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STAT 421 (4-120)

17 February 2021

Dear Colleague,

Global Consultation on 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 review and provide comments on 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). You may also recall letter numbered STAT 421 (4-112) dated 3 June 2020, that invited Member States to contribute to the preparation of the draft strategic plan and programme of work by providing your comments on the first draft of the strategic plan.

Based on the feedback received from 20 Member States and three international organizations, the Bureau has revised the draft strategic plan and prepared an accompanying programme of work. The 38-page comprehensive document is attached to this letter, and the Bureau kindly asks for your review and feedback, paying particular attention to each of the five strategies and related action items. In preparing your comments we would appreciate if you would make your edits and comments using Microsoft Word track changes and comment boxes.

We would therefore welcome the submission of your feedback on the attached draft strategic plan and programme of work on or before **Thursday**, **18 March 2021** to the UNGEGN Secretariat at geoinfo_unsd@un.org.

Thanking you for your usual cooperation in advancing this important exercise, and we look forward to receiving your feedback to support the finalization of a forward looking draft strategic plan and programme of work for the "new" UNGEGN.

Yours sincerely, Stefan Schwift

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