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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 Argentina

#### Summary\*\*

Information is provided below on the activities, achievements and ongoing projects of the National Geographical Institute during the intersessional period, 2019–2021.

#### Links with the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

(a) Oral records for the website of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names: preparation and submission of recordings of the geographical names of cities with more than 100,000 inhabitants.

(b) Contribution to information bulletin No. 57 of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, published in November 2019: “Towards the standardization of geographical names in Argentina” (see [https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/pubs/Bulletin/UNGEKN\\_bulletin\\_no.57\\_rev.pdf](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/pubs/Bulletin/UNGEKN_bulletin_no.57_rev.pdf))

(c) Inputs to the 2021–2029 strategic plan of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names: submission of comments and suggestions in response to the Group’s request.

(d) Interaction with experts, working groups and the Latin America Division: communication with experts and heads of working groups regarding project development.

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\* [GEGN.2/2021/1](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/2nd_session_2021/).

\*\* The full report was prepared by Adriana Vescovo and María Dolores Puente. The report will be available, under symbol GEGN.2/2021/70/CRP.70, in the language of submission only, at [https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/2nd\\_session\\_2021/](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/2nd_session_2021/).



**Institutional developments**

(a) Preparation of the Handbook on the National Standardization of Geographical Names, Argentine Republic, version 1.0, 2020.

This is the first document produced by the Institute to analyse the entire process of the standardization of geographical names, from collection to dissemination. It provides background information and considers the process to be part of geospatial information management in the current technological and cultural context. It includes geographical names as georeferenced data and as intangible cultural heritage.

It emphasizes the need for the standardization of geographical names in the current map production process, as well as basic and essential data for spatial data infrastructure and as part of integrated geospatial information management.

The aim of the Handbook is to achieve uniformity in the spelling of geographical names in the Argentine Republic so that they can be recorded in an institutional geographical names database that will be considered as the only official source. Its proposed application goes beyond cartography, with the benefits of standardizing geographical names extending to the private, academic, non-governmental and civil society spheres.

(b) Concise National Gazetteer of Geographical Names at a scale of 1:5,000,000

This is an ongoing project that comprises the following phases: analysis of the international background, exchange of communications with experts, and definition of the approach, scope and methodology.

(c) Dissemination activities

- Addition of information on the background, mission and structure of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names to the website of the National Geographical Institute.
- Inclusion of the list of standardized country names prepared by the working group of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, for the benefit of publishers, users and producers of geospatial information and mapping.

(d) Other activities

- Presentation by the Institute on the standardization of geographical names, delivered as part of its communications cycle.
- Increased inter-agency relations with entities involved in the standardization of geographical names.
- Training, participation in sessions, forums and webinars of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management and its activities in the Americas during 2020.
- Provision of updated contact information to the Latin America Division and for the website of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.
- Submission of projects on geographical names to the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History (2021 call for proposals for the technical assistance programme) and for the Defence Research and Development Programme (2020 call for proposals).