

Appendix. Progress of 51 action items of the Strategic Plan and Programme of Work 2021-2029 and Revisions Proposed

Action items	Progress	Actors/responsibility	Output and time frame
Strategy 1. Technical expertise			
1-i-1. Provide consultancy to the developments related to the UNGEGN database, UNECA "UNECA Africa GeoNyms database/gazetteer initiative", the INSPIRE initiative, the UN and European gazetteer projects, the GIS web-based World Geonames Application and other projects of developing countries.	Connecting to UNECA is being attempted.	Bureau, WG GNDM, TT Africa	Report on progress for each UNGEGN session to 2029 (if appropriate to be included in the report of the WG GNDM) Contributions to Training Courses on Toponymy to be assessed annually
1-i-2. Evaluate and assess exchange standards for geographical names information and for web services (gazetteer, feature and mapping) for the provision of geographical names information (comprising the review of Part II of the UNGEGN Technical Reference Manual).	A discussion paper "On geographical names data modelling and transfer related standards, manuals, or guidelines" has been prepared. It includes ideas for geographical names data modelling and transfer related standards, manuals, or guidelines. The compilation shall contribute and be the rationale for a paper submitted to the next UNGEGN Session and could become the rationale for an updated structure for 'Part two. Toponymic data transfer standards and formats' of UNGEGN's 'Technical Reference Manual for the National Standardization of Geographical Names (2007)'. The content of the document could be published through the UNGEGN wiki / website	WG GNDM	Report on exchange standards in 2023
1-i-3. Present geographical names data management topics at national and international conferences organized in the fields of geospatial information management.	Discussion is in progress in the WG on Geographical Names Data Management regarding how to find better ways to inform the WG members and to get information.	WG GNDM	Assess annually
1-i-4. Promote, agree and disseminate romanization systems for national and global use.	On-going work by the WG on Romanization Systems	WG GNDM, WG GNCH, WG RS	Assess annually
1-i-5. Promote and support the establishment of an authoritative international database/gazetteer of geographical names to be disseminated to the public through UNGEGN.	The UNGEGN World Geographical Names Database (WGNDB) has been redesigned and readied for re-launch. * Discussion was conducted on how to implement this action item. It was concluded that the broader concept of a fully comprehensive authoritative world database/gazetteer other than the WGNDB is currently not considered feasible or within the scope of UNGEGN.	Bureau, Secretariat <i>(delete WG GNDM, WG GNCH, WG RS; add Secretariat)</i>	Re-develop UNGEGN World Geographical Names webpage (May 2023). <i>(relocate from 5-ii-3; revise time frame, formerly end of 2021)</i> <i>(delete Report on opportunities for an international database/gazetteer activity in 2023)</i>

1-ii-6. Examine processes and recommend good practice a. on how single and multi-jurisdictional Member States record, store, disseminate and manage their geographical names b. for the reuse and validation of volunteered geographic information, crowd sourced data and Linked Open Data (LOD) as part of national geographical names standardization work c. for the use of standardized geographical names as fundamental data theme in national spatial data infrastructures (SDIs) within the monitoring of the SDG indicator framework in order to analyze and monitor the changes in a country	For sub-item b, a workshop on LOD was held in September 2022 (see 1-iii-9).	WG GNDM, WG GNCH, WG RS	Report on good practices for each UNGEGN session to 2029
1-ii-7. Promote the use of the online discussion forum (Wiki).	On-going work by Wiki moderators of the WG on Geographical Names Data Management	WG GNDM	Assess annually
1-iii-8. Monitor the availability of free and easily-accessible authorized digital geographical names data as it is seen as a key driver in encouraging the use of nationally-standardized geographical names.	A survey on free, accessible and open geographical names data was conducted and replies from more than 25 countries were collected.	WG GNDM	Assess annually
1-iii-9. Organize workshops and on innovative, research and/or technical issues/topics like e.g. volunteered geographic information, crowd sourced data, Linked Open Data or speech technology.	Two webinars were held; "Developing digital gazetteers using free and open-source software" on 10 May 2022 and "Linked Open Data" on 30 September 2022. Details of the second one were reported in UNGEGN Bulletin 64	WG GNDM, WG GNCH	Workshops in 2022-2025 (likely in conjunction with Division meetings)
1-iii-10. Evaluate and assess innovative methods to be used for Romanization, e.g. machine transliteration.	1. A contact was made by the developer of "Interscript" in August 2021. Co-convenor of the WG on Romanization Systems suggested that a chance be given to the company to introduce its product in UNGEGN Bulletin. 2. A proposal was presented to make an evaluation of the effective application of the romanization systems adopted by the UNGEGN, both by the countries themselves and by the international cartographic producers.	WG RS	Report on innovative methods for Romanization for each UNGEGN session to 2029
Strategy 2. Relationships, links and connections			
2-i-1. UNGEGN Bureau to contribute to ECOSOC requirements and to assess annually contributions to the UN-HLPF and the themes determined by ECOSOC for annual focus, and Agenda 2030.	1. UNGEGN was involved in several ECOSOC arrangements, e.g. participation in the ECOSOC Coordination Segment in February 2022 and February 2023. 2. UNGEGN contributed to the ECOSOC Review of its Functional Commissions and Expert Bodies in March 2022. 3. UNGEGN adopted ECOSOC focus for the theme of the 2nd UNGEGN session.	Chair, Bureau	Assess requirements annually
2-i-2. Interaction with UN-GGIM to be continuously reviewed and evaluated for upgrading the activity level in relation to over-arching activities, such as addressing the SDGs.	1. UNGEGN participated and reported in the 11th and 12th sessions of UN-GGIM. 2. "Strengthening collaboration between UNGEGN and UN-GGIM" project was initiated and is currently under discussion.	Chair, Bureau, WG GNDM	Assess relevant activities annually

2-i-3. Work with UNECA to establish stronger and more permanent ties aimed to: a. Increase national geographical names standardization in Africa. b. Re-activate the Gaborone Action Plan (GAP) initiated with UNECA. c. Re-activate Africa GeoNyms project to provide free database/gazetteer software to countries in Africa.	1. The news that Burundi established a names committee was delivered in Sep 2021 and conversation was made to discuss how to help them. 2. The coordinator of the Task Team for Africa participated in the meeting of UN-GGIM-Regional Committee for Africa in October 2022 with invitation of UNECA. Details were reported by the Task Team for Africa in UNGEGN Bulletin 64 (November 2022)	a. TT Africa, UNGEGN Divisions in Africa b. TT Africa, UNGEGN Divisions in Africa c. TT Africa, UNGEGN Divisions in Africa, WG GNDM	a, b and c: Re-establish ties in 2021 Develop workable programmes and establish goals by 2023 Report progress for each UNGEGN session to 2029
2-i-4. Further explore links with UNESCO to: a. Find a path to recognition of geographical names as a part of intangible cultural heritage of Member States. b. Cooperate in recognition of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages (IDIL), 2022-2032.	No actions yet (being prepared).	Bureau, WG GNCH, Member States	a. Develop practical links with UNESCO regarding intangible cultural heritage by 2025 b. Liaise with the Global Task Force of IDIL to establish possible areas of cooperation by 2023
2-i-5. Build on existing initiatives and cooperation to enhance the use of nationally-standardized geographical names and to provide advice to the UN Documentation Division and UN managers of SALB (Establish ongoing liaison with UN Documentation Division and with UN managers of SALB in 2021).	No actions yet (being prepared).	UNGEGN Bureau, WG RS, WG CN	Establish ongoing liaison with UN Documentation Division and with UN managers of SALB in 2023 (<i>replace 2021</i>)
2-ii-6. Continue to communicate and liaise with existing groups and explore further effective ways of cooperation with: ICA, ICOS, IGU, IHO, ISO, OGC, PAIGH, SCAR (SCAGI), Unicode Consortium.	1. Information on the conferences of ICA, ICOS and IGU has been shared. 2. IHO's comment at the 12th session of UN-GGIM was received and reviewed.	Existing liaison arrangements, individual Member States, individual experts	Explore more formal arrangement with IGU (as requested) by 2023
2-iii-7. Encourage collaboration with academia to ensure continued availability of expertise in fields required to strengthen geographical names standardization.	On-going work Information on the online lectures organized by ICOS has been shared.	WG P&F, WG GNCH, WG TC, Member States	Establish goals by 2023, report to each UNGEGN session afterwards
2-iii-8. Initiate appropriate links with UNPFII, ICIPN and other indigenous groups to enhance UNGEGN's understanding of the significance of geographical names to indigenous peoples and the retention of their languages.	Being prepared.	WG GNCH, individual Member States	Initiate links and establish suitable ongoing communication with UNPFII by 2023
2-iii-9. Establish cooperation with sub-groups/initiatives of UN-GGIM (e.g. CARIGEO) to help create or enhance national standardization of geographical names worldwide.	A webinar on "Geographical names standardization supporting national development" was organized and convened on 31 August 2021 with UN-GGIM Americas/CARIGEO and the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Details were reported by the Secretariat in UNGEGN Bulletin 62 (November 2021)	WG P&F; WG TC	Determine UN-GGIM sub-groups/initiatives that are related to geographical names by 2023 (ongoing)

<p>2-iii-10. To enhance the understanding of the aims and work of UNGEGN, to provide advice on geographical names use or on accessibility of data and contacts, there should be an effort to reach out to a wider world of potential geographical names users and to encourage their participation at UNGEGN Sessions. This would include UN and non-UN bodies that may be unfamiliar with UNGEGN's purpose.</p>	<p>Suggestion was made to</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Make a list of those who presented or participated in former UNGEGN/UNCSSGN meetings within their realm of expertise related to geographical names and contact them to encourage participation in upcoming UNGEGN sessions, and 2. Contact experts of the UN and non-UN bodies who participated in GGIM session as observers and encourage participation in upcoming UNGEGN sessions. <p>Revision is proposed to simplify to</p> <p>2-iii-10. Reach out to a wider world of potential geographical names users, both inside and outside the United Nations, and encourage their participation at UNGEGN Sessions</p>	<p>Appoint an individual point person or WG P&F</p>	<p>Ongoing activity, with reporting to UNGEGN sessions to 2029</p>
<p>Strategy 3. Effective work programmes</p>			
<p>3-i-1. Encourage Member States to participate in UNGEGN sessions and activities; Secure funds to support participation of those who need assistance (see also Strategy 5).</p>	<p>On-going work</p>	<p>Bureau, WG P&F, Secretariat</p>	<p>Assess annually</p>
<p>3-ii-2. Review the current versions of UNGEGN publications, establish a plan to revise or add to them, and implement it.</p>	<p>Seven UNGEGN publications were reviewed.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Manual for the National Standardization of Geographical Names (2006): archive the current manual, but create a collection of new texts to address major issues of standardization. A call for contributions for a new Manual announced through Bulletin 63 (June 2022). 2. Technical reference manual for the standardization of geographical names (2007): A rationale for Part 2 was provided (action item 1-i-2). 3. Media Kit has been updated and revised. 4. Updating Glossary of Terms for the Standardization of Geographical Names was discussed at the meeting of the Working Group on Toponymic Terminology in September 2022. 5. Geographical names as vital keys for accessing information in our globalized and digital world (2007): review in progress taking into consideration existing translations and future printing possibilities. 6. UNGEGN Brochure (2001): review in progress taking into consideration existing translations and future printing possibilities. 7. Toponymy Training Manual (2017): retain current content in online format. 	<p>Bureau, WG P&F, WG RS, WG GNDM, WG TT, WG CN</p>	<p>Review and plan in 2021; if needed, draft, edit and publish by 2023</p>
<p>3-ii-3. Take measures to encourage and promote the publication and revision of the Toponymic Guidelines.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An article "How toponymic guidelines support the dissemination of standardized geographical names" was published in UNGEGN Bulletin 63 (June 2022) by the coordinator for Toponymic guidelines for map and other editors. 2. Discussion in progress to make website entries more organized. 	<p>Coordinator TG, WG TC</p>	<p>Assess annually. Take note in training courses</p>
<p>3-ii-4. Codify the resolutions and recommendations into a coherent and hierarchical whole.</p>	<p>A preliminary study was conducted.</p>	<p>Bureau, WG E&I</p>	<p>Review and plan in 2021; prior work done by 2023; subsequent work after 2023, if needed</p>
<p>3-ii-5. Encourage experts to refer to the resolutions and recommendations in their work and particularly in preparing working papers.</p>	<p>A phrase was inserted in the documentation guidelines for the 3rd session.</p>	<p>Bureau, WG E&I, Secretariat</p>	<p>Report to every session; announce in the documentation</p>

3-ii-6. Continue to maintain and update the compendium and database of the resolutions and recommendations.	The UNCSGN resolutions database has been re-designed to include recommendations of the new UNGEGN	WG E&I, Secretariat	Redesign the compendium and database in 2021; update following every session
3-iii-7. Review the function and operation of Bureau, Working Groups and Divisions and consider any change in the organizational structure of UNGEGN.	1. Three meetings of the Bureau and Division chairs were held to share divisions' roles and activities, and suggest responsibilities of Chairs. Meetings were in November 2021, and December 2022 and March 2023. 2. A review of the current organizational structure of working groups and task teams was initiated and discussion is in progress.	Bureau, WG convenors, Division chairs	Initiate in 2021; rounds of discussions and feedbacks by 2023; and then an adjustment made by 2025, if needed.
3-iii-8. Review the documentation guidelines and submission schedule for national/divisional reports and, if needed, elaborate them.	1. Documentation guidelines were reviewed and revised ones were announced. 2. Discussion was conducted on the template of national/divisional reports, including the template proposed by the East Central and South-East Europe Division.	Bureau, WG E&I, Secretariat	Assess for every session
3-iii-9. Encourage WG convenors and Division chairs to share and develop ideas of linking and cooperating with each other.	On-going work	Bureau, all WGs, Division chairs	Ongoing up to 2029
3-iii-10. Monitor and evaluate UNGEGN's work programme regularly including the operation of sessions.	Results of the evaluation survey of the 2nd session were reviewed.	Bureau, WG E&I, WG P&F	Assess annually; organize Bureau and WG meetings <i>regularly (replace in 2022, 2024, 2026)</i>
3-iii-11. Elaborate relevant aspects of UNGEGN to the goals and targets of sustainable development and find ways to develop them in its work programmes.	On-going work	Bureau, all WGs	Assess annually; plan a report on implementing SDGs in UNGEGN by 2023, progress reports in 2025, 2027, 2029
3-iv-12. Elaborate measures to increase the number of Member States that have functioning authorities for geographical names standardization.	On-going work	Bureau, WG E&I, WG TC, WG GNCH	Ongoing; encourage organizing discussion forums
Strategy 4. Culture, heritage and language recognition			
4-i-1. Liaise with UNPFII and its members to better appreciate geographical names as part of indigenous cultural heritage and language retention	Discussion is in progress regarding how to connect to Focus Group 1 (Geographical names in relation to minorities and indigenous people) of the WG on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage.	Bureau, WG GNCH, Member States	Liaison with UNPFII: initiated by 2023 and continuing
4-i-2. Provide supportive evidence (e.g. pamphlet) as to the significance of geographical names on culture, identity and language	No actions yet (being prepared).	WG GNCH (Focus Group 2), WG P&F	Pamphlet or other: concept and draft text by 2023; document (likely in English) for 2025; other languages 2025-2029
4-i-3. Investigate the need for cooperation to advise on and share experiences on methods for crowd sourcing relating to urban naming and street naming processes, and the relationship with relevant SDGs (e.g. sustainable cities)	Discussion is in progress regarding how to connect to Focus Group 4 (Crowd sourcing for collecting stories behind the names) of the WG on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage.	Bureau, WG GNCH (Focus Groups 3 & 4)	Urban naming: plan for 2023 and ongoing implementation Crowd sourcing: 2025 and beyond – encourage papers/discussion at UNGEGN sessions
4-i-4. Share experience on cooperation with emergency services, tourism operators, brand consultants and other providers of services useful to society, e.g. plurilingual societies	Discussion is in progress regarding how to connect to Focus Group 6 (Naming within tourism and branding) of the WG on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage.	WG GNCH (Focus Groups 1 & 6)	Emergency services, tourism operators, brand consultants: initial examples for 2023; wider scope for 2025 and beyond

4-ii-5. Share Member States' treatment of geographical names in indigenous, minority and regional language groups (policies and principles, field collection methodology, naming of both cultural and physical features, etc.)	Discussion is in progress regarding how to connect to Focus Group 1 (Geographical names in relation to minorities and indigenous people) of the WG on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage.	WG GNCH (Focus Group 1), Member States	Indigenous, minority and regional language group naming: ongoing, with specified goals and milestones proposed by 2023
4-ii-6. Share effective practices and applications on culturally-oriented resolutions, such as commemorative naming and commercialization of naming	Discussion is in progress regarding how to connect to Focus Group 3 (Commercial and commemorative naming, including urban naming) of the WG on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage.	WG E&I, WG GNCH (Focus Group 2)	Re resolutions: plan of selected topics for 2023; discussion groups as side events during UNGEGN sessions
4-ii-7. Encourage presentations and discussions relevant to current key cultural aspects of naming and renaming, and to naming in particular environments	Experts participated in the IGU/ICA Commission on Toponymy in Paris, July 2022 with the theme "Place names as (positive or negative) brands" and the results were reported in UNGEGN Bulletin 64 (November 2022).	WG GNCH, Member States	Naming and renaming: encourage papers/discussion at each UNGEGN session Physical environments: encourage papers/discussion at UNGEGN sessions
4-ii-8. Investigate recognition of geographical names by UNESCO as part of intangible cultural heritage	No actions yet (being prepared).	Bureau, WG GNCH, Member States	UNESCO: report of findings by 2025
4-ii-9. Cooperate with academia, so that geographical name datasets collected (by academics, for example, historical or linguistic variants) are geo-referenced and linked to standardized datasets	On-going work	WG GNCH, WG GNDM	Academic datasets: 2025 and ongoing
4-iii-10. The Working Group on Exonyms to continue the examination of and publications on, the treatment, use and reduction of exonyms in the context of geographical names standardization and effective UN communication.	Working Group on Exonyms held a meeting in Ljubljana, August-September 2022 and continued discussion on exonyms	WG E	Exonyms: ongoing reporting
4-iv-11. Contribute to the rationale for creation of national authorities with legal rights/obligations to standardize geographical names.	Discussion is in progress regarding how to connect to Focus Group 2 (Legislation, policies & best practices relating to geographical names) of the WG on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage.	WG GNCH (Focus Group 2), WG P&F	Creation of national authorities: ongoing, with specified goals and milestones proposed by 2023
4-iv-12. Investigate principles and methodology for recording and writing geographical names from unwritten languages	Discussion is in progress regarding how to connect to Focus Group 5 (The names of unwritten languages) of the WG on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage.	WG GNCH (Focus Group 5), WG RS	Unwritten languages: outline of challenges, benefits and possible goals for 2023; sample study for 2025; wider application for 2029
Strategy 5. Promotion and capacity building			

5-i-1. Develop plans for awareness raising and increase promotion of UNGEGN geographical names standardization	<p>1. A webinar on "Geographical names standardization supporting national development" was organized and convened on 31 August 2021 with UN-GGIM Americas/CARIGEO and the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Details were reported by the Secretariat in UNGEGN Bulletin 62 (November 2021).</p> <p>2. Representatives of UNGEGN participated in the UN Maps Conference in Valencia, Spain, March 2023, to promote UNGEGN to wider UN community</p>	TT Africa UNGEGN Chair WG P&F	<p>1. Implement model for regular production and circulation of information sheet pertinent to standardization issues in Africa (2024) (replace 2021).</p> <p>2. Implement cooperation with UN-GGIM and its sub-units to promote the value of standardized geographical names and processes involved to achieve this (2023) (replace 2022).</p> <p>3. Implement procedures for ensuring strong involvement of users of geographical names as speakers and observers at UNGEGN sessions (2023).</p>
5-i-2. Monitor and evaluate promotion and capacity building	On-going work	WG P&F	<p>1. Ensure relevant and updated capacity building material is available at UNGEGN website (2022).</p> <p>2. Implement review procedure for updating capacity-building material (2023).</p>
5-ii-3. UNGEGN Website development and maintenance	Website contents have been updated.	WG P&F	<p>1. Develop plan for stricter monitoring of UNGEGN website with higher member nation involvement to ensure content maintains up-to-date, including review procedures for updating and creation of content and better visual representation of achievements (e.g. Member States with names authorities, toponymic guidelines, etc.).</p> <p>2. Update UNGEGN website content and link the UNGEGN webpage with the related toponymic webpages from the Member States (2022).</p> <p>3. Implement system for ensuring up-to-date information on UNGEGN website (2022). Implement website modernizations at 6 years intervals</p>
5-ii-4. Ensuring relevance, development and dissemination of UNGEGN Bulletin	Topics of the special feature in the UNGEGN Bulletin have been discussed and adopted.	WG P&F	<p>1. Implement yearly evaluations of future topics and ensure focus on the topics investigated in issues (2021)</p> <p>Expand distribution of UNGEGN Bulletin (2021-2029)</p>

5-iii-5. Ensuring international Toponymy Training Courses for the future.	On-going work		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish and maintain a complete group of trainers for international Toponymy Training Courses (2021). 2. Ensure as complete competences as possible in Toponymy Training (2022). 3. Implement procedures for regular review, update and content creation relating to toponymic training materials (2024). <p>Implement online courses and workshops on specific topics for training relevant to national geographical names standardization (2024).</p>
5-iii-6. Establish social-media group to increase level of activity on Twitter.	Discussion is in progress to stablish social-media group to increase level of activity.	WG P&F	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implement robust model for and organization of social media presence (2023)
5-iv-7. Explore possibility of UNGEGN trust fund for capacity building and enabling participation	Discussion in progress regarding the possibilities for a trust fund.	WG P&F	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify areas of UNGEGN in need of funding (2021) 2. Establish legal framework of UNGEGN trust fund, puropose and range of activities (2023). 3. Begin attracting funding to UNGEGN trust fund, if previous point suggests viability (2024) <p>Launch UNGEGN Trust Fund (2027, or earlier)</p>