

# UNGEKN Linguistic/Geographical Division Creation and Dissolution Guidelines

## 1. Objective

These guidelines are being tabled to provide guidance to Member States on the requirements and procedures needed to be followed to create and dissolve Divisions. UNGEKN has a history of creating and dissolving divisions, evidenced by its existing 24 linguistic and geographical Divisions. Whereas the [UNGEKN Rules of Procedure](#) (Rule 47) outlines eight guidelines on the responsibilities and operations of Divisions, it is silent on the creation and dissolution of Divisions. The knowledge on how Divisions are created and dissolved, resides in resolutions, Conference and Session reports and the institutional memory of former UNGEKN Chairs

## 2. Precedents on the creation of Divisions

The following provides documentary evidence supporting the creation of three divisions.

### **Portuguese-speaking Division**

24th UNGEKN session, 2007, [WP 10](#). Followed by [resolution IX/3](#) at the Ninth Conference in 2007.

### **French-speaking Division**

18th UNGEKN session, 1996: [WP 76](#) and Report of the session, [GEGN/18](#) paragraphs 40 and 41.

19th UNGEKN session, 1998, [WP 4](#) (including proposal for resolution) and Report of the session, [GEGN/19](#) paragraphs 39-43 + Annex III (English version of proposal for resolution Seventh Conference, 1998, resolution VII/1 final version of the resolution

### **Baltic Division**

16th UNGEKN session, 1992, Report of the session, [GEGN/16](#), paragraph 33  
Sixth Conference, 1992, paper [E/CONF.85/L.75](#) (Report of Estonia, paragraph 18) and [E/CONF.85/L.77](#); Report of the conference, [E/CONF.85/3](#), Paragraph 33 and resolution VI/1

## 3. Introduction

To create or dissolve a Division, a Member State(s) makes a submission- a report with the recommendation to the Group of Experts. This means that a paper must be prepared and submitted under the Divisional agenda item of the provisional agenda for the session. The

paper should outline the issues and justification why the division is to be created or dissolved, the potential implications and include the recommendation to create or dissolve the division.

Consultations across UNGEGN Member States must be done to inform them of the intention to create or dissolve the division and to gain their feedback. Any issues that may arise would be discussed and addressed during the consultations.

The report and recommendation would be prepared and submitted to the Secretariat for tabling at the session. When the recommendation is tabled during the session Member States would have already known about the request to create or dissolve the Division. At which time the decision would be made – to approve or not approve.

### **Guidelines on the Creation and Dissolution of Divisions**

- 1) Stated rationale for the creation of a new division. How will it assist/benefit its Member States with the standardization of their geographical names?
- 2) Member States to be included in the proposed division need to be consulted and agree on the usefulness and purpose of the division.
- 3) A list of the constituent countries and their written agreement of support for the division is required. Briefings and consultations must be conducted, where relevant stakeholders (Diplomats and/or heads of delegations from countries involved) advocate and supported the value of creating a new division.
- 4) Member States can belong to more than one division, but the existence of a new division should not impact negatively on existing divisions. This acceptance should be ascertained ahead of the UNGEGN session.
- 5) A report and proposal to UNGEGN, with a "recommendation" is to be prepared, to be accepted by the UNGEGN plenary session.
- 6) The same procedures from 1 to 5 should be applied for the dissolution of Divisions.