

United Nations Nations Unies

HEADQUARTERS • SIEGE NEW YORK, NY 10017

TEL.: 1 (212) 963.1234 • FAX: 1 (212) 963.4879

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The Secretary-General of the United Nations presents his compliments to the Permanent Representatives of Member States and to the Permanent Observers of Non-Member States to the United Nations and has the honour to inform them that pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution [E/RES/2018/2](#) of 10 November 2017 and decision 2018/208, the first session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names will be held at United Nations Headquarters from 29 April to 3 May 2019 in New York.

The United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names comprises representatives of States Members of the United Nations, including experts appointed by Governments, and will focus on technical issues associated with the standardization of geographical names that may, where appropriate, support relevant aspects of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The session will provide a forum to encourage national and international geographical names standardization. The session will also promote the international dissemination of nationally standardized geographical names information; and adoption of single romanization systems for the conversion of each non-Roman writing system to the Roman alphabet. Moreover the session will encourage liaison and coordination among Member States, and between Member States and international organizations, on the standardization of geographical names, as well as facilitate the provision of scientific and technical help, in particular to developing countries, in creating mechanisms for the national and international standardization of geographical names.

The provisional agenda for the session is contained in document GEGN2/2019/1, and a note on documentation for the session is contained in document GEGN2/2019/INF 1.

In order to assist the Secretariat with its preparation for the first session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, the Secretary-General would be grateful to receive as soon as possible and not later than 18 March 2019, details concerning the names of the delegates designated by the Governments of the Permanent Representatives to attend the session.

The Secretary-General avails himself of this opportunity to request those Governments which may wish to submit technical papers in support of items of the provisional agenda, to do so no later than 28 January 2019, in accordance with the procedures outlined in document GEGN2/2019/INF 1. It is essential that the documents be kept to a reasonable length, not exceeding 10 pages in any case.