

14 April 2023

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**United Nations Group of Experts on  
Geographical Names**

**2023 session**

New York, 1–5 May 2023

Item 2 (b) of the provisional agenda\*

**Organizational matters**

**Organization of work\*\***

**Note by the Secretariat**

1. The proposed organization of work and times for the 2023 session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names has been prepared pursuant to relevant decisions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Bureau of the Group of Experts in order to facilitate the consideration of agenda items within the time and services allocated to the Group.
2. The first meeting of the 2023 session of the Group of Experts will be convened on Monday, 1 May 2023, at 10.30 a.m. Facilities will be available for two formal meetings each day. Morning meetings will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. (except on Monday, 1 May, when the first meeting will start at 10.30 a.m.); afternoon meetings will be held from 3 to 6 p.m.

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\* [GEGN.2/2023/1](#).

\*\* The Chair may be assisted by a facilitator to facilitate the discussions of agenda items.



## Proposed organization of work

<i>Date/time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Programme</i>
<b>Monday, 1 May</b>		
10.30 a.m.–1 p.m.	1. Opening of the session	Opening address by the Chair of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names  Welcome remarks by the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development and Chief Economist in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs
	2. Organizational matters	Adoption of the agenda, organization of work, credentials of observers
	(a) Adoption of the agenda	
	(b) Organization of work	
	(c) Credentials of observers	
	3. Reports of the Chair and the Secretariat	Introduction of reports General discussion and summary
	4. Reports	National dialogue on national names standardization
	(a) Governments on the situation in their countries and on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names	General discussion and summary
	(b) Divisions of the Groups of Experts	Introduction of divisional reports General discussion and summary
3–6 p.m.	8. Monitoring and evaluation of the strategic plan and programme of work, 2021–2029, and of the work of the Group of Experts	Introduction and presentation of documents General discussion and summary
	4. Reports ( <i>continued</i> )	Introduction of reports
	(c) Activities on the standardization of geographical names in Africa;	General discussion and summary
	(d) National and international meetings and conferences	
	5. Cooperation and liaison with other organizations	Introduction of reports General discussion and summary
	(a) International organizations	
	(b) Economic Commission for Africa	

<i>Date/time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Programme</i>
	(c) Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management	
<b>Tuesday, 2 May</b>		
10 a.m.–1 p.m.	Special presentation	United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
	4. Reports ( <i>continued</i> )	National dialogue on cultural aspects of geographical names standardization
	(a) Governments on the situation in their countries and on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names	General discussion and summary
	6. National and international standardization of geographical names	Introduction and presentation of documents General discussion and summary
	(a) Names collection, office treatment, national authorities, features beyond a single sovereignty and international cooperation	
3–6 p.m.	6. National and international standardization of geographical names ( <i>continued</i> )	
	(b) Toponymic guidelines for map and other editors for international use	
	7. Social and economic benefits, supporting sustainable development, measures taken and proposed for the implementation of resolutions	Introduction and presentation of documents General discussion and summary
	Panel discussion	Strengthening relationships, links and connections in geographical names standardization and for sustainable development and pandemic recovery
<b>Wednesday, 3 May</b>		
10 a.m.–1 p.m.	Special presentation	Addressing data challenges in responding to emergencies and disasters
	4. Reports ( <i>continued</i> )	National dialogue on technology, innovation and standards for geographical names data management
	(a) Governments on the situation in their countries and on the progress made	General discussion and summary

<i>Date/time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Programme</i>
	in the standardization of geographical names	
	9. Issues of publicity for the Group of Experts and funding of Group projects	Presentation by the Convenor of the Working Group on Publicity and Funding General discussion and summary
3–6 p.m.	10. Toponymic education	Presentation by the Convenor of the Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy General discussion and summary
	11. Toponymic terminology	Presentation by the Convenor of the Working Group on Toponymic Terminology General discussion and summary
	Panel discussion	Connections between geographical names and the environment
<b>Thursday, 4 May</b>		
10 a.m.–1 p.m.	Special presentation	The Gazetteers.net Web Application: A tool for harvesting digital gazetteers
	4. Reports ( <i>continued</i> )	National dialogue on cooperation, training and promotion
	(a) Governments on the situation in their countries and on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names	General discussion and summary
	12. Geographical names as culture, heritage and identity, including indigenous, minority and regional languages and multilingual issues	Introduction by the Convenor of the Working Group on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage Presentation of documents General discussion and summary
	13. Exonyms	Introduction by the Convenor of the Working Group on Exonyms Presentation of documents General discussion and summary
3–6 p.m.	3. Reports of the Chair and the Secretariat ( <i>continued</i> )	Report of the Secretariat –World Geographical Names Database Presentation, discussion and summary
	14. Geographical names data management	Introduction by the Convenor of the Working Group on Geographical Names Data Management Presentation of documents General discussion and summary

<i>Date/time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Programme</i>
	15. Writing systems and pronunciation	Introduction by the Convenor of the Working Group on Romanization Systems Presentation of documents General discussion and summary
<b>Friday, 5 May</b>		
10 a.m.–1 p.m.	Special presentation	Geographical names at Google: Giving users the most useful names for their daily tasks
	4. Reports ( <i>continued</i> )	National dialogue on romanization, maritime names and other topics
	(a) Governments on the situation in their countries and on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names	General discussion and summary
	16. Other geographical issues	General discussion and summary
	17. Presentation and adoption of decisions	Presentation of informal papers Discussion and consideration of the draft decisions
	19. Arrangements for the 2025 session of the Group of Experts	Consideration of draft provisional agenda of the 2025 session of the Group of Experts
3–6 p.m.	21. Other business	
	18. Adoption of the report on the 2023 session	Presentation of the draft report Interactive discussion and adoption of the draft report
	20. Election of officers for the subsequent session	Nominations to membership in the Bureau and their consideration by the Group of Experts
	22. Closing of the session	Conclusion of the session