



STATEMENT/INTERVENTION

Agenda Item Number: 6(a)

Agenda Item Title:

National and international standardization of geographical names: Names collection, office treatment, national authorities, features beyond a single sovereignty and international cooperation

Title of paper/report:

Geographical Names Standardization in Greenland (GEGN.2/2021/44/CRP.44)

Statement/intervention provided by:

Norden Division

Statement/intervention:

Concerns over person data protection regulations (GDPR) restricting collection, storage, management and use of geographical names

The NORDEN DIVISION welcomes and recognizes the efforts undertaken by the Group of Experts and of Members States on activities to facilitate national standardization and collection of geographical names.

The NORDEN DIVISION acknowledges and supports the standardization work carried out in GREENLAND and encourages all member states to continue geographical names standardization efforts according to principles laid out in UNSCGN Resolution I/4.

The concerns raised in the paper on the possible adverse effects of the 2019 personal data General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) on the collection, storage, management, and publication geographical names data are shared throughout the NORDEN DIVISION.

The recent GDPR regulations affect both existing and future digital geographical names collections, as the regulations ban display of any personal information of persons acting as informants or sources in the recording of geographical names. The law effectively makes scientific evaluation of geographical names standardization and digital display of geographical names archive material impossible.

The NORDEN DIVISION urges UNGEGN, through coming resolutions, to work for open and free use of geographical names data to enable scientific and correct standardization of geographical names according to national laws and regulations.

Thank you,

Chair and Vice-Chair of Norden Division, Norway

Submitted on:

4/22/2021