
United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

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Reports: Governments on the situation in their countries and on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names

Geographical Names Activities in Tunisia 2017-2019

Submitted by Tunisia **

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Geographical Names Activities in Tunisia 2017-2019

1. Activities of the National Committee of toponymy

Since its creation in 2013 by **Decree No. 1299/2013 dated February 26th 2013** (Official Journal of the Tunisian Republic No. 20 of March 8th 2013; <http://www.iort.gov.tn/>), the National Committee of Toponymy has been conducting several activities within the framework of activating and implementing the requirements of the above mentioned Decree in order to preserve the geographical names as part of the national heritage of the country.

The most important activities of the Committee during the period 2017-2019 , ie since the 11th UNGCN can be summarized as follows:

- a. Pursuant to **Article 6 of the Decree N° 1299/2013** and to the "**UNGEKN Resolution V/15: Establishment of national geographical names authorities**" and "**UNGEKN Resolution X/10: Support for the work on the standardization of geographical names**", periodic meetings were held, as well as a number of additional working sessions that resulted in the following outputs:

- Issuance of the **Circular of the Chief of Government No. 22 dated September 7th 2017**, related to the procedures of the assignment of Tunisian geographical names (<http://www.iort.gov.tn/>),

- In the context of the amendment of **Article 4 of the Decree No. 1299/2013**, concerning the designation of the members of the Committee, a new **Governmental Decree No. 621 dated 26 July 2018** was created to amend the previous **Decree 1299/2013** (<http://www.iort.gov.tn/>) ,

- Pursuant to the **Circular of the Chief of Government No.22 dated September 7th 2017**, the National Committee of Toponymy reviews the proposals from various sources in the country about the geographical features new naming, in accordance with **the form** prepared by the Committee for the purpose. In this frame, the Committee has reviewed approximately 70 proposals including new naming or renaming,

- In accordance with the "**UNGEKN Resolution VIII/2: Commemorative naming practices for geographical features**", A **Governmental Decree** on the procedures related to assigning names of natural persons to geographical features, regarding mainly the banning of naming places after persons who are still alive and the length of waiting period before using a commemorative name, except for the martyrs of the nation, is in progress for ratification and issuance.

- b. In accordance with the "**UNGEKN Resolution VIII / 6: Integration of geographical names data into national and regional spatial data infrastructure**", the National Committee of Toponymy continues to work on

establishing the national database for geographical names to be exploited in various national projects mainly the ongoing National Geospatial Infrastructure (NGI) for which it will be one of its 4 databases (Topographic DB, Orthophoto DB, Toponymic DB and Cadastral DB).

2. Participation in international meetings related to the field of geographical names:

In accordance with the UNGEGN resolutions:

"Resolution X/10: Support for the work on the standardization of geographical names", "Resolution V/6: Promotion of national and international geographical names standardization programs" and "Resolution I/7: Regional meetings", the National Center for Cartography and Remote Sensing participated at:

- The 5th meeting of the UNGGIM Arab Committee of Experts held in Muscat - Oman from 19-21 February 2018,
- The sixth meeting of the UNGGIM Arab Committee of Experts held in Jeddah - Saudi Arabia from 18-20 February 2019.

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