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United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

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Item 12 of the provisional agenda*

**Geographical names as culture, heritage and identity,
including indigenous, minority and regional language names
and multilingual issues**

The topographic map in the main indigenous languages of Mexico

Summary**

According to the Population and Housing Census of Mexico, as at March 2020, the number of speakers of indigenous languages aged 3 years and over stood at 7,364,645, 3,581,198 of whom were men and 3,783,447 of whom were women. This population is mainly established in the south, east and south-east of the country: Chiapas, Guerrero, Oaxaca, Puebla, Veracruz de Ignacio de la Llave and Yucatán. Most speakers of indigenous languages live in those six states.

Given the cultural and historical importance of the great variety of indigenous languages in Mexico (a total of 68 languages are recognized), the National Institute of Statistics and Geography is implementing a pilot to translate the generic term of the toponyms on the topographic map into Náhuatl and Maya, mainly in the polygons covering indigenous regions or regions influenced by that native language.

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

** The full report was prepared by Enrique Muñoz Goncen (Chair) and Mario Ángel Jahuey Amaro (Co-Chair) of the Latin America Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names. The report will be available, under document symbol GEGN.2/2021/88/CRP.88, in the language of submission only, at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/2nd_session_2021/.

