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**GROUP OF EXPERTS ON  
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES**

Geographical Names Supporting Sustainable Development and  
Management of the Pandemic

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***Agenda Item Number:*** 4a

***Agenda Item Title:*** *Governments on the situation in their countries and on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names*

***Title of paper/report:*** **DOMINICAN SITUATION IN MATTER OF NORMALIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES**

***Statement/intervention provided by:***

The Dominican Republic ( The José Joaquín Hungría Morell National Geographic Institute )

***Statement/intervention:***

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**STATEMENT/INTERVENTION**



## DOMINICAN SITUATION IN MATTER OF NORMALIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

The Dominican Republic occupies the eastern part of the Island of Hispaniola or Santo Domingo, whose western part is occupied by Haiti. The island is located in Middle or Central America, specifically in the Greater Antilles archipelago, and is the second largest in the Greater Antilles archipelago, a condition that includes it as a member of the Latin America Division of the United Nations Group of Experts United in Geographical Names (UNGEGN).

The José Joaquín Hungría Morell National Geographic Institute (IGN-JJHM) is created by Law No. 208-14, with the objective of: "Creating the necessary institutional framework in order to satisfy the needs of State agencies and institutions, of the scientific, educational and technical field, as well (as the private sector, regarding having the necessary geospatial data for an adequate planning of socioeconomic development, the exploitation of natural resources, the protection of the environment and the security of the country).

The highest authority of the IGN-JJHM is the Board of Directors, chaired by the Minister of Economy, Planning and Development (MEPYD), which has among its functions:

- Authorize public and private entities to publish maps of the Dominican Republic that contain political-administrative boundaries and toponymic information as the main topic.
- Establish geographical names or place names, except in cases prescribed by law.

For the fulfillment of the functions established in the law related to the standardization of geographical names, actions have been initiated for the realization of the Geographical Nomenclature of the country, the objective of which is: "To develop a dynamic and georeferenced registry of the geographical Dominican names, with the purpose that these can be used in the official cartography of the country". Within the framework of this initiative, with the support of the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID) and the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI), the project is being carried out: "Definition and strengthening capacities of the IGN- JJHM in the methodological elaboration for the creation of the NOMENCLATURE of Georeferenced Geographical Dominican Names", following the recommendations of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.

This project was started at the end of 2019 and concludes in October 2019 and concludes in October 2021.

Progress to date:

- COMPLETED : Training cycle for the strengthening of technical personnel in the methodological elaboration for the creation of the geographic NOMENCLATURE.
- In process: Methodological Guide for the definition of the NOMENCLATURE of geographical Dominican names.



#### Next steps:

- Implement the "Methodological Guide for the definition of the NOMENCLATURE of geographical names" in one of the country's provinces, specifically the Espaillat province (north of the country), where its base cartography has recently been concluded by the IGN- JJHM.
- As a complement to the project to prepare the guide, a research project is being carried out on "Origin and evolution of the geographical Dominican names", which has the main researcher, and the contract is pending the firm.
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