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English

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**United Nations Group of Experts On  
Geographical Names  
2023 session  
New York, 1 – 5 May 2023  
Agenda item 4 (b) of the provisional agenda \*  
Reports: Divisions of the Group of Experts**

## **Divisions of the Group of Experts**

Submitted by the UNGEGN Bureau and UNGEGN Secretariat

### Summary \*\*

At its 2021 session, held virtually from 3 to 7 May 2021, the Group of Experts adopted Decision 2/2021/2(d)(i) in which it welcomed the Secretariat's report and thanked the Statistics Division for continued valuable and unfaltering support to the Group. The Group of Experts noted and supported the recommendations of the UNGEGN Secretariat to further strengthen the operations of the Group, which included convening regular virtual meetings of the Bureau and the Chairs of its 24 linguistic and geographical divisions. Further, in Decision 2/2021/3(d) the Group of Experts encouraged divisions to model work based on the operations of other divisions and the feedback provided and also encouraged individual countries to continue to support the activities of divisions.

The full report highlights the major activities conducted in pursuance of Decision 2/2021/2(d)(i), an historical overview on the creation and evolution of Divisions, a brief overview of the status of Divisions, the challenges being experienced, and a few recommendations for further strengthening relations with the UNGEGN Bureau and Working Groups, for consideration.

Further, this report provides a summary of the findings and main outcomes which emanated from the three meetings of the UNGEGN Bureau and Division Chairs, held on 19 November 2021, 9 December 2022 and 30 March 2023. The first meeting in November 2021, was attended by 23 experts from 14 divisions. At this meeting the following five divisional priorities were identified, i) identification of Divisional members, maintenance of their contacts and employing strategies to retain their participation, ii) supporting the revision of UNGEGN

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\* GEGN.2/2023/1

\*\* Prepared by the UNGEGN Bureau and UNGEGN Secretariat.

publications, iii) identifying strategies to support the maintenance of Divisional websites, iv) strengthening research and partnerships with universities and v) preparation of terms of reference/guidelines for the management of Divisions. In furtherance of priority v) the Bureau with the support of the UNGEGN Secretariat prepared and presents in this report the Guidelines for the Management of UNGEGN Divisions to the Group of Experts for adoption.

## **I. Background**

1. The United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN), an expert body of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is responsible for encouraging the standardization of geographical names and promoting the national and international benefits to be derived from standardization. Over its 50 plus years of existence, the Group of Experts has created a unique structure, currently consisting of the Bureau, 24 Divisions, nine Working Groups, two Task Teams and nine Liaison representatives to accomplish its mandate and work. The UNGEGN [Rules of Procedure](#) details ten objectives, and of particular note is objective four/(d), which is: “to coordinate the activities of linguistic or geographical divisions formed to further the work at the national level, to encourage the active participation of countries and divisions and to promote a degree of uniformity in the work undertaken.” The existence of and work done by UNGEGN’s twenty-four linguistic and geographical divisions are fundamental to the successful operations of the Group of Experts and to the implementation of resolutions and recommendations which emanate from past conferences and current sessions.

2. Following the restructuring and creation of the “new UNGEGN” in 2017 and the adoption of its Strategic Plan and Programme of Work 2021-2029 it was recognized that increased focus and support of the activities of Divisions was needed. Further, at the May 2021 session of UNGEGN, the secretariat in its report [GEGN.2/2021/5/CRP.5](#) called upon States Members representatives to resuscitate inactive divisions, and if needed to seek the guidance and assistance of the UNGEGN Bureau to support their activities. The need to make this call was based on the findings from a review of the secretariat’s records on the participation of linguistic and geographical divisions and submission of reports to conferences and sessions, functioning bureaus, and operational websites.

## **II. Creation and Evolution of Divisions**

3. The UNGEGN linguistic and geographical divisions are entrenched, and codified structures buttressed by binding instruments such as the Rules of Procedure and resolutions dating back some 50 years. At the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (UNCSGN) held in London in 1972, with resolution II/3, UNGEGN was formally created under its current name, rather than continuing as an ad hoc group.

4. The 1967 report ([E/CONF.53/3](#)) of the first UNCSGN page 7 stated that “The Permanent Committee should include representatives of each of the major world linguistic/geographic groups.” The first 14 groups were suggested. At the second UNCSGN held in London in 1972, the Conference under resolution II/4 recommended the creation and titles of 14 linguistic/geographical divisions. It should be noted that at

the 1972 Conference the importance of developing good working communication systems among the experts themselves, the names authorities within the division and other organizations working in the field of names standardization was emphasized. In addition, at the second conference, resolution II/19 on regional meetings, recommended that divisions prepare and forward to the United Nations a proposed programme of meetings within the division. These resolutions and advancements were made on the successes of meetings held in Latin America, the Norden Division, the Europe East Central and Southeast Division, the Dutch and German speaking Division and the Arabic Division, and also on satisfactory reports of the growing productiveness of divisional and interdivisional meetings and co-operative programmes.

5. The following, are resolutions from the third, fourth and fifth UNCSGN which supported the expansion of divisions given their pivotal role in recognizing problems of standardization of geographical names common to their geographical/linguistic areas and supporting the implementation of decisions of the UNCSGN.

**Table 1** Resolutions Relevant to Divisions

| UNCSGN  | Resolutions   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>The 3rd Conference, 1977,<br/>Resolution III/5 - Divisional<br/>activities and meetings</b><br/>(<a href="#">E/CONF.69/4</a>)</p> | <p>Recommended that divisions continue and expand activities and forward to the UN Secretariat reports of meetings as they are held, of agreements as they are reached and of co-operative programmes as they are initiated.</p>  |
| <p><b>The 4<sup>th</sup> Conference, 1982,<br/>Resolution IV/24 – Divisional<br/>activities</b><br/>(<a href="#">E/CONF.74/3</a>)</p>   | <p>Considered that geographical/linguistic divisions are a fundamental element in the structure of the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names. Also considered that the Divisions are particularly well qualified to recognize problems of standardization of geographical names common to their geographical/linguistic areas. Recognized the necessity of extending the exchange of experience and information among different divisions.</p> <p>Recommend that UNGEN continue to encourage division to be more active in implementing the decisions of the UNCSGN as applicable, in working out reporting schedules on their activities to all States within their divisions and the UNGEGN.</p> <p>Further recommended that Divisions promote the exchange of information among them and should make available to other divisions as frequently as possible the results of their</p> |

| UNCSGN   | Resolutions   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>The 5<sup>th</sup> Conference, 1987, Resolution V/3 – Creation of a Celtic Division and an East Mediterranean Division (other than Arabic) (<a href="#">E/CONF.79/5</a>)</b></p> | <p>work in the way deemed appropriate.</p> <p>Considered that the composition of the linguistic/geographical divisions should enhance the work of the UNGEGN</p> <p>Recommend that the number of divisions be increased by two.</p> |

6. The resolutions outlined above not only provide a historical reference of the evolution of geographical/linguistic divisions, they also provide the framework within which divisions may operate, cooperate, and relate with their members and the UNGEGN Secretariat.

7. Over the ensuing years other divisions have been established, resulting in 24 divisions in 2022. Several of the original names have since been changed and two divisions (Africa south of the Sahara; Asia South-East and Pacific South-West) were disbanded in favour of smaller regional groupings. The following is a list of current linguistic and geographical divisions and the date of creation.

**Table 2** List of Linguistic/Geographical Divisions and Date of Creation

| Linguistic/Geographical Division              | Date | Comment  |
|---|------|--|
| 1. Africa Central                             | 1978 | from 1972 part of Africa south of the Sahara                             |
| 2. Africa East                                | 1978 | from 1972 part of Africa south of the Sahara                             |
| 3. Africa South                               | 1992 | from 1972-1978, part of Africa south of the Sahara                       |
| 4. Africa West                                | 1978 | from 1972 part of Africa south of the Sahara                             |
| 5. Arabic                                     | 1972 |  |
| 6. Asia East (other than China)               | 1972 | originally Asia, east  |
| 7. Asia South-East                            | 1972 | originally Asia, south-east; then Asia South-East and Pacific South-West |
| 8. Asia South-West (other than Arabic)        | 1972 |  |
| 9. Baltic                                     | 1992 |  |
| 10. Celtic                                    | 1987 |  |
| 11. China                                     | 1975 |  |
| 12. Dutch- and German-speaking                | 1972 |  |
| 13. East Central and South-East Europe        | 1972 |  |
| 14. Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia | 1992 | from 1972, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics Division existed      |
| 15. East Mediterranean (other than Arabic)    | 1987 |  |
| 16. French-speaking                           | 1998 |  |
| 17. India                                     | 1972 |  |
| 18. Latin America                             | 1972 |  |
| 19. Norden                                    | 1972 |  |
| 20. Pacific South-West                        | 2012 | originally Asia, south-east; then Asia South-East and Pacific South-West |
| 21. Portuguese-speaking                       | 2007 |  |
| 22. Romano-Hellenic                           | 1972 | originally Romance languages, other than Latin America                   |
| 23. United Kingdom                            | 1972 |  |
| 24. United States of America / Canada         | 1972 |  |

*Taken from [E/CONF.105/49/CRP.49](#), 11<sup>th</sup> UNCISG, August 2017, prepared by Helen Kerfoot, Canada, former Chair*

8. Another instrument currently governing the operations of linguistic/geographical division is the UNGEGN Rules of Procedure (E/2018/L.25) July 2018. Section XIV, Rule 47 (shown below). It lays out eight overarching guidelines governing the composition and operations of linguistic and geographical divisions created to support the work of the Group of Experts and serve as the bridge to Member States.

**Rules of Procedure, Rule 47**  
**Linguistic/geographical divisions**

- i. The Group shall be supported in its activities by linguistic and geographical divisions listed in the annex to these rules.

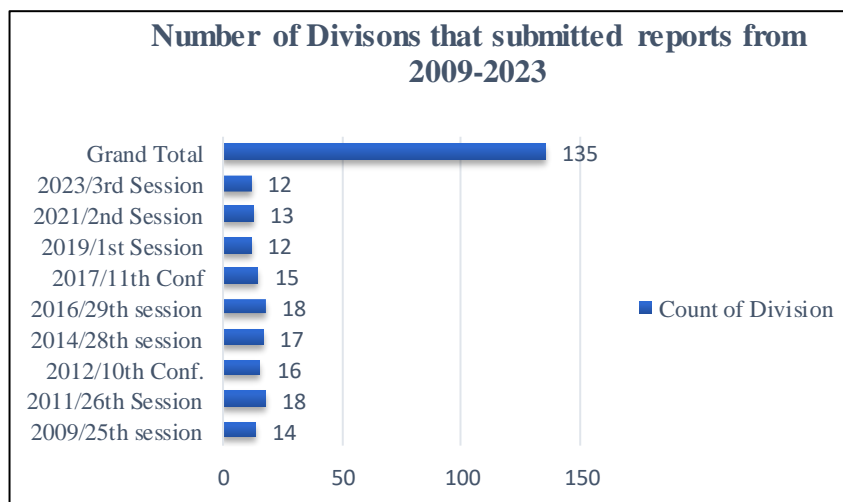
- ii. The number of linguistic and geographical divisions and their compositions may be revised as necessary by the Group.
- iii. A State shall decide for itself the division to which it wishes to belong. A State may be a member of another division provided that the nature of its participation does not change the linguistic and geographical character of the division or divisions concerned.
- iv. Each division shall elect, by methods of its own choosing, a Division Chair to represent the division at the meetings of the Group.
- v. Each division may elect a Vice-Chair and such other officers as may be required.
- vi. The Division Chair and Vice-Chair shall stimulate activities in the standardization of geographical names within their division by all appropriate means, such as correspondence with national bodies on the standardization of geographical names and national geospatial agencies, and organization of meetings of the division members.
- vii. The Division Chair shall be responsible for ensuring that the work of the Group and its potential for technical assistance are brought to the attention of the individual States that are members of the division concerned and for reporting to the Group any special problems in the division.
- viii. To discuss technical and procedural matters, a division may organize meetings to be held in parallel with sessions of the Group and meetings of any body of its organizational structure, or at any other appropriate time.

### **III. Overview of Divisions**

9. Divisions of the Group of Experts comprise the major linguistic and geographical divisions of the world, as listed in Table 2. Member States decide for themselves the Division(s) to which they wish to belong; some belong to more than one Division. Each Division is expected to assist their Member States address common issues of geographical names standardization, to stimulate and support the conduct of activities in the standardization of geographical names through technical meetings, exchange of experiences and correspondence, among others. Divisions support and guide the work of UNGEGN during and between its sessions.

10. The organizational structure, operations, level of activity and cohesion varies considerably among the 24 divisions currently listed. It is noted that the activity level of a division may change and vary over time depending on regional and national factors and circumstances.

11. From the UNGEGN secretariat's perspective, the submission of comprehensive Divisional reports (with collective input from its members) and the attendance with active participation from its Chair and members at UNGEGN sessions are measures of interest and contribution towards fulfilling divisional objectives. Figure 1 shows the number of Divisions that have submitted reports from 2009 to 2023. An average of 15 Divisions have submitted reports at past conferences and sessions since 2009, which is an average of 62% of 24 divisions. It may be desirable to work towards increasing this figure incrementally over the future sessions and could be considered for inclusion in the UNGEGN Strategic Plan and Programme of Work.

**Figure 1 Divisional Reporting 2009-2023**

12. Another measure of Divisional activity is having an operational website which provides: - online presence 24 hours of the day, seven days of the week, a platform for communication and information exchange (updates and announcements), legitimacy and credibility of the Division and a central point of connection for the division's members. Our records up to March 2023 indicate that 15 or 62% of all Divisions have not submitted to the Secretariat the URLs for their websites, and 8 or 33% have provided their URL's and their websites are operational. At the first UNGEGN Divisional and Bureau meeting, a major challenge shared was the management and maintenance of divisional websites. It is hoped with collective action this challenge may be successfully addressed.

13. There are various ways of grouping divisions to show their status. To analyse the level of divisional activity, three groups could be identified as: - active, somewhat active and inactive. The groupings are further described as follows:

- Divisions that are active, meet regularly with substantial participation and have ongoing cooperation between the Member States, often with division-wide projects.
- Divisions that have some active Member States, but with little cooperation between them.
- Divisions that are inactive, through lack of communication between Member States, and/or lack of leadership for the Division.

14. Evidence of the differences between divisions is found in the reports of divisions to UNGEGN sessions: some reports are comprehensive, some are a vehicle only for separate status reports from a few countries within the division, while some divisions do not submit any report. It should be noted that some guidance is provided on

contents of divisional reports in the Documentation for the session which states that divisional reports may include information on activities and issues of common interest to Member States represented in the division. Some information referring to individual countries may be more appropriately included in national reports.

15. For those divisions not functioning as hoped, there is a range of issues to be addressed to improve the situation, for instance: lack of contact between Member States, lack of a Division Chair, a low-level of geographical names activity within the Member States, and political differences between Member States.

### **Challenges and Recommendations to Strengthen Operations of Divisions**

16. Following up on the preceding paragraph this section will outline the challenges shared by the Divisions at the first meeting of the UNGEGN Bureau with Division Chairs in November 2021. The challenges are as follows:

- a. Identification of Division members and maintenance of their contact is an ongoing struggle. Many unsuccessful attempts have been made to contact appropriate national representatives through Ministries of Foreign Affairs.
- b. The need to facilitate and strengthen the exchange of good practices on geographical names standardization among the member countries of Divisions.
- c. The need for capacity building through toponymic training of professionals, especially for divisions of countries in Africa was highlighted, in addition to identifying support to increase Member State attendance at UNGEGN sessions.
- d. Guidelines to govern divisional operations, to ensure uniformity in the implementation of the UNGEGN's programme of work and to facilitate the smooth transition and handover of Divisional leadership.
- e. Strengthen research and partnership with universities. There was a call for increased co-operation with universities as it provides opportunities to have students conduct research on toponymic issues.
- f. The need to have a uniform common framework which would assist Divisions to manage and maintain their websites. The UNGEGN Secretariat was asked to consider helping divisions on the maintenance of their websites.
- g. Strategies needed to strengthen divisional participation and reactivate divisions. There was a call for strategies to be identified which could be employed to attract and retain interest in divisional activities.
- h. A need to contribute to implementing work items common to UNGEGN, e.g. reviewing and updating existing UNGEGN publications.
- i. The need to discuss the promotion of minority groups and minority geographical names. In several countries the interest of minority groups is being eroded, when there is a need to affirm and restore the cultural heritage for the majority of peoples. Further, it becomes a challenge regarding how resolutions address groups that were previously oppressed, to start having cultural expression as names as symbols. It was also noted that restoring cultural heritage is an important concept, however it is not readily understood how restoration should be managed.

17. At the same meeting the following solutions were tendered in support of addressing some of the challenges identified. They are as follows.



- a. Contact national mapping agencies in countries and seek assistance of the UNGEGN Secretariat to identify Member State representatives to increase Divisional membership.
- b. The Dutch and German speaking Division offered to assist with the revision of UNGEGN publications
- c. Members supported the recommendation to increase cooperation with universities and were encouraged to do so.
- d. Two suggestions were made to address the need for website management and maintenance. (i) the UNGEGN Secretariat should provide website support for Divisions on the basis that content should remain on the UNGEGN website rather than on separate websites, and this would ensure a standardized look and feel and help each division to address our main topics of interest and (ii) The Working Group on Data Management could help divisions to create wiki pages.

#### IV. Summary of Division/Bureau Meetings

18. The following table provides basic information on the meetings of the Bureau and Divisional Chairs. Detailed information will be made available on the UNGEGN division webpage at <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/divisions/>.

**Table 3 UNGEGN Bureau and Chairs of Divisions meetings**

| <b>Meeting Date and Attendance</b>   | <b>Objectives and Discussion items</b>   |
|--|--|
| <p><b>First Divisional/Bureau Meeting –<br/>19 November 2021</b></p> <p>The meeting was attended by 25 persons, and 13 of 24 linguistic/geographical divisions were represented.</p> | <p>To engage UNGEGN divisional leadership, to listen and learn of their geographical names standardizations concerns and requirements.</p> <p>To identify strategies, priorities and actions relevant to addressing specific divisional organizational and operational issues, revitalization of inactive divisions and strengthening their involvement and contribution to implementing the Strategic Plan and Programme of Work 2021-2029.</p> |
| <p><b>Second Divisional/Bureau Meeting –<br/>9 December 2022</b></p> <p>The meeting was attended by 27 persons, and 14 of 24 linguistic/geographical divisions were represented.</p> | <p>Discussed were the implementation of the UNGEGN Strategic Plan and Programme of Work 2021-2029, Participation and Preparation UNGEGN 2023 (3rd) session, the Draft Decision on Exonyms and the UN-GGIM/UNGEgn project proposal. The operations of Divisions and Division Chairs and their responsibilities were also presented and discussed.</p>   |

**Third Divisional/Bureau Meeting  
– 30 March 2023**

The meeting was attended by 29 persons.

Discussed were Divisional participation and preparation for the UNGEGN 2023 (3rd) session, the proposal of a national report outline and the UN-GGIM/UNGEGN project proposal.

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## V. Next Steps

19. Discussions and outcome from three divisional meetings highlighted the pivotal role of Divisions in advancing the work of UNGEGN. This was supported by the UNGEGN Chair, Pierre Jaillard (France) in his opening statement at the first meeting. He noted that the Strategic Plan and Programme of Work provides actions for divisions and working groups to develop ideas and tasks and to work together. The Division's work should focus on promoting the value of geographical names standardization, bolstering national contribution, in particular to SDG target 11.4 - protect and safeguard cultural and heritage and language, in addition to fostering standardization at national levels in accordance with UNGEGN's principles, endorsing romanization systems and enhancing the dissemination of standardized geographical names.

20. Equally a number of future work items have been identified, which are listed as follows:

- i. Identification of divisional members, maintenance of their contacts and employing strategies to retain their participation.
- ii. Support the revision of UNGEGN publications
- iii. Identify strategies to support the maintenance of divisional websites
- iv. Strengthening research and partnerships with universities
- v. Preparation of terms of reference/guidelines for the management of divisions
- vi. Preparation of a divisional handbook to support the operations of divisions. This handbook would include topics on creating a division, structure and preparing terms of reference, list of duties and responsibilities, attracting and retaining voluntary support from Member States, financing options, management strategies, including sample instruments and how to guides.
- vii. Support the preparation for and participation in the 2023 UNGEGN session, through submitting working papers, divisional reports, convening side events and encouraging the attendance of their members.

21. An initial outcome of the meetings is the Responsibilities of Divisional Chairs and Executive Group which was presented at the second meeting of the Divisions/Bureau. (See Annex) This list contained in the annex of this report is being presented to the Group of Experts for adoption to be used by Divisions in support of guiding and strengthening their operations.

22. Supporting the implementation of the UNGEGN Strategic Plan and Programme of Work is another important work item that requires the input of Divisions.

**Table 4 Strategic Plan and Programme of Work - work items relevant to Divisions**

| SP/PofW No.                          | Content/Activity  | Division input  |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| 1-iii-9                              | Organize workshops on innovative research and/or technical issues   | Divisions could propose topics, and if appropriate provide input  |
| 2-i-3<br>2-i-4<br>2-iii-7<br>2-iii-9 | Work with UNECA ... to increase national standardization, re-activate the Gaborone Action Plan, re-activate Africa GeoNyms project<br>b. Cooperate to recognition of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages<br>Encourage collaboration with academia to ensure continued availability of expertise in fields required to strengthen geographical names standardization<br>Establish cooperation with sub-groups/initiatives of UN-GGIM to help create or enhance national standardization of geographical names worldwide | Although this requires Bureau leadership, Divisions in Africa should be encouraged to actively participate in the re-activation<br>Division chairs could determine whether any Member States have plans for recognition. If UNGEGN has its own plan, Divisions should be involved<br>Where Division chairs etc, are from academia, this could be taken in hand.<br>As a workshop was organized with CARIGEO, this could be repeated with other divisional areas |
| 3-iii-7<br>3-iii-9<br>3-iv-12        | Review functions and operations of .... Divisions and consider any changes with organizational structure of UNGEGN<br>Encourage .... and Division Chairs to share and develop ideas of linking and cooperating with each other<br>Elaborate measures to increase the number of Member States that have functioning authorities for geographical names standardization   | Some Divisional chairs could be invited to participate in any discussion of organizational structure of UNGEGN<br>In Division reports, projects and cooperative ventures should be presented<br>Chairs of Divisions where countries are active in geonames standardization should be actively giving encouragement. Some division chairs could be invited to discussion on elaborating measures   |
| 4-ii-7                               | Encourage presentations and discussion relevant to current key cultural aspects of naming / renaming  | Division chairs could be in a good position to propose such presentations for UNGEGN sessions   |
| 5-i-1<br>5-iii-4<br>5-iii-5          | Develop plans for awareness raising and increase promotion of UNGEGN geographical names standardization<br>Ensuring relevance, development and dissemination of UNGEGN Bulletin,<br>Toponymy training – 3. implement online courses and workshops on specific topics for training relevant to national geographical names standardization   | Divisions/their chairs could well be included in developing such plans<br>Divisions could suggest topics of interest for themes for the UNGEGN Bulletin<br>Divisions should be encouraged to put forward their needs and topics for such courses and workshops  |

## **VI. Points for discussion**

23. The Group of Experts is invited to:
- a) Take note of the present report and express its view on the efforts of the UNGEGN Bureau and Secretariat to engage divisional leadership, to listen and learn of their geographical names standardization concerns and requirements identifying strategies, priorities and actions relevant to addressing specific divisional organizational and operational issues, and revitalization of inactive divisions;
  - b) Take note of the three division/Bureau meetings held in the intersessional period and encourage divisions to continue to participate in these meetings;
  - c) Adopt the guideline “Responsibilities of Divisional Chairs and Executive Group”;
  - d) Emphasize the important role the divisions serve in implementing UNGEGN’s mandate and encourage Member States to participate in divisional activities and where divisions are inactive to revitalize divisions and
  - e) Agree to actively contribute to the implementation of the UNGEGN Strategic Plan and Programme of Work 2021-2029. as per the strategies and related actions as outlined in table 3.

## ANNEX

### **Responsibilities of Divisional Chairs and Executive Group**

The Chair of an UNGEGN Division is the main contact point with the countries of the Division, with other Divisions, and with the UNGEGN Secretariat, and is the primary representative of the Division at UNGEGN Sessions.

Responsibilities of a Division Chair can generally be viewed as providing leadership, in the following ways:

1. Providing a focal point for information flow both ways between UNGEGN/UNGEGN Secretariat and the countries of the division and where necessary representing the division at UNGEGN sessions
2. Participating in virtual meetings with the UNGEGN Bureau, or in-person meetings during UNGEGN sessions
3. Passing information to countries of the division, for example:
  - a. from meetings with the UNGEGN Bureau
  - b. about both UNGEGN and any regional activities
  - c. about UN-GGIM, UNESCO in relation to activities associated with UNGEGN
4. Providing leadership to countries of the division to achieve national standardization of geographical names, for example by:
  - a. stimulating the concepts of national geographical names standardization in countries of the division
  - b. encouraging non-participating countries to consider aspects of names standardization
  - c. working with those countries that are wishing/endeavouring to establish names authorities
  - d. encouraging countries to provide authoritative data to the UNGEGN World Geographical Names Database
5. Providing leadership to the division to expand knowledge of geographical names standardization through activities, for example by:
  - a. organizing some form of forum for discussion of common linguistic/geographical naming issues (in-person or zoom meetings, symposia, webinars, etc.), with notifications to the UNGEGN Secretariat for inclusion on the UNGEGN website
  - b. co-ordinating (or overseeing) any projects on common aspects of toponymic activities of the countries that make up the division
  - c. discussing, assisting, etc. with follow up within the division of UN Conference resolutions, UNGEGN decisions, and implementation of the UNGEGN Strategic Plan and Programme of Work
6. Coordinating activities within the division, for example by:
  - a. ensuring the continuity of geographical names standardization activities at the divisional level in future years
  - b. maintaining a list of contacts for names authorities, experts, etc. within the division
  - c. encouraging divisional participation at UNGEGN sessions

- d. contributing pertinent information from the division for UNGEGN Information Bulletins and, if appropriate, recommending Bulletin themes of relevance to the division
  - e. preparing and submitting a divisional report to UNGEGN sessions
  - f. maintaining a website for division information, or providing such information for upload to divisional pages of the UNGEGN website
7. Providing a bridge to other activities of UNGEGN and to other groups involved with toponymy, for example by:
- a. forging links with other UNGEGN divisions and/or Working Groups, as appropriate
  - b. promoting the concepts of geographical names standardization to relevant government bodies, academia, private businesses, special interest groups, the media, etc.