

5 February 2019
English
Original: English and French

United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

2019 session

New York, 29 April–3 May 2019

Item 10 of the provisional agenda*

**Activities on national standardization in Africa
(Task Team for Africa)**

Report of the Task Team for Africa

Summary**

The United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, aware of the specificity of Africa with regard to geographical names and the fact that a large number of languages in Africa are derived from unwritten languages, has been concerned about the problem of geographical names in Africa since the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names. It has been clearly indicated at the Conferences that there is a need to start thinking about practical ways to help African countries to properly manage their geographical names.

Given the limited progress made since then, and in order to help African countries to benefit more from the standardization of geographical names, a task team for Africa was set up at the twenty-second session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, held in 2004.

The Task Team for Africa was responsible in particular for conducting an assessment and for proposing appropriate solutions for the promotion of the standardization of geographical names in Africa and initiating relevant actions thereon, especially the establishment of entities responsible for the standardization of geographical names in each African country.

The full report includes all the actions undertaken by the Task Team for Africa since 2004 and includes proposals for new initiatives to further the development of geographical name activities in Africa.

* [GEGN.2/2019/1](#).

** The full report was prepared by Brahim Atoui, Coordinator, Task Team for Africa. The report will be available at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/1st_session_UNGEGN.html, in the language of submission only, as document GEGN.2/2019/15/CRP.15.

