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English

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

2021 session

New York, 3 – 7 May 2021

Item 7 of the provisional agenda*

**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**

**A Review of the General Assembly and ECOSOC
Resolutions and Their Relevance to the United Nations
Group of Experts on Geographical Names**

Submitted by the UNGEGN Bureau **

Summary

The full paper contains a report on the progress made in implementing recommendation 3 contained in the report of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names on its 2019 session. Recommendation 3 is that appropriate working groups review the General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions noted in document [GEGN.2/2019/83](#) and find their relevance to the work of Group. The resolutions noted in the document, as well as those adopted since, were selected, listed and reviewed for their relevance to the Group in general and the Working Groups in particular, and for the Group's strategic plan, which is currently being developed. Some topics, such as the Sustainable Development Goals and indigenous people and their heritages, are of particular relevance to the general orientation of the Group. Further elaboration of their relevance is suggested at the level of the Member States.

* GEGN.2/2021/1

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A Review of the General Assembly and ECOSOC Resolutions and Their Relevance to the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names¹

Recommendation 3 of the First Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) held in New York, 29 April to 3 May 2019, as addressed below, was adopted by ECOSOC as decision E/2019/230 (dated 23/7/2019).

Recommendation 3

The Economic and Social Council:

Decides that the appropriate working groups of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (i.e. the Working Groups on Evaluation and Implementation, Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage and Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers) shall review the General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions noted in document GEGN.2/2019/83 for their relevance to the work of the Group of Experts and submit the information report of their review, where appropriate, to the Group of Experts at its second session for consideration

In accordance with this recommendation, fourteen resolutions of the General Assembly (GA) and two resolutions of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) were selected and reviewed, of which twelve resolutions were deemed to be relevant to the work of UNGEGN. The substance of those resolutions, their relevance to UNGEGN in general, and its draft Strategic Plan and its working groups in particular have been tabulated, as shown in the Appendix.

The following three topics are conspicuously significant, in inspiring relevance to the general direction of UNGEGN, and used to group resolutions in the table:

- Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals: GA resolutions A/RES/67/290 (2013), A/RES/70/299 (2016), A/RES/72/305 (2018), A/RES/73/17 (2018);
- Preserving geographical names as cultural heritage: GA resolutions A/RES/61/295 (2007), A/RES/72/13 (2017), A/RES/72/179 (2018), A/RES/73/156 (2018), A/HRC/RES/39/13 (2018) and ECOSOC resolution E/C.19/2018/8 (2018); and
- Enhancing data management: GA resolutions A/RES/69/313 (2015) and ECOSOC resolution E/RES/2018/14 (2018)

It is suggested to consider these resolutions in extending the tasks of the UNGEGN working groups and elaborate in line with the UNGEGN Strategic Plan and Programme of Work 2021-2029. Member States are also invited to pay attention to them in their geographical names standardization and management.

¹ This working paper pertains to the UNCSGN resolutions V/4 (Work performed by the UNGEGN and its future activities), X/10 (Support for the work on the standardization of geographical names), XI/1 (Future organization and methods of work of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names), VIII/1 (Promotion of minority group and indigenous geographical names), IX/4 (Geographical names as intangible cultural heritage) and Recommendation 3 (Reviewing the General Assembly and ECOSOC resolutions and finding relevance to UNGEGN) of the 1st session of new UNGEGN.

Points for discussion:

The Group of Experts is invited to:

- (a) Take note of the report and suggestions made; and
- (b) Express its views on further development of the table in the Appendix, at either the UNGEGN and its working group or the Member State level.