



STATEMENT/INTERVENTION

Agenda Item Number: 7

Agenda Item Title:

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

Title of paper/report:

Geographical Names and the Environment

Statement/intervention provided by:

Norway

Statement/intervention:

Statement of support

NORWAY welcomes the efforts undertaken by the Group of Experts on issues related to geographical names in supporting social and economic benefits.

NORWAY expresses support of the call by AUSTRALIA for seeing geographical names in a wider context to reach the SDG goals, and encourages UNGEGN to strengthen activities related to geographical names standardization efforts as laid out in UNSGN Resolution IX/7.

Faced with accelerating environmental changes and ensuing challenges to existing social, cultural and demographic structures, it is imperative to identify areas under threat. Situated in the intersection of the scientific disciplines of geography, linguistics and history, geographical names contain valuable information on past natural and cultural conditions – many of which will today be completely transformed or eradicated by human activity, such as wetland drainage, deforestation, and urbanization.

Therefore, NORWAY expresses the need for promoting interdisciplinary scientific geographical names collection, research, and training at academic institutions. In addition, NORWAY suggests increased collaboration with ICOS (International Council of Onomastic Sciences) in developing activities for augmenting the relevance and use of geographical names in achieving SDG goals.

Thank you,

The Norwegian UNGEGN delegation

Submitted on:

4/22/2021