greatly appreciate if you could send your inputs in Microsoft Word format before Friday December 13, 2019 to the UNGEGN Secretariat at geoinfo_unsd@un.org.

Thank you in advance for your usual cooperation and support on this important exercise and we look forward to receiving your proposals to develop a smart draft strategic plan and programme of work.

Yours sincerely



Stefan Schweinfest
Director
United Nations Statistics Division
Department of Economic and Social Affairs