

UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names

FIFTH MEETING of UNGEEN Bureau and Division Chairs

Friday 12 April 2024
at 5:00 pm Eastern/NYC



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Draft Agenda

| Item | Speaker |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Welcome and opening remarks | Pierre Jaillard Stefan Schweinfest |
| 2. Roll call - Introduction of Divisions | Pierre Jaillard |
| 3. General update on UNGEGN Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Revitalization of the Task Team for Africa ii. Activating the collaborative project between UN-GGIM and UNGEGN iii. World Geographical Names Database – Unique Identifier for cities | Pierre Jaillard Cecille Blake |
| 4. Presentations by Divisions – activities, challenges and good practices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. China ii. USA, Canada | |
| 5. General discussion on Divisional issues and needs | Pierre Jaillard |
| 6. Any other business | |
| 7. Closing remarks and adjournment | |



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WELCOME UNGEGN Divisions – Introductions

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Africa Central X | Baltic X | India |
| Africa East | Celtic | Latin America X |
| Africa South | China X | Norden X |
| Africa West | Dutch- and German-speaking | Pacific South-West X |
| Arabic | East Central and South-East Europe X | Portuguese-speaking X |
| Asia East (other than China) X | Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia X | Romano-Hellenic X |
| Asia South-East | East Mediterranean (other than Arabic) | United Kingdom |
| Asia South-West (other than Arabic) | French-speaking X | United States / Canada X |

13 Divisions were represented at the meeting



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3. General update on UNGEGN activities



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Revitalization of the Task Team for Africa

1. **Task team Coordinator** – Brahim Atoui of Algeria, retired at the UNGEGN 2023 session
Vice-Coordinator - Claude Obin Tapsoba, Burkina Faso
2. Task team was created in 2004, with the objective of diagnosing the difficulties encountered by African countries and proposing adequate solutions for a better management of geographical names.
3. Divisions
 - **Africa Central** - Chair Michel Kamden, Cameroon
 - **Africa East** - Nivo Ratovoarison, Madagascar
 - **Africa South** - Lucy Phalaagae, Botswana
 - **Africa West** - Claude Obin Tapsoba, Burkina Faso
4. See latest report of the Task Team for Africa- [GEGN.2/2023/114/CRP.114](https://www.ungegn.org/2023/114/CRP.114)



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Revitalization of the Task Team for Africa

ACTIONS

1. Seeking candidates to fill the position of task team Coordinator for Africa
2. UNGEGN Working Group on Training conduct capacity building workshop and training in last quarter of 2024 in collaboration with ECA in Addis Ababa, Africa.
 - Cabo Verde and Mozambique would wish to participate
3. Divisions in Africa try to define new objectives more adapted to the current situation in Africa given the challenges.
4. Need to have a special forum to have this addressed



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UNGEEN/UN-GGIM collaboration project

National Mapping Agencies (NMAs) and National Geographical Names Authorities (NGNAs) are invited to collaborate and contribute to **the development of a compendium of institutional arrangements and operational good practices** that strengthens working relations between mapping and geographical names authorities to support the collection, management, and dissemination of standardized geographical names.

Objectives

1. To build a stronger relationship between the Group of Experts and the Committee of Experts.
2. To identify, collate and document relevant and acceptable principles, examples of good practices and guidelines/recommendations that may be used by both NMAs and NGNAs across Member States to strengthen their operations.



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UNGEEN/UN-GGIM collaboration project

FROM THE 13 UN-GGIM SESSION

Countries expressing support for the project

1. Tonga
2. **Indonesia**
3. Mozambique
4. **United States**
5. Australia
6. Canada
7. Serbia
8. Sweden
9. Mexico
10. Belgium
11. Argentina
12. Jamaica
13. Saudi Arabia
14. Chile

Other expressions of support

1. ECA- UN-GGIM Africa
2. PAIGH
3. IGU

FROM THE 12 UN-GGIM SESSION

| Countries/Bodies | Comments |
|--------------------|--|
| 1. Argentina | Supports the collaborative project and creating awareness |
| 2. Canada | Welcomes the project and looking forward to participating |
| 3. Germany | Supports proposal to conduct collaborative project and willing to contribute |
| 4. Jamaica | Endorses project and is interested in the project |
| 5. Morocco | Supports the project and wishes to participate |
| 6. New Zealand | Supports the collaborative proposal |
| 7. Sweden | Supports the collaborative project to strengthen relations between the mapping and naming bodies |
| 8. United Kingdom | Supports the proposed activities |
| 9. UN-GGIM Africa | Endorses the suggestion to foster coordination |
| 10. UN-GGIM Europe | Supports the project |



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UNGEEN/UN-GGIM collaboration project

ACTIONS

1. Indonesia to be asked to lead the project
2. Supported by USA- request to be presented to the Names Board
3. Divisional Chairs encourage Member States to participate in the project, send expressions of interest to the UNGEEN Secretariat – blake1@un.org and or frani@un.org
4. Contribute their experiences via articles in the 67 issue of the UNGEEN Bulletin.



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Presentation on the World Geographical Names Database

WGN - Global unique identifier for cities

Seeking Divisional support for the data cleaning and verification component of the exercise.

Presentation delivered by
Cecille Blake
UNGEEN Secretariat



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4. Presentations by Divisions



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Presentations by the China and USA Canada Divisions

China Division



Mr. CHEN Kexiang
Head of geographical names affairs, Department of Administrative Divisions and Geographical Names of the Ministry of Civil Affairs of China
Head of the China Division, UNGEGN

USA Canada Division

Nicole Halseth
Senior Policy Analyst, Canada Centre for Mapping and Earth Observation, Natural Resources Canada



Thaddeus Ellerbe
Cartographer, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration,
Deputy Member, U.S. Board on Geographic Names



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DISCUSSION: Divisions

Discussions will be led by the Chair
Pier Jaillard



Questions:



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GENERAL UPDATES

UNGEEN participated in ECOSOC 2024 Coordination Segment, 31 January to 1 February 2024

Chair UNGEEN and President of the National Toponymy Commission of France, via video recording shared UNGEEN's work in supporting SDG goals 16 and 17, peace and justice and partnerships for the goals. This included the actions being taken to define solutions for the treatment to designate in one language, places where that language is not spoken. He also spoke on partnering with UN bodies such as the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, in the context of the International Decade of the Indigenous Languages, to support its efforts to safeguard, promote and restore indigenous geographical names by making them available in the form of databases. In closing, he called upon the Council to recognize the cultural and practical importance of having standardized geographical names.



[The statements and videos are available on the ECOSOC 2024 Coordination Segment webpages.](#)



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GENERAL UPDATES

1. UNGEGN contributed to the ECOSOC 2024 High Level Political Forum. UNGEGN's paper is accessible at the HLF webpage at [Inputs to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development | High-Level Political Forum \(un.org\)](#)

The following works were referenced in the paper:

- GEGN.2/2023/94/CRP.94, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- GEGN.2/2023/44/CRP.44 West Java, Indonesia
- UNGEGN Bulletin no. 65 New Zealand
- UNGEGN Bulletin no. 65 Indonesia
- GEGN.2/2023/7/CRP.7 China

2. Divisions are encouraged to actively contribute to **the implementation of the UNGEGN Strategic Plan and Programme of Work 2021–2029**
3. Divisions are reminded that the Secretariat will **provide space on the UNGEGN website** to archive divisional matters;



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GENERAL UPDATES

- 4. PAIGH's 24th General Assembly** on November 1-2, 2023 in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic adopted a resolution 3, that **raised the status of the Geographic Names working group to the “José Joaquín Hungría Morell” committee on Geographic Names, with in the Cartographic Commission of PAIGH.** This new committee will be coordinated by the PAIGH National Section of the Dominican Republic (DR-PAIGH).
- 5. UN Maps Conference**, in **Valencia Spain from 20-24 May 2024.** Organized in collaboration with the UN Geospatial Network, the conference theme is “UN Maps Enabling the UN 2.0”. It underscores the idea that UN Maps is the essential geospatial system for fostering and strengthening the culture around data, digital innovation, and foresight. It provides an opportunity to reflect on how geospatial data and services can contribute to delivering organizational mandates collectively, such as facilitating global efforts in climate action, food security, healthcare, education, and peace and justice. The Conference has four main themes: Use cases, Data, Innovation and Technology and Outreach and Partnerships. UNGEGN representatives should be actively participating.
- 6. For the upcoming 2025 UNGEGN session**, Divisions and their members are encouraged to begin preparing– summaries and reports

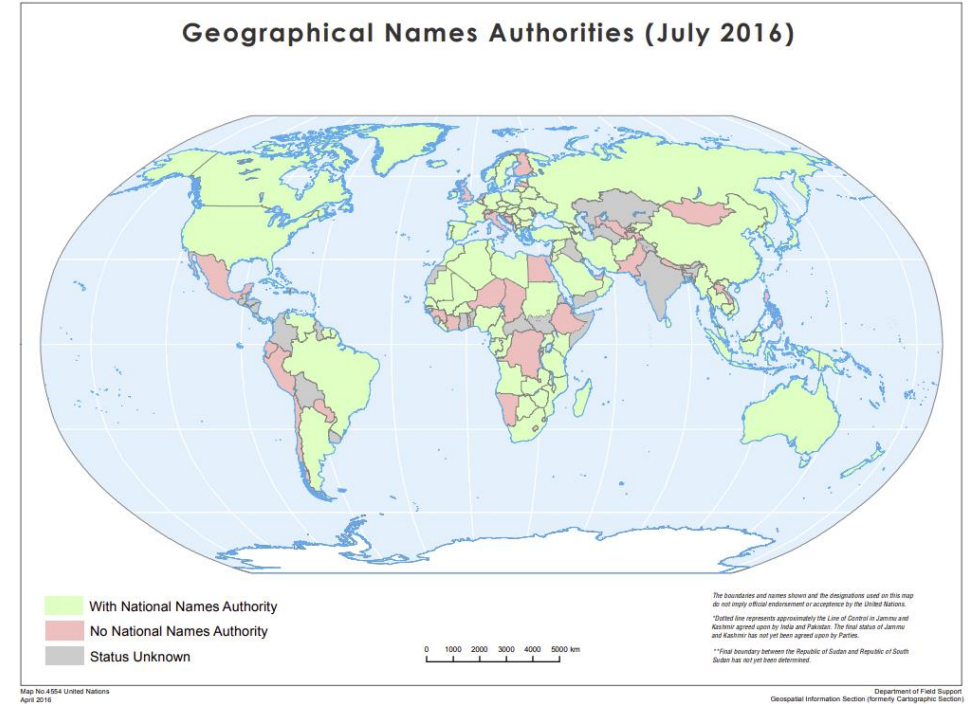




National Geographical Names Authorities 2024 Survey

Division Chairs are encouraged to kindly ask their members to complete the survey.

National Geographical Names Authorities 2024 Survey <https://forms.microsoft.com/e/rDj3gKuGLM>



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Activities in support of the Decade of Indigenous Languages

- Digital cards and social media messages
- Key messages
- Infographics, flyer
- Web page banners
- Activities



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Any Other Business

1. Questions on Divisional use of the UNGEGN website regarding the availability of templates for the page, languages on the page, and frequency of page maintenance
2. Divisions are to send their questions regarding the use of the UNGEGN website to the secretariat and they will be compiled and a responses provided.



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9. Scheduling meetings - Bureau and Expanded Bureau

Dates of Bureau/Divisional Meeting 2024

~~Friday 12 April 2024 at 5:00 pm~~

Friday 15 November 2024 at 7:00 am

Dates of Expanded Bureau Meetings 2024

1. 10 May 2024 at 5:00 pm
2. 5 July 2024 at 6:00 am

Dates of Core Bureau Meeting 2024

1. 24 May 2024 at 5:00 pm
2. 28 June 2024 at 6:00 am



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