UNITED NATIONS
GROUP OF EXPERTS ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
Geographical Names Supporting Sustainable Development and Management of the Pandemic

2021 Session UNGEGN | 3 - 7 May 2021 | @UNSD_GEGN #2021UNGEGN

STATEMENT/INTERVENTION

Agenda Item Number: 10	
Agenda Item Title: Toponymic Education	
Title of paper/report: Streamed audiovisual lectures on toponymy	
Statement/intervention provided by: Helen Kerfoot (Canada)	
Statement/intervention:	

We appreciate the detailed account of the former convenor of the WG on Training Courses in Toponymy regarding the resources that have been made generally available from training courses held across the world since the first one in held in Indonesia in 1982.

As a member of the training team over a number of years, I understand how much the courses were appreciated, but also realize that the number of individuals reached by in-person training, and even by the published documentation, has remained rather limited. The development of online training with ICA and the preparation of the more advanced material in the UNGEGN *Toponymy Training Manual* have added to available resources for those developing geographical names standardization programmes.

However, the restrictions of Covid-19 have paved the way for greater use of webinars and similar ways of streaming educational material. We support the proposal for the Working Group to focus efforts on developing lecture units, starting with basic concepts of geographical names standardization. We also encourage the Working Group to collaborate with Divisions to look at the range of UN language possibilities when seeking suitably qualified presenters and to gather examples to be used in the course units.

Possible addition to the Decisions of Agenda item 10:

UNGEGN shows support for the proposal to develop on-line lectures in toponymy, suggests that the Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy collaborate with Divisions on content and finding suitable presenters in different UN languages, and encourages Member States to indicate the topics most useful to them in developing their geographical names standardization programmes

Submitted on:	4/23/2021