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**United Nations Group of Experts on
Geographical Names****2021 session**

Virtual, 3–7 May 2021

Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda*

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

The report of Sweden is divided into six sections. The first section provides a short overview of the legislation and of the main authorities involved in the standardization of geographical names. The second, on names in multilingual areas, includes comments on the activities carried out to increase the density of minority language place names in the Sami and Tornedalian areas in Sweden. The third section offers a description of several government initiatives aimed at increasing support for national minorities and minority languages in Sweden. The Institute for Language and Folklore is one expert body that has been consulted on these initiatives. This section also reports on the Institute's efforts to enhance educational and cultural activities within minority language revitalization for the national minorities through government grant schemes. The fourth section offers a presentation of the work of the Geographical Names Network. The Network is consulted on specific name questions, including issuing recommendations on names of organizations and authorities and names relating to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs publication *Utrikes namnbok* (a list of translations of names of countries and designations for their nationals). The fifth section presents the updated place names register at the Institute of Language and Folklore. Its collections of place names comprise, in total, some 3.7 million index cards. The database publishes place names used in Sweden from the earliest times to the present day, with information on their meanings, spelling and pronunciation. The final section provides a list of articles and books on place names and place name standardization written by Swedish experts.

The following resolutions adopted at the United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names are particularly relevant to the present work on name standardization in Sweden:

* [GEGN.2/2021/1](#).

** The full report was prepared by Ebba Berling Åselius and Annette Torensjö. It will be available under document symbol GEGN.2/2021/49/CRP.49, in the language of submission only, at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/2nd_session_2021/.



- 1972: resolution II/36 (E/CONF.61/4) on problems in minority languages (sects. 2–3)
 - 2002: resolution VIII/9 ([E/CONF.94/3](#)) on geographical names as (intangible) cultural heritage (sect. 5)
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