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

Virtual, 3–7 May 2021

Item 4 (b) of the provisional agenda*

Reports: divisions of the Group of Experts**Report of the Pacific South-West Division****Summary****

The Pacific South-West Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names consists of experts from Australia, Fiji, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tonga and Vanuatu. It was formed in 2012 after the separation of the former Asia South-East and Pacific South-West Division. The Asia South-East Division was also formed in 2012.

Despite the fact that no divisional meetings have been held to date under the new arrangements, there is an existing relationship between the names authorities of Australia and New Zealand. The Pacific South-West Division is currently co-chaired by Australia and New Zealand as an interim arrangement, and options for connecting with and understanding the situation of other Member States within the Division are under consideration. The main role of the Interim Co-Chairs is to provide points of contact for Division members until the Division becomes formally established and elects its own officers. At that time, it will also be able to fully address its purpose and structure, as required under the rules of procedure of the Group of Experts (GEGN/30/2). That includes understanding each Division member's needs, for example, and alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals. The report contains a summary of the steps taken to activate the Division, as well as opportunities to engage with members and encourage their participation.

* GEGN.2/2021/1.

** The full report was prepared by Susan Birtles (Australia) and Wendy Shaw (New Zealand), Interim Co-Chairs of the Pacific South-West Division. The report will be available at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/2nd_session_2021/, in the language of submission only, as document GEGN.2/2021/7/CRP.7.

