

22 February 2021

Original: English

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

Virtual, 3–7 May 2021

Item 5 (a) of the provisional agenda\*

**Cooperation and liaison with other organizations:  
international organizations****Report of the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research****Summary\*\***

Reporting by the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research to past United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names and to the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names has been absent in recent years, following the retirement of Jörn Sievers (Germany) in 2007 as the Committee's Liaison Officer to the Group of Experts. However, Antarctic programmes relating to standardized geographical naming have remained active. A former Co-Chair of the Committee's Standing Committee on Antarctic Geographic Information, Jean-Yves Pirlot (Belgium), attended the first session of the Group of Experts, held in 2019. Through his leadership, encouragement and commitment, Mr. Pirlot has promoted the development of modern practices and processes in the standardization of geographical names by the Antarctic community.

In July 2020, the Standing Committee held its annual meeting (virtually), which covered national reports, the Standing Committee's products and tools, website updates, a horizon scan, the election of officers to the Standing Committee and the progress made by its Working Group on Antarctic Place Names in developing draft international principles and procedures for Antarctic place names. The Working Group includes representatives of Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, China, France, Germany, Italy, New Zealand, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. Details of the draft principles and procedures document will be shared, as well as the next steps towards having it formally adopted by the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research. Consideration will be given to options for communicating with countries with operational and scientific interests in Antarctica.

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

\*\* The full report was prepared by the Chief Officers of the Standing Committee on Antarctic Geographic Information, Li Fei and Paul Morin. It will be available under document symbol GEGN.2/2021/95/CRP.95, 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/).

