2021 UNGEGN Session

Newcomers Orientation to UNGEGN and the Session

27 April, 2021

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UN Statistics Division

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Honorary Chair of UNGEGN

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2021 Session Orientation

Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)
(Virtual meetings)
WELCOME from UNGEGN Bureau and Secretariat

- Second/2021 session of UNGEGN,
  - operating under the adjusted methodology proposed at the 2017 United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names and decided by ECOSOC in July 2018.

- It is the first UNGEGN session to be held virtually.

- Introducing newcomers
  - to UNGEGN and
  - the formal procedures of a United Nations inter-governmental meeting

- Hope to assist for a better understanding
  - for new delegates and observers
  - benefit more from the week’s discussions.
What is important to know?

1. The United Nations
2. Background on UNGEGN
   – Aims of the Group
   – Some history of UNGEGN
   – Bureau, Working Groups and Divisions
   – Website and resolutions
3. Your role BEFORE/DURING/AFTER Sessions
   – Virtual session
   – Side events
   – Rules of Procedure
   – Interventions
4. Meeting Documents
   – Annotated Provisional Agenda; Organization of work
   – Reports
   – Statements

... Questions ...
UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names

- A subsidiary body of ECOSOC
- Promotes standardization of geographical names in response to national requirements
- Creates and follows up on the implementation of resolutions
- Provides a forum for discussion – geographers, linguists, administrators, GIS specialists, cartographers ...
- Supported by a Secretariat at UNHQ (NY)
- Creates working groups and task teams to focus on specific areas of current concern and interest
- Has 24 geographical/linguistic divisions for grass roots work
What UNGEGN is NOT

• Decision maker on feature names
• Point of arbitration on disputes over names
• Place to air political issues, even if they are related in some way to place names
• Decision maker on what processes, legislation or policy is correct for any country
UNGEGN aims

- Encourage the creation of national names authorities
  - backed by legislation
  - respect local usage of names
  - collect, store and disseminate authorized names - for government and public use

- Raise awareness of the value and benefits of geographical names standardization

- Recognize the value of geographical names both to identify place and as elements of cultural heritage

- Develop single scientifically-based systems of romanization

- Contribute to work of UN bodies and collaborate with non-UN organizations
Early days of UNGEGN

• 1959 – Resolution 715A (XXVII) of ECOSOC
  • To bring together experts to advise on geographical names for use in UN Cartography

• 1960 – 1st meeting of experts in New York
  • USA, France, UK, Iran, Guatemala, China

• 1967 - First Conference held in Geneva
  • 11 conferences every 5 years until 2017
    • New York, Geneva, London, Athens, Montréal, Berlin
  • 30 UNGEGN sessions – 2 between conferences
    • New York, Geneva, Vienna, Nairobi, Bangkok

Meredith Burrill, USA
Some Major Milestones – 1970s & 1980s

1970  First Working Groups
1972  “UNEGGN” and first Divisions
1979  Toponymic Guidelines started – e.g. Austria
1982  First Toponymy Training Course - Indonesia
1987  Compendium of Resolutions started
1988  First UNGEGN Newsletter (now Bulletin)
Milestones – 2000s

2001  First brochure published
2002  UNGEGN website launched
2004  Task Team for Africa
       Online UNGEGN World geo-names database
2010  Online database of Resolutions
2012  Web-based training course
2016  Formalized cooperation with UN-GGIM
       (started in 2010)
UNGEGN Structure

Supported by the UN Statistical Division through the UNGEGN Secretariat

Country Names
Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers
Publicity and Funding
Toponymic Terminology
Romanization Systems
Training Courses in Toponymy
Evaluation & Implementation
Exonyms
Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage

Working groups

Divisions

24 linguistic/geographical divisions

Task Team for Africa
Toponymic Guidelines Coordinator

UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN)

UNGEGN Bureau

UNGEGN Secretariat (UN Statistics Division)

UNGEGN liaison with scientific groups
UNEGGN Bureau

Officers of UNGEGN

Chairperson
• Mr. Pierre Jaillard, France

Vice-Chairpersons
• Mr. Sungjae Choo, Republic of Korea
• Mr. Hasanuddin Abidin, Indonesia / Ms. Susan Birtles, Australia

Rapporteurs
• Mr. Trent C. Palmer, USA
• Ms. Wendy Shaw, New Zealand
UNEGGN working groups

- Romanization
- Training
- Data files / gazetteers
- Evaluation / implementation
- Terminology
- Exonyms
- Cultural heritage
- Publicity / funding
- Task Team for Africa
- Coordination of Toponymic Guidelines

UNEGGN: United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Africa Central</th>
<th>Baltic</th>
<th>India</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa East</td>
<td>Celtic</td>
<td>Latin America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa South</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>Norden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa West</td>
<td>Dutch- and German-speaking</td>
<td>Pacific South-West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>East Central and South-East Europe</td>
<td>Portuguese-speaking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia East (other than China)</td>
<td>Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia</td>
<td>Romano-Hellenic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia South-East</td>
<td>East Mediterranean (other than Arabic)</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia South-West (other than Arabic)</td>
<td>French-speaking</td>
<td>United States / Canada</td>
</tr>
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UNGEGN Liaison with other Organizations

1. International Cartographic Association *(ICA)*
2. Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers *(ICANN)*
3. International Council of Onomastic Sciences *(ICOS)*
4. International Council on Indigenous Place Names *(ICIPN)*
5. International Hydrographic Organization *(IHO)*
6. International Organization for Standardization *(ISO)* Technical Committee 211 (TC/211)
7. Pan-American Institute of Geography and History *(PAIGH)*
8. Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research *(SCAR)*
9. Unicode Consortium
UNEGGN Website
https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/

• First launched in 2002
  • Several redesigns – latest in 2019
  • Very large reference source
    • UNEGNN Bulletin
    • Manuals, media kit, pamphlets
    • World Geographical Names Database
    • National authorities
    • Documents from conferences/sessions
    • Resolutions/recommendations
    • Web-based training
    • Events, Links, Tweets, and more
Conference resolutions
https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/resolutions/

- Conference resolutions reflect the technical work discussed
- From 11 Conferences - 211 resolutions assembled and grouped by subject area (26 groups)
  - national standardization; toponymic guidelines
  - systems of romanization;
  - distribution of data through gazetteers (hard copy/web); data exchange in accepted formats;
  - training and education;
  - cultural heritage; exonyms ....
More about resolutions

• **Available on the web**
  • Searchable database
    • Arabic, English, French, Spanish
    • Korean
  • Compendium
    • Arabic, English, French, Spanish
    • Korean; Portuguese

• **“New” UNGEGN**
  • 5 recommendations
  • working decisions
Evolution of UNGEGN – recent history

• **2017 – Reorganization to “new” UNGEGN**
  • To convene every 2 years starting in 2019
  • Reports to ECOSOC

• **2019 – Creating Strategic Plan**
  • Including Programme of Work
    • Document (CRP.94) for approval at this session (Agenda #7)

• **2021 – After approval of Strategic Plan**
  • Inviting Member States to become involved in the implementation of the Programme of Work
Things you would have done BEFORE the Session

1. Prepared country reports, divisional reports and technical papers

2. Identify and know the responsible officer(s) with Foreign Affairs in Capital and at your Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York
   • Secure and submit accreditation for participation – registration by E-deleGATE
   • Active participants should decide time between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. (New York time) on 28th April, to be onboarded on Interprefy

Participants should continue to:

1. Monitor the UNGEGN website for updates and documents

2. Read the technical reports, discuss and decide on national positions and prepare statements/interventions.
# Table of Side Events

- Refer to the [Table of Side Events](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/2nd_session_2021/#sideevent) for schedules and updated information on divisional and working group meetings and technical seminars during the week.
- Identify the events you wish to attend and note the times and access arrangements. Any changes will be reflected on the web-site.
- Side events may be closed or open. Divisional and working group meetings are usually open to all delegates.
- Interpretation is not provided for the side events.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cultural heritage</td>
<td>6 May</td>
<td>8:00-9:00 EDT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exonyms</td>
<td>4 May</td>
<td>8:00-9:00 EDT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICA/IGU Joint Commission on Toponymy</td>
<td>5 May</td>
<td>13:00-14:00 EDT</td>
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The policies and regulations governing the meetings of the UNGEGN are laid out in the Rules of Procedure. (Decision 2018/264)

They constitute a set of procedures and conducts that ensure the proper functioning of meetings.

All participants are obliged to respect these rules and follow the procedures.

The Rules of procedure are available here:
Rules of Procedure UNGEGN

- **DEFINITIONS**  Rule 2
- **COMPOSITION**  Rule 3
- **REPRESENTATION FOR SESSIONS**  Rule 4
- **SESSIONS**  Rule 5
- **AGENDA**  Rule 6
- **BUREAU**  Rules 7 to 9
- **SECRETARIAT**  Rules 10 to 12
- **CONDUCT OF BUSINESS**  Rules 13 to 24
- **DECISION MAKING**  Rules 25 to 36
- **ELECTIONS**  Rules 37 to 39
- **LANGUAGES AND INTERPRETATION**  Rules 40 to 41
- **DOCUMENTS**  Rules 42 to 43
- **RECORDS AND MEETINGS**  Rules 44 to 45
- **SUBSIDIARY BODIES**  Rules 46 to 47
- **PARTICIPATION OF OBSERVERS**  Rule 48
- **AMENDMENTS**  Rule 49
Meeting Document Symbols

Symbol e.g. GEGN.2/2021/49

GEGN.2/2021/49

GEGN.2 Session number assigned to the “new” UNGEGN (before the 1st session the symbol was GEGN)
/2021 Year of the session
/49 Document number

CRP conference room paper
INF Information (e.g. list of participants)
L Limited distribution (generally draft documents)
-/Add… Addendum
-/Rev… Revision (replacing texts previously issued)
Essential session documents

- **Symbol e.g.** GEGN.2/2021/INF/1
- **Documentation for the Session**
  - Guidelines on preparation of documents

- **Symbol e.g.** GEGN.2/2021/1/Rev.1
- **Annotated Provisional Agenda**
  - List of all items to be considered during the session with Agenda Item numbering

- **Symbol e.g.** GEGN.2/2021/3
- **Organization of work**
  - Detailed listing of Agenda Items that will be chronologically brought before the Group of Experts for considerations
Summaries and full reports

Summaries
- A brief of a report/technical paper
- Translated in all UN languages if submitted within specified time

Reports/Technical Papers
- Provides points, topics for the substantive discussions

What is the difference between these two symbols?

GEGN.2/2021/96/CRP.96
This report has a summary, 96 appears twice.

GEGN.2/2021/CRP.106
A report only. No summary was submitted.
Reports and Background Documents

Reports are prepared by working groups, divisions, Member States or secretariat. They are available on the Session/Meeting webpages. All Documents have a number/symbol and a title (they may have a summary).

- All **Summaries** are available in all six official UN languages.
- **Reports** are only available in the original language of submission.
- Reports are grouped for Discussion, or for Information.
- Reports for Discussion are introduced

Participants are encouraged to read all documents and identify issues to be discussed.
Written Statements

Given the virtual mode of the session and reduce times delegations are encouraged to submit your written statements corresponding to the papers per agenda items 3 to 15. These statements constitute the interventions delegations would normally make from the floor during the session.

Written Statements:
1. Provides delegations with the opportunity to contribute to the discussions on subjects considered per agenda items.
2. Allows the extended Bureau and Secretariat to review and prepare summaries, facilitate discussions and find consensus language.
3. Must refer to a specific agenda item.
4. A submitted written statement from delegation X may be commented on with a written statement from another delegation Y.
Written Statements contd.

1. **A Template** (Word document) for preparing written statements is available for downloading.

2. Completed statements are to be emailed to: [geoinfo_unsd@un.org](mailto:geoinfo_unsd@un.org)

3. Due to the potential volume of submissions in a condensed period, we encourage written statements to be brief, provided in English if possible, focused on the main discussion items for the Group of Experts.

4. All submitted statements will be uploaded in pdf format and available from the related agenda item on the Statement tab/page. [UNSD — United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names](http://www.un.org/esa/unsd/)

**Template for written statements**
What happens during the session

Meeting times – 2 meetings per day – 9:00 -11:00am and 3:00 -5:00pm (New York time)
Have on hand the Organization of Work

1. Opening of the Session and procedural matters – Agenda items 1 and 2
2. Substantive matters – Agenda items 3 to 15
   i. Chair opens agenda item and invites introduction of papers for discussion
   ii. Pre-identified representatives/authors introduce papers for discussion
   iii. Interventions from delegations who informed the Secretariat in advance of the meeting of their intention to speak under that agenda item.
   iv. If time permits, additional interventions will be taken from the floor.
   v. Delivery of the summary of the discussion.
3. Review, finalization of decisions and adoption of report on the 2021 session
   The agreed Report will be placed under Silence Procedure immediately following the session.
During the Session- role of the Chair

The Chair:
• May declare the opening and closing of each plenary meeting,
• Direct the discussions,
• Ensure the observance of the Rules of Procedure,
• Accord the right to speak,
• Put questions to the vote and announce decisions
• may propose the closure of the list of speakers,
• Propose a limitation on the time to be allowed to speakers and on the number of times that each member may speak on an item
• May ask Bureau and Working Group members preside over agenda items
Guidelines for Speakers During the Session

• Be short and concise in your interventions – 3 minutes
• Address the Chair of session (when you address the Chair you address the Group of Experts as a whole).
• Wait to be asked to speak; your microphone will be unmuted
• Speak slowly to allow the Interpreters to do a good job.
• Responding only when invited by the Chair, not directly to another expert
• At all times show respect for other delegations as individuals and for the governments, states, nations and causes they represent.
UNEGGN Meetings are Public

• All 10 meetings of the session will be broadcasted live on UN Live United Nations Web TV

• Interpretation available in all 6 UN languages.

• Recordings will be posted on the UNEGNN 2021 Session webpages, after the session
UNGEGN 2021 Session Evaluation Survey

Delegates are kindly encouraged to complete two online forms:
2. Contact Information for National Geographical Names Authorities

The links to the online forms will be posted on the Session webpage

1st UNGEGN Session EVALUATION form - English | French
UNGEGN CONTACT INFORMATION FOR NATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES AUTHORITIES form
YOUR role BETWEEN Sessions

Participants are encouraged to:

- Contribute to advancing the UNGEGN work programme
  - Communicate nationally the decisions from the previous conferences and current sessions
  - Advocate and implement nationally the policies and decisions
  - Actively engage with your Divisions: activities, areas of focus
  - Use the vast body of knowledge contained in the papers and resolutions.

- Participate in UNGEGN division meetings and working groups
- Contribute your documents, national experiences etc. to the UNGEGN Bulletin and databases, maintained by the Secretariat and Working Groups
- Monitor the UNGEGN website for latest geospatial activities
- Tweet at @UNSD_GEGN
Thank you

UNGE GN Secretariat
United Nations
New York

https://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGE GN
E-mail: geoinfo_unsd@un.org

twitter: @UNSD_GEGN