

14 February 2019

Original: English

United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

2019 session

New York, 29 April–3 May 2019

Item 13 of the provisional agenda*

**Geographical names as culture, heritage and identity,
including indigenous, minority and regional languages
and multilingual issues (Working Group on
Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage)**

Geographical names as sociocultural objects and their organization

Summary**

The full report highlights, on the one hand, the main areas of the work of the Bulgarian national authority for the standardization of geographical names, the Council for the Standardization of Geographical Names of the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works: the sociocultural description and survey of geographical names and the establishment of norms for keeping and organizing them in accessible and functional registers. It is an activity similar in nature and significance to that of preserving cultural monuments and is based on a complex approach in which geographical names are considered as:

- Part of the historical and cultural heritage
- Part of the spatial data infrastructure
- Systems of writing and pronunciation

The report also provides information on the registry of geographical names, a web-based application, which ensures uniformity and consistency in the use of geographical names and their storage, timely updating and dissemination.

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

** The full report was prepared by the Geodesy and Cartography Department of the Bulgarian Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre Agency. 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.2/2019/52/CRP.52.

