



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS 2021 Session UNGEGN

### REGISTRATION

Delegations must register via eDelegate through their Permanent Missions in New York to be given access to participate in the 2021 session of UNGEGN .

#### 1. **What is the procedure to register our delegation?**

**Answer:** Country delegations must register through their Permanent Missions in New York. Please refer to the [Note Verbale](#) sent to all Permanent Missions to the United Nations in New York on 3 February 2021 located under **Other Documents** at [https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/2nd\\_session\\_2021/](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/2nd_session_2021/)

United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

Meetings > 2nd Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

General Documents **Other Documents**

Other Documents

▶ Announcement letter

▶ Note Verbale [English](#) | [French](#) | [Spanish](#)

▶ Proposed Modalities on the arrangements for the work of the UNGEGN at its 2021 session, 3-7 May 2021 (virtual)

▶ Letter from the UNGEGN Chair

The contact information for your Permanent Mission is available on the following website:

<http://www.un.org/en/member-states/index.html>.

#### 2. **How long will the registration be open?**

**Answer:** All delegations are encouraged to register at least two weeks before the session starts. All delegates will need to be onboarded to use the meeting platform at least two weeks before the session, and it is essential that email addresses of each member of the delegation are included in the registration. Only registered delegates will receive onboarding and meeting access.

#### 3. **Do we need to register each member of a delegation to attend the online meetings?**

**Answer:** Yes, all delegates need to be registered through the Permanent Mission using the e-registration tool of the e-delegate portal.

Delegations are kindly encouraged to limit the number of experts who will actively participate in the session's work. Depending on the platform's user capacity, there may be restrictions on the size of delegations that will have direct access to the platform. The proceedings of the 2021 session will be simultaneously broadcast online and can be viewed through <http://webtv.un.org>. The UN TV broadcast will be for viewing only in the six official languages of the United Nations.



**4. *Considering the potential capacity limitation of the virtual platform, will there be a limit on the size of delegations from each Country?***

**Answer:** UN Member States are encouraged to kindly limit their delegations to the experts who will actively participate in the Session's work. Depending on the platform's user capacity, there may be a possibility that not all the members of a delegation could take part as active participants. In order to reduce the stress on the virtual platform and to enable that all delegations are accommodated, delegations are advised to limit the number of their representative to a principal, alternate and an adviser. Two separate links for the virtual meetings will be shared with delegations – one with rights as active participants and the other to access the meetings in a viewer mode. The proceedings of the 2021 session will be simultaneously broadcast online through <http://webtv.un.org> in the six official languages of the United Nations.

**5. *How do we register as an intergovernmental organization (IGOs)?***

**Answer:** All accredited IGOs are requested to register through the Statistics Division ([frani@un.org](mailto:frani@un.org)). Non-accredited IGOs are also required to register with UN Statistics Division before 05 April 2021, as their participation will be placed under silence procedure for prior approval of the Group of Experts before the commencement of the session.

**6. *How do we register as NGO or CSO?***

**Answer:** The Group of Experts, an inter-governmental body, generally welcomes the participation of non government organisations and the representatives of civil society organizations (CSOs) in various aspects of its work, as observers. However, due to the exceptional circumstances of the virtual session and related constraints, NGOs/CSOs are encouraged to follow the proceedings of the virtual meetings of the forthcoming 2021 session of the Group of Experts through the webcast on <http://webtv.un.org/>.

## PLATFORM

**7. *What platform will be used for the 2021 session of UNGEGN?***

**Answer:** 'Interprefy' platform will be used for the virtual meetings of 2021 session of UNGEGN, which will be provided with remote simultaneous interpretation in six official languages of the United Nations. Additional information on the platform will be shared with delegations ahead of the onboarding sessions for participants two weeks prior to the commencement of the 2021 session.

**8. *Will there be a possibility to test technical connections before the session?***

**Answer:** Yes, in the two weeks prior to the UNGEGN session, there will be "onboarding" provided which will be facilitated by conference services. All delegates who would be actively participating in the session will receive onboarding training. Additional information will be provided in due course. Delegations must be registered through their Permanent Mission in New York to receive access information (See Question 1 under Registration).



## WRITTEN STATEMENTS

### 9. *What is a written statement?*

**Answer:** Written statements provide an opportunity for delegations to contribute to the substantive discussion on the agenda items of the 2021 session. Experts are invited to review technical papers per agenda item and submit to the UNGEGN Secretariat written statements. All written statements received will be available on the Group of Experts website and will inform the draft summaries presented at the end of each agenda and decisions to be included in the final report. Written statements are expected to address the topic under agenda item and contain substantive elements as well as delegations' overall position on the topic. Delegations are advised to avoid detailed expositions of methodology or the reporting of routine activities and national practices in their written statements.

### 10. *Who can submit written statements?*

**Answer:** Written statements may be submitted by the head of delegation or designated official, or on behalf of the head of delegation/designated official.

### 11. *Where can one find the template for written statements?*

**Answer:** Further information on the written statements, including the templates for each agenda item, can be found at: [https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/2nd\\_session\\_2021/#statements](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/2nd_session_2021/#statements)

### 12. *What is the process to participate in the 2021 session of UNGEGN?*

**Answer:** Due to the unique circumstances of convening the 2021 session on a virtual platform and that the standard duration for provision of remote simultaneous interpretation for virtual meetings is two hours, opportunities to take the floor will be limited. Therefore, the submission of written statements are encouraged in advance of the session. Delegations are requested to indicate their intention to take the floor *before the* start of each informal virtual meeting, to facilitate its smooth conduct. In the request to take the floor, the name and title of the representative from the delegation, if not the designated official should be indicated. This information should be provided in timely manner, because it will help the Presiding Officer and the Secretariat to identify the speaker requesting the floor and activate his/her microphone. For more information, please see Para 13 in [the proposed modality paper](#).

## SIDE EVENTS

### 13. *Are the organizers responsible for choosing the platform to be used?*

**Answer:** Organizers of side events will be responsible for all IT related issues, such as arranging the virtual platform to host their events, meeting invitations, liaising with participants for registration and technical issues during the event, etc. UNSD will be responsible only for publicizing events on a calendar via the website. For any technical issues related to accessing side events, please contact the individual organizers. Information on the side events is



# UNITED NATIONS GROUP OF EXPERTS ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

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available online and updated daily. For further information on the side events, please see the calendar of Side Events: [https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/2nd\\_session\\_2021/#sideevent](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/2nd_session_2021/#sideevent)

#### **14. Do the speakers at a side event need to register for the UNSC?**

**Answer:** No, speakers at side events do not need to register for the session.

## GENERAL QUESTIONS

#### **15. When will the official invitation letter be sent?**

**Answer:** The official notification in the form of a Note Verbale was sent to all Permanent Missions to the United Nations in New York on 3 February 2021. A notification letter from the Director of UNSD was sent to all countries on 14 January 2021.

For your ease, all correspondences have been uploaded under “Other Documents” on the UNGEGN website:

[https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/2nd\\_session\\_2021/](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/2nd_session_2021/)

#### **16. What is the “silence procedure”?**

**Answer:** The silence procedure provides UN Member States with at least 72 hours to raise objections on a draft resolution or decision, and allows for explanations of position. Voting is not currently possible in this scenario for technical reasons. If the silence is not broken, the decision should be considered adopted. Upon expiration of 72 hours, the Chair will inform all UN Member States whether the silence was passed or broken.

The General Assembly (Under decision 74/544, “Procedure for taking decisions of the General Assembly during the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic”, adopted on 27 March 2020 and subsequent decisions) and the Economic and Social Council (decision 2021/213 entitled “*Procedure for taking decisions of the sessional bodies and the subsidiary organs of the Economic and Social Council during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic at the 2021 session of the Council*”) have utilized the silence procedure modality for their decisions making.

On 24 February 2021, ECOSOC in accordance with its decision 2021/213, entitled “Procedure for taking decisions of the sessional bodies and subsidiary organs of the Economic and Social Council during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic at the 2021 session of the Council” authorized its sessional bodies and subsidiary organs to apply the decision-making (silence) procedure set out in ECOSOC decision 2020/205 of 3 April 2020.