1st UNGEGN Session

Newcomers Orientation Session

William Watt, Australia
Chair of UNGEGN,
29 April, 2019
UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names

Session Orientation

Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)
United Nations Headquarters, New York
The UNGEGN Bureau and Secretariat welcome you to New York, the United Nations and the 2019 Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographic Names (UNEGGN). This is the first session of the new UNGEGN, operating under the adjusted methodology proposed at the last United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names and decided by ECOSOC at its meeting in July 2018.

This presentation is aimed at introducing delegates and observers who are attending the session for the first time, to the formal procedures of a United Nations inter-governmental meeting.

It is hoped that this presentation will assist first-time delegates and observers to have a productive and rewarding week at the United Nations headquarters.
What is important to know?

1. The United Nations
2. Background on UNGEGN
   – Aims of the Group
   – Bureau, Working Groups and Divisions
   – Major work/agenda items
3. Your role BEFORE/DURING/AFTER Sessions
   – Side events
   – Rules of Procedure
   – Interventions
4. Meeting Documents
   – Annotated Provisional Agenda
   – Organization of work
   – Reports
UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names

- A subsidiary body of ECOSOC
- Develops procedures and establish mechanisms for standardization in response to national requirements
- Creates and follows up on the implementation of resolutions
- Supported by a Secretariat at UNHQ (NY)
- Creates working groups to focus on specific areas of current concern and interest
- Has 24 geographical/linguistic divisions for grass roots work
What UNGEGN is **NOT**

- Decision maker on feature names
- Point of arbitration on disputes over names
- Place to air political issues, even if they are related in some way to place names
- Decision maker on what processes, legislation or policy is correct for any country
UNGEVN aims

- Encourage the creation of national names authorities
  - backed by legislation
  - respect local usage of names
  - collect, store and disseminate authorized names - for government and public use
- Develop single scientifically-based systems of romanization
- Encourage multi-national datasets
- Collect and facilitate the dissemination of works on place names standardization
- Study and propose principles, policies and methods suitable for helping to resolve general problems of national and international standardization
UNGEGN Structure

Supported by the UN Statistical Division through the UNGEGN Secretariat

**Working groups**

- Country Names
- Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers
- Publicity and Funding
- Toponymic Terminology
- Romanization Systems
- Training Courses in Toponymy
- Evaluation & Implementation
- Exonyms
- Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage

**Divisions**

24 linguistic/geographical divisions

- Task Team for Africa
- Toponymic Guidelines Coordinator

**UNGEGN Bureau**

**UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN)**

**UNGEGN Secretariat (UN Statistics Division)**

UNGEGN liaison with scientific groups
UNGEIGN working groups

- Romanization
- Training
- Data files / gazetteers
- Evaluation / implementation
- Terminology
- Exonyms
- Cultural heritage

- Country names
- Task Team for Africa
- Coordination of Toponymic Guidelines

United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names
UNGE GN Bureau

Officers of UNGEGN

Chairperson
• Mr. William Watt, Australia

Vice-Chairpersons
• Ms. Naima Friha, Tunisia
• Mr. Hasanuddin Abidin, Indonesia

Rapporteurs
• Mr. Trent C. Palmer, USA
• Mr. Sungjae Choo, Republic of Korea
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Division</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa Central</td>
<td>Baltic</td>
<td>India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa East</td>
<td>Celtic</td>
<td>Latin America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa South</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>Norden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa West</td>
<td>Dutch- and German-speaking</td>
<td>Pacific South-West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>East Central and South-East Europe</td>
<td>Portuguese-speaking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia East (other than China)</td>
<td>Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia</td>
<td>Romano-Hellenic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia South-East</td>
<td>East Mediterranean (other than Arabic)</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia South-West (other than Arabic)</td>
<td>French-speaking</td>
<td>United States / Canada</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
UNGEKN Liaison with other Organizations

1. International Cartographic Association (ICA)
2. Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)
3. International Council of Onomastic Sciences (ICOS)
4. International Council on Indigenous Place Names (ICIPN)
5. International Hydrographic Organization (IHO)
6. International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Technical Committee 211 (TC/211)
7. Pan-American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH)
8. Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR)
9. Unicode Consortium
BEFORE the Session

Participants are encouraged to:

1. Prepare country reports, technical papers, and posters
2. Identify and know the responsible officer(s) with Foreign Affairs in Capital and at your Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York
3. Logistical arrangements:
   - Travel and accommodation
   - Securing and submitting accreditation for participation
4. Make arrangements to process your UN grounds pass
5. Monitor the UNGEGN website for updates and reports
6. Read the technical reports, discuss and decide on national positions and prepare statements/interventions.
The New York Resource Guide

The information helps to prepare you for your trip to and during your stay in New York.

It covers:
1. Meeting arrangements
2. Identification Badges and Grounds Passes
3. Secretariat Contact Information
4. Working Languages of the meeting
5. General Information
   - Immigration requirements
   - Money
   - Hotels – Address and Telephone Numbers
   - Guide to Neighborhood Restaurants
   - Airports
   - Transportation – Airport and local
   - Postal Services
   - Time and Weather

# Table of Side Events

### 29 April 2019 (Monday)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Morning</th>
<th>Lunchtime</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Workshop on XI.2.1: head counts and sex ratios</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venue: CR-C (General Assembly Hq)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact: Mr. Henry Blomgren</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:henry.blomgren@un.org">henry.blomgren@un.org</a></td>
<td></td>
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### 30 April 2019 (Tuesday)

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<tr>
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### 1 May 2019 (Wednesday)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Morning</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Workshop on: Land Use and the Environment</td>
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### 2 May 2019 (Thursday)

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Table of Side Events

• It is important that you refer to the Table of Side Events for schedules and updated information of formal and informal events over the week – 29 April to 3 May 2019

• Identify the events you wish to attend and note the times and venues. Any changes will be reflected on the web-site

• Divisional meetings, and working group meetings, may be closed to observers (unless invited to attend)

• Interpretation is not provided for the side events
The policies and regulations governing the meetings of the UNGEGN are laid out in the Rules of Procedure. (Decision 2018/264)

They constitute a set of procedures and conducts that ensures the proper functioning of meetings.

All participants are obliged to respect these rules and follow the procedures.

The Rules of procedure are available here:

Rules of Procedure UNGEGN

- **DEFINITIONS**  Rule 2
- **COMPOSITION**  Rule 3
- **REPRESENTATION FOR SESSIONS**  Rule 4
- **SESSIONS**  Rule 5
- **AGENDA**  Rule 6
- **BUREAU**  Rules 7 to 9
- **SECRETARIAT**  Rules 10 to 12
- **CONDUCT OF BUSINESS**  Rules 13 to 24
- **DECISION MAKING**  Rules 25 to 36

- **ELECTIONS**  Rules 37 to 39
- **LANGUAGES AND INTERPRETATION**  Rules 40 to 41
- **DOCUMENTS**  Rules 42 to 43
- **RECORDS AND MEETINGS**  Rules 44 to 45
- **SUBSIDIARY BODIES**  Rules 46 to 47
- **PARTICIPATION OF OBSERVERS**  Rule 48
- **AMENDMENTS**  Rule 49
Meeting Document Symbols

**Example Symbol:**

GEGN.2/2019/11/107

- **GEGN.2**: Session number assigned to UNGEGN
- **2019**: Year of the session
- **11**: Agenda item
- **107**: Document number

- **CRP**: conference room paper
- **INF**: Information
Essential Conference documents

Annotated Provisional Agenda
List of all items to be considered during the session with Agenda Item numbering

Organization of work
Detailed listing of Agenda Items that will be chronologically brought before the Group of Experts for considerations

Symbols e.g.
- GEGN.2/2019/1
- GEGN.2/2019/3
- GEGN.2/2019/5/CRP/20

Summaries
A brief summary for each Agenda Item.
Reports and Background Documents

Reports are prepared by working groups, divisions, Member States or secretariat as appropriate. They are available on the Session /Meeting webpages. Document as listed, has a document number/symbol, a title and may have a summary.

All Summaries for are available in all six official UN languages. Reports documents are only available in its original language of submission.

Participants are encouraged to read all documents and identify issues to be discussed.
DURING the 1st Session

Participants are encouraged to:

- Contact your Permanent Mission in New York
- Have your Mission register you on E-deleGATE
- Become acquainted with the UNGEGN agenda work items
- Actively contribute to the discussions through statements and interventions
- Share your experiences, ideas and solutions
- Identify working groups in which to participate
- Join in the side events

Why it is important to actively participate:

- An ideal forum for networking
- Recharge technically and reconnect with experts
- Let your country's achievements and requirements be known
DURING the 1st Session

- Seating –by country and by divisions for working group agenda items
- Be short and concise in your interventions -how to intervene
- Speak to the Chair of session
- How to address them or refer to other experts;
- line of speakers
- wait to be asked to speak;
- what to press to speak
- how the buttons work to indicate you wish to speak
- Speak slowly to allow the Interpreters to go a good job.
- responding only when invited by the Chair, not directly to another expert
YOUR role BETWEEN Sessions

Participants are encouraged to:

- Contribute to advancing the UNGEGN work programme
  - Communicate nationally the decisions from the previous conferences and current sessions
  - Advocate and implement nationally the policies and decisions
  - Actively engage with your Divisions:- activities, areas of focus
  - Use the vast body of knowledge contained in the papers and resolutions.
- Participate in UNGEGN division meetings and working groups
- Contribute your documents, national experiences etc. to the UNGEGN Bulletin and databases, maintained by the Secretariat and Working Groups
- Monitor the UNGEGN website for latest geospatial activities
- Tweet at @UNSD_GEGN
THANK YOU
FOR YOUR ATTENTION

UNEGGN Secretariat
United Nations
New York

E-mail: geoinfo_unsd@un.org

twitter: @UNSD_GEGN