

22 March 2021

Original: English

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

Virtual, 3–7 May 2021

Item 2 (b) of the provisional agenda*

Organizational matters**Organization of work****Note by the Secretariat**

1. The proposed organization of work and times for the 2021 session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names has been prepared pursuant to relevant decisions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Bureau of the Group of Experts in order to facilitate the consideration of agenda items within the time and services allocated to the Group.
2. Taking into account the continued impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on the working arrangements for the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council and guidance provided by the President of the Council, the Bureau has recommended that the 2021 session of the Group of Experts be held in a scaled-down format on a virtual platform from 3 to 7 May 2021.
3. Facilities will be available for two informal meetings each day. Morning meetings will be held from 9 to 11 a.m. and afternoon meetings from 3 to 5 p.m.

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



Proposed organization of work

<i>Date/time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Programme</i>
Monday, 3 May		
9–11 a.m.	1. Opening of the session	Opening address by the Chair of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names Welcome remarks by the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development and Chief Economist
	2. Organizational matters	Adoption of the agenda and of the organization of work
	2 (a). Adoption of the agenda	
	2 (b). Organization of work	
	3. Reports of the Chair and the Secretariat	Introduction of reports General discussion and summary
	7. Social and economic benefits, supporting sustainable development, measures taken and proposed for the implementation of resolutions and evaluation of the work of the Group of Experts	Introduction and presentation of documents General discussion and summary
3–5 p.m.	7 (<i>continued</i>)	General discussion and summary
	4. Reports	Introduction of summary of national reports General discussion and summary
	4 (a). Governments on the situation in their countries and on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names	
	4 (b). Divisions of the Group of Experts	Introduction of national and divisional reports
	4 (c). Working Group on Country Names	
	4 (d). National and international meetings and conferences	General discussion and summary
Tuesday, 4 May		
9–11 a.m.	5. Cooperation and liaison with other organizations	Introduction of reports General discussion and summary
	5 (a). International organizations	
	5 (b). Economic Commission for Africa and Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management	
	6. National and international standardization of geographical names	Introduction and presentation of documents General discussion and summary
	6 (a). Names collection, office treatment, national authorities, features beyond a single sovereignty and international cooperation	

<i>Date/time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Programme</i>
3–5 p.m.	6 (<i>continued</i>) 6 (b). Toponymic guidelines for map and other editors for international use	
Wednesday, 5 May		
9–11 a.m.	8. Issues of publicity for the Group of Experts and funding of Group projects	Presentation by the Convenor of the Working Group on Publicity and Funding General discussion and summary
	9. Activities on the standardization of geographical names in Africa	General discussion and summary
3–5 p.m.	10. Toponymic education	Presentation by the Convenor of the Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy General discussion and summary
	11. Toponymic terminology	Presentation by the Convenor of the Working Group on Toponymic Terminology General discussion and summary
Thursday, 6 May		
9–11 a.m.	12. Geographical names as culture, heritage and identity, including indigenous, minority and regional languages and multilingual issues	Introduction by the Convenor of the Working Group on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage Presentation of documents General discussion and summary
	13. Exonyms	Introduction by the Convenor of the Working Group on Exonyms Presentation of documents General discussion and summary
3–5 p.m.	14. Toponymic data files and gazetteers	Introduction by the Convenor of the Working Group on Geographical Names Data Management Presentation of documents General discussion and summary
Friday, 7 May		
9–11 a.m.	15. Writing systems and pronunciation	Introduction by the Convenor of the Working Group on Romanization Systems Presentation of documents General discussion and summary

<i>Date/time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Programme</i>
	16. Other geographical names issues	General discussion and summary
	17. Arrangements for the 2023 session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names	Consideration of draft provisional agenda for the 2023 session of the Group of Experts
	18. Other business	
	19. Presentation and adoption of decisions	Presentation of informal papers Discussion and consideration of the draft decisions
3–5 p.m.	19 (<i>continued</i>)	Discussion and consideration of the draft decisions
	20. Adoption of the report of the 2021 session	Presentation of the draft report Interactive discussion and adoption of the draft report
	21. Closing of the session	Conclusion of the session
