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**United Nations Group of Experts on
Geographical Names
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Item 8 of the provisional agenda*

**Social and economic benefits, supporting sustainable
development, measures taken and proposed for the
implementation of resolutions and evaluation of the work
of the Group of Experts (Working Group on Evaluation
and Implementation)**

**Street naming as an effort to narrow the gaps between local
authorities in Israel**

Summary**

In the full paper, the author reviews the treatment of street naming in Israel, considering aspects of processes related to local and central government interfaces, the legal infrastructure and the implementation on site and in the central government computer systems. The common thread among these aspects is the importance of street naming to the welfare of the population of Israel in general and to efforts to narrow the gaps between the various local authorities in the country.

In September 2015, the General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The Goals are aimed at mobilizing countries to end all forms of poverty, fight inequalities and tackle climate change, while ensuring that no one is left behind. The effort of street naming, particularly in disadvantaged municipalities, relates to a significant number of the 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development Goals, including: Goal 1 – no poverty; Goal 3 – good health and well-being; Goal 8 – decent work and economic growth; Goal 10 – reduced inequality; and Goal 11 – sustainable cities and communities.

In the light of the adoption by the General Assembly of the Goals, the Government of Israel has made significant decisions aimed at addressing the challenges of the most disadvantaged population groups and local authorities in Israel. Among these are resolutions 922 and 959, which allocate budgets of 10 billion new Israeli shekel (\$3 billion) and 1.8 billion new Israeli shekel (\$0.5 billion), respectively, for the economic development of minority populations in Israel and for

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

** The full report was prepared by Lior Shachar, Chair of a Designated Advisory Committee for street naming that operates under the Ministry of the Interior of Israel. 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.2/2019/82/CRP.82.



empowering the local authorities of minorities in the country. One of the items for action addressed in both resolutions concerns how to treat the naming of streets and the numbering of houses in the local authorities of minority populations since it has become clear that many such disadvantaged municipalities are impacted by a lack of street names.

The absence of recognized, computerized and formal street names creates many obstacles for such populations, including aspects related to directions for emergency medical and rescue forces in urgent cases, as well as more trivial aspects, such as the delivery of mail, goods and services that are required for the healthy development of the population. With regard to the economic aspect, there are thousands of small businesses in Israel that are unable to break out of the boundaries of small settlements and into the mass market of Israel, and vice versa.

In the report, the author describes various aspects of street naming in Israel, including the methodology of street naming as a component in the relations between the central and local governments and as a tool to narrow the gaps between the various local authorities in the country.
