



UNITED NATIONS GROUP OF EXPERTS ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

Strengthening relationships, links and connections in geographical names
standardization and for sustainable development and pandemic recovery

2023/3rd session UNGEGN | 1-5 May 2023 | @unsd_gegn



Third Meeting of UNGEKN Bureau and Division Chairs

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Thursday 30 March 2023

from 7:00 -8:30 am NYC time



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WELCOME UNGEGN Divisions – Introductions

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

XX Divisions are represented at the meeting



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UNGEEN Bureau

Officers of UNGEEN

Chairperson

- Mr. Pierre Jaillard, France

Vice-Chairpersons

- Mr. Sungjae Choo, Republic of Korea
- Ms. Susan Birtles, Australia

Rapporteurs

- Mr. Trent C. Palmer, USA
- Ms. Wendy Shaw, New Zealand



UNGEEN Chairperson



Vice-Chairpersons



Rapporteurs



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AGENDA

1. Welcome and opening remarks
2. Participation and Preparation UNGEGN 2023 (3rd) session
 - a. Presentation of Divisional Reports and National Reports
 - b. Responsibilities of Divisional Chairs
 - c. Participation in the Meet and Greet Group
 - d. Special Presentations and Panel Discussions
 - e. Proposals for side events
3. Presentation on national report outline
4. Presentation and discussion UN-GGIM/UNGEGN project proposal
5. Any other business
6. Closing remarks and adjournment



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Participation and Preparation UNGEGN 2023 session

UNGEEN 2023- Session Theme

“Strengthening relationships, links and connections in geographical names standardization and for sustainable development and pandemic recovery”

Important Dates to Note

- **Summary Reports** are to be submitted the latest **20 January 2023**
- **Full Reports deadline extend to 31 March 2023**
- The e-deleGATE is now opened. As of Monday 27th, **20 Countries** have registered.



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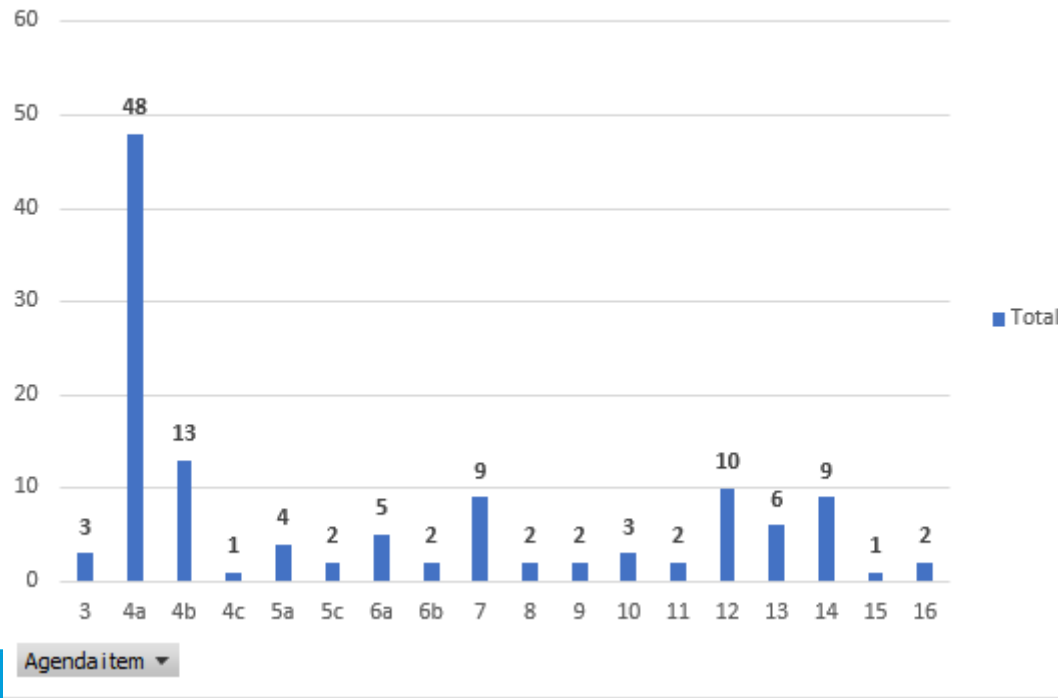


Documentation Update

As of Wednesday 29th March the status of documents submitted are as follows:

- i. Total Reports received 124
- ii. 12 of 24 Divisions have submitted documents
- iv. 51 countries have submitted 89 documents

Submission per agenda item



Submission by Division	
Division	Count of Submitted by
Africa Central Division	1
Arabic Division	1
Asia South-East Division	1
Baltic Division	1
China Division	1
East Central and South-East Europe Division	1
Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia Division	1
Latin America Division	1
Norden Division	2
Portuguese-speaking Division	1
Romano-Hellenic Division	1
USA-Canada Division	1
Grand Total	13



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New Divisional webpage

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UNEGN Bureau and Division Chairs Meetings

Meeting 2023

📅 [Third Meeting, 30 March 2023](#)

Meeting 2022

📅 [Second Meeting, 9 December 2022](#)

- [Running Sheet Bureau/Division meeting](#)
- [Presentation on the Implementation of the UNEG Strategic Plan and Programme of Work](#)
- [Project proposal - Strengthening collaboration between UN-GGIM and UNEG](#)
- [Draft decision on Exonyms](#)

Meeting 2021

📅 [Inaugural Meeting, 19 November 2021](#)

- [Concept Note Inaugural meeting](#)
- [Running Sheet Bureau/Division meeting](#)
- [Notes of Inaugural meeting](#)
- [Presentation Norden Division](#)

Important to share the documentation from each meeting on the webpages for increased communication and reference. It also provides a record of Divisional participation and contribution.

https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/meetings/Bureau_Meetings/



Presentation of Divisional Reports

Agenda item 4b will be moderated by the UNGEGN Chair- Pierre
Modality - item 4b will be dealt with as was done in past sessions of the “new” UNGEGN.
Note that Divisional reports are for information and not presentation.

The proposed choreography is as follows:

1. To facilitate discussions – which seeks to identify best practices and operational models used by divisions, the Chair would have read all divisional reports. He prepares a brief summary and list of questions he deems relevant to advancing UNGEGN’s mandate and supporting that of the Divisions.
2. The Chair opens the agenda and delivers the summary on the divisional reports and then proceeds to ask questions of divisional chairs.
3. The divisional chairs may not be notified beforehand that they will be asked a question, and therefore should be prepared to be called upon to respond to questions from the Chair.
4. Next the Chair opens the floor for other questions
5. The Chair closes with a summary.



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National Dialogue

Themes and moderators

Day 1 - National names standardization (moderator, Susan Birtles)

Day 2 - Cultural aspects of geographical names standardization (moderator Wendy Shaw)

Day 3 - Technology, innovation and standards for geographical names data management (moderator Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu)

Day 4 - Cooperation, training and promotion (moderator Peder Gammeltoft)

Day 5 - Other topics and conclusions (moderator Catherine Cheetham)

Countries have been notified of dialogue procedure and are to;

- Indicate acceptance of theme and topic by 31st March 2023
- Submit to UNGEGN Secretariat their power point and speaking notes by 10 April 2023

Received acceptance from 8 countries to date.



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National Dialogue contd.

1. Each morning of the session, 45 minutes will be allocated to consider national geographical names standardization topics, grouped into themes and topics which were identified within national reports.
2. Heads of national delegations will be invited to present one topic from their report, for 2-3 minutes.
3. Your 2–3-minute oral presentation may be accompanied by one (1) PowerPoint slide. On each day there will be a moderator to facilitate the theme's discussion.
4. After the presentation of all reports for the theme, the floor will be open for questions from the moderator and/or delegates.
5. It is estimated that ten (10) reports will be presented and discussed per day.
6. On the fifth day, Friday 5th May, following the final presentation of national reports, the moderator will deliver an action-oriented summary of all five days presentations and deliberations, which will be included in the final session report.



Responsibilities Division chairs

- A report and the responsibilities included in the annex has been prepared (jointly by UNGEGN Bureau and secretariat).
- The report and annex will be presented under agenda item 4b.
- The Group of Experts will be asked to adopt the guidelines.

ANNEX

Responsibilities of Divisional Chairs and Executive Group

The Chair of an UNGEGN Division is the main contact point with the countries of the Division, with other Divisions, and with the UNGEGN Secretariat, and is the primary representative of the Division at UNGEGN Sessions.

Responsibilities of a Division Chair can generally be viewed as providing leadership, in the following ways:

1. Providing a focal point for information flow both ways between UNGEGN/UNGEGN Secretariat and the countries of the division and where necessary representing the division at UNGEGN sessions
2. Participating in virtual meetings with the UNGEGN Bureau, or in-person meetings during UNGEGN sessions
3. Passing information to countries of the division, for example:
 - a. from meetings with the UNGEGN Bureau
 - b. about both UNGEGN and any regional activities
 - c. about UN-GGIM, UNESCO in relation to activities associated with UNGEGN
4. Providing leadership to countries of the division to achieve national standardization of geographical names, for example by:
 - a. stimulating the concepts of national geographical names standardization in countries of the division
 - b. encouraging non-participating countries to consider aspects of names standardization
 - c. working with those countries that are wishing/endeavouring to establish names authorities
 - d. encouraging countries to provide authoritative data to the UNGEGN World Geographical Names Database
5. Providing leadership to the division to expand knowledge of geographical names standardization through activities, for example by:
 - a. organizing some form of forum for discussion of common linguistic/geographical naming issues (in-person or zoom meetings, symposia, webinars, etc.), with notifications to the UNGEGN Secretariat for inclusion on the UNGEGN website
 - b. co-ordinating (or overseeing) any projects on common aspects of toponymic activities of the countries that make up the division
 - c. discussing, assisting, etc. with follow up within the division of UN Conference resolutions, UNGEGN decisions, and implementation of the UNGEGN Strategic Plan and Programme of Work
6. Coordinating activities within the division, for example by:
 - a. ensuring the continuity of geographical names standardization activities at the divisional level in future years
 - b. maintaining a list of contacts for names authorities, experts, etc. within the division
 - c. encouraging divisional participation at UNGEGN sessions
 - d. contributing pertinent information from the division for UNGEGN Information Bulletins and, if appropriate, recommending Bulletin themes of relevance to the division
 - e. preparing and submitting a divisional report to UNGEGN sessions
 - f. maintaining a website for division information, or providing such information for upload to divisional pages of the UNGEGN website
7. Providing a bridge to other activities of UNGEGN and to other groups involved with toponymy, for example by:
 - a. forging links with other UNGEGN divisions and/or Working Groups, as appropriate
 - b. promoting the concepts of geographical names standardization to relevant government bodies, academia, private businesses, special interest groups, the media, etc.



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Become a member of UNGEGN Meet and Greet Team

- Volunteers are invited to participate in this initiative.
- Responsibilities are to meet new delegates, welcome them to the UNGEGN family of experts and provide guidance and support during the week as deemed necessary.
- A goodie bag is to be provided – UNGEGN lapel pin, post card, layout of UN conference building – location of cafes etc.
- Interested persons are asked to send a note to Cecille at blake1@un.org and Vilma at frani@un.org indicating willingness to participate in this initiative.



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Special Presentations

1. UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues UNPFII	UN Decade of Indigenous Languages The place of geographical names in the framework of the convention of 2003 on the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage. SPEAKER IDENTIFIED AND TO BE FORMALIZED
2. Herder Institute Chair -Pier-Giorgio	Searching and comparing place names from existing gazetteers CONFIRMED TO ATTEND 2023 SESSION
3. OCHA UNOOSA UNHCR	providing emergency aid and the problems encountered when standardized names (and associated maps and data) have not been readily available in contrast to situations where this information has been easily at hand. STILL TO IDENTIFY SPEAKER
4.	GNSS navigation and geolocation What are their data sources, how do they deal with languages and scripts, how can we help improve and update the data, etc. SUGGESTIONS NEED FOR THIS SPEAKER
5. Google	Ethan Russell and Osi Peters from Google would be interested in giving a special presentation - TO RECEIVE FIRM CONFIRMATION



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Panel Discussions

Panel 1

“Strengthening relationships, links and connections in geographical names standardization and for sustainable development and pandemic recovery”

Date: Tuesday 2nd May 2023

Timeslot: 3:00-6:00 pm

Time frame: 45 minutes

Chair: Sungjae Choo, Republic of Korea, UNGEGN Vice Chair

Panellists:

1. Mohamad Arief Syafii, Deputy of Basic Geospatial Information, BIG, Indonesia
2. Charles Brigham, Esri
3. Cole Kelleher, SCAR/SCAGI
4. Guillaume Le Sourd, UN Geospatial Information Section

Panel 2

“Connection between geographical names and the environment”

Date: Wednesday 3rd May 2023

Timeslot: 3:00-6:00 pm

Time frame: 45 minutes

Chair: Susan Birtles, Australia –UNEGN Vice Chair

Panellists:

1. Peter Jordan, Austria
2. Andreas Hadjiraftis, Cyprus
3. Rita Viliuviene, Lithuania
4. Abdullah Alwelaie, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Side events

[Side event guideline and online form](#) available on Session webpage under **Other Documents** tab.

Nine (9) side event applications have been submitted.



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Proposal National Report Outline

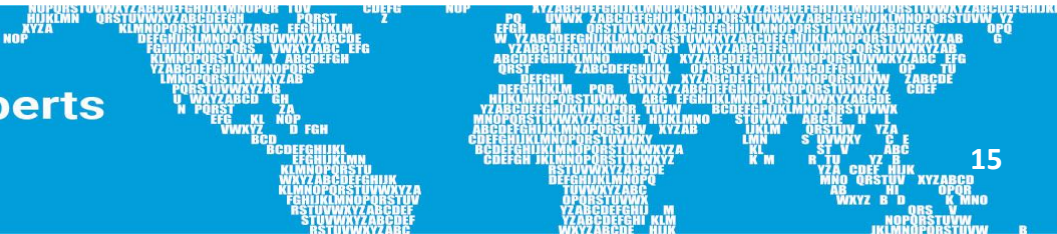
Presenter : Darina Porubčanová, past chair of ECSEE Division

DISCUSSION/FEEDBACK



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UN-GGIM/UNGEEN project proposal

Project Title

Preparation of a compendium of institutional arrangements on shared good practices between national mapping agencies and national names authorities

Objectives

This proposal invites National Mapping Agencies (NMAs) and National Geographical Names Authorities (NGNAs) 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.

- i. To build a stronger relationship between the Group of Experts and the Committee of Experts.
- ii. 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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UN-GGIM/UNGEEN project proposal

The proposal was circulated at last Bureau/Division meeting. Have had feedback from 3 divisions.

- A report is prepared to be presented at the session under agenda item 5c – Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management.
- The Group of Experts is being asked to support the implementation of the proposed project. Noting the proposal has already been accepted by UN-GGIM.

QUESTION?

Do you think we need to have a virtual webinar in April to share the proposal to all UNGEEN members, or has the Divisions circulated the proposal among its members and they are aware of the proposal?



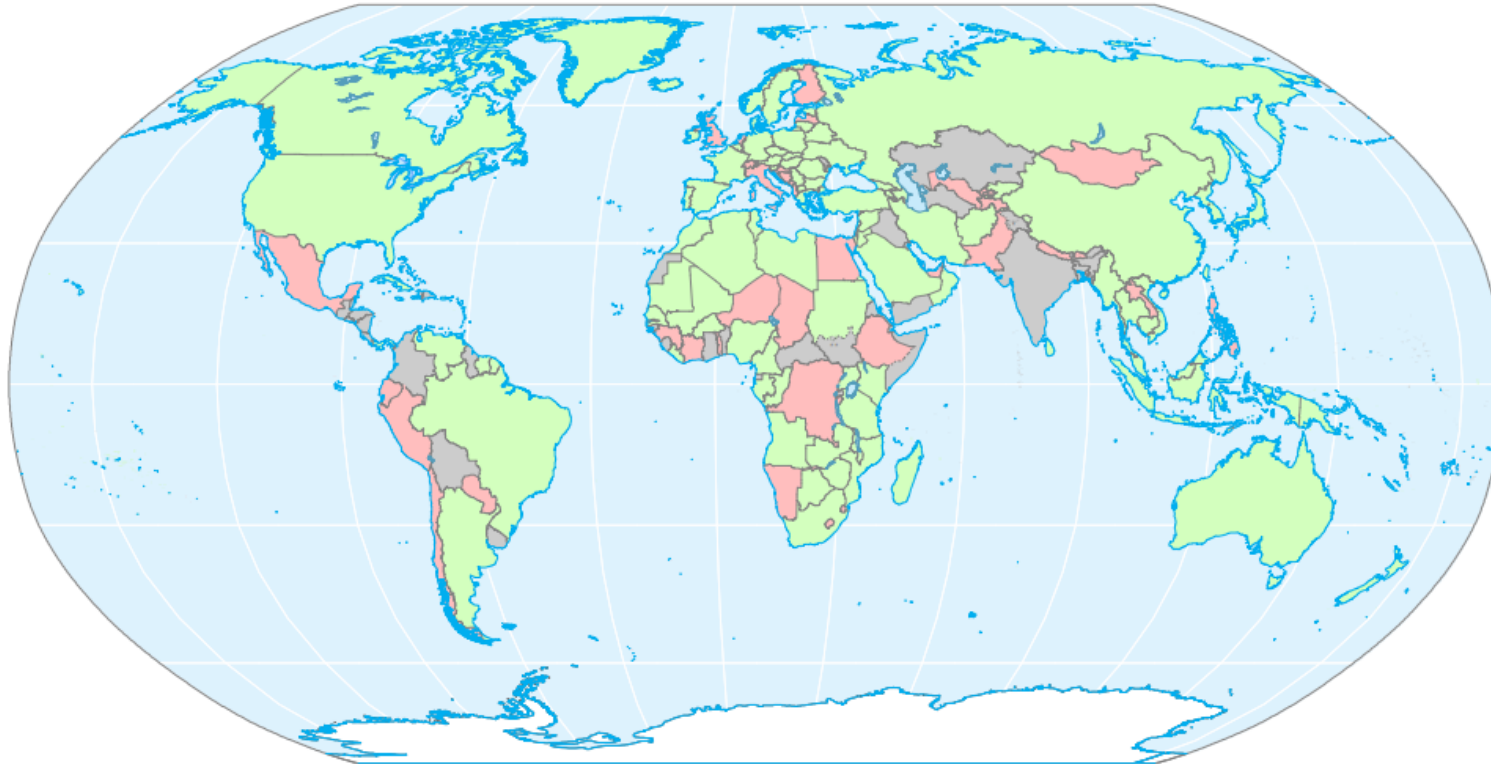
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Update National Names Authorities

Geographical Names Authorities (July 2016)

Current map is 7 years old
Below is Excel sheet to be updated.



- With National Names Authority
- No National Names Authority
- Status Unknown

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
**Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by Parties.*
***Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined.*

Best data as of June, 2016

Country	National Names Authority		
	Yes	No	?
Afghanistan	x		
Albania		x	
Algeria	x		
Andorra	x		
Angola	x		
Antigua and Barbuda			x
Argentina	x		
Armenia	x		
Australia	x		
Austria	x		
Azerbaijan	x		
Bahamas			x
Bahrain			x
Bangladesh			x
Barbados			x
Belarus	x		
Belgium	x		
Belize			x
Benin			x
Bhutan		x	
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)			x
Bosnia and Herzegovina		x	
Botswana	x		
Brazil	x		
Brunei Darussalam	x		
Bulgaria	x		
Burkina Faso	x		
Burundi		x	
Cabo Verde		x	
Cambodia	x		
Cameroon	x		
Canada	x		
Central African Republic			x

Next Meeting

Date of next Bureau/ Divisional Meeting
17 November 2023



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UNGEEN Secretariat
United Nations
New York

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E-mail: geoinfo_unsd@un.org

twitter: @UNSD_GEGN



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