



Working Group on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage

Friday May 3, 2019, 8:15 - 9:30 am at the UN Head Quarter in New York
on the occasion of 1st session of UNGEGN, Room: CR-E

Minutes

Attending: 32 delegates

1. Welcome

The convenor opened the meeting at 8.15 am.

2. Adoption of agenda and administrative matters (chair, rapporteur etc.)

The agenda was posted on the Conference website before the Conference and was shown on a screen during the meeting. The convenor of the Working Group, Annette Torenjö, and the rapporteur, Leila Mattfolk, both from Sweden, continue their tasks in the working group.

3. Report of the Working Group on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage

New content, regarding good naming custom will be published on the webpage of the working group (https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/working_groups/wg9.cshtml):

- Good Place-Name Practice. The Swedish Place-Names Advisory Board's Guide to the Standardization and Preservation of Place-Names. (English translation of the 2016 edition) <https://www.lantmateriet.se/en/maps-and-geographic-information/Ortnamn/Skriftserien/>
- Principles and procedures for geographical naming (2011), Geographical Names Board of Canada https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/sites/www.nrcan.gc.ca/files/earthsciences/pdf/gnames/GNBC_english_accessible.pdf
- Commemorative naming practices in Finland https://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/ungegn/docs/2.Finland_Onkamo_doc.pdf

The meeting found it appropriate to put up best practices on the webpage, as long as the practices are general and have the UN-resolutions as a base. The following practices were contributed during the meeting:

- Naming rules for places in Victoria (Australia) – 2016 <https://www.propertyandlandtitles.vic.gov.au/naming-places-features-and-roads/naming-rules-for-places-in-victoria>
- Principles for commemorative names and commercial and business names in Victoria (Australia) (pdf)

More best practices are welcome.

4. Suggestions from the convenor for Focus groups

The meeting discussed possible focus groups and the following were suggested:

- *Geographical names in relation to minorities and indigenous people*
- *Legislation, policies & best practices relating to geographical names*
- *Commercial and commemorative naming, including urban naming*
- *Crowd sourcing for collecting stories behind the names*
- *Naming within tourism and branding*

Each focus group will be provided objective and scope, and the convenor of the working group was entrusted with finding suitable person(s) responsible for respective focus group.

5. Website

The web page of the working group is now placed on the UNGEGN website. Whether this is the best solution or not, was left to the convenor to decide.

The web page will be updated with information about the focus groups and a list of literature that relates to the topics of the working group. The convenor also asked participants to provide the working group with best practices.

6. Suggestions for work shop, joint meetings or other activities

A workshop on commercial naming and a joint meeting with Working group on Evaluation and Implementation are being planned, and will possibly take place in October 2020.

Suggested future joint meetings:

- A joint meeting with the Working group on Exonyms
- A joint meeting with the Working group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers for discussions concerning shared responsibility in relation to sustainable development goals. (Possibly as an e-meeting.)

7. Other business

No other business were announced.

8. Next meeting

Next meeting will be held at the next UNGEGN-session, at the latest, but possibly sooner, in relation with a joint meeting or via Webex.

9. Closing

The convenor closed the meeting at 10.30 am, reminding everyone to send her both suggestions regarding the work of the focus groups, and best practices to be put up on the web site.