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**United Nations Group of Experts on
Geographical Names****2019 session**

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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)****Registration of field names in the Tyrol in the National
Inventory of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Austria****Summary****

The Government of Austria ratified the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 2009. The Austrian Commission for UNESCO has since maintained a list called the National Inventory of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. The inclusion of items in the inventory leads to the greater visibility of registered cultural elements and increased respect for intangible heritage in general. The inventory is compiled through a bottom-up process, an advisory panel selecting which cultural elements may be added to the list. There are certain criteria that serve as guidelines for transparent decision-making by the panel.

Since the conclusion in 2016 of the crowdsourcing-based survey of field names in the Tyrol, which was given as a special presentation at the Eleventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, the aim of the informants has been to ensure the acceptance of collected field names as part of the inventory. To fulfil the necessary criteria, applicants had to describe how field names worked as part of the intangible heritage (in terms of current practice and historical origin), show how a cultural element would be documented, explain the risks that there would be for the preservation of the element and finally document the measures that would be taken to prevent the loss of the element.

The full report is aimed at documenting the application process so that it may serve as a guideline on how place names could be adopted as part of the intangible heritage in other countries and regions.

* GEGN.2/2019/1.

** The full report was prepared by Gerhard Rampl, Department of Languages and Literature: Linguistics, University of Innsbruck. 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.2/2019/66/CRP.66.

