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**United Nations Group of Experts on  
Geographical Names**  
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Item 6 (a) of the provisional agenda\*

**National and international standardization of geographical  
names: names collection, office treatment, national  
authorities, features beyond a single sovereignty and  
international cooperation****Geographical names within the exclusive economic zone and  
continental shelf: the role of the coastal State****Summary\*\***

Indonesia is the world's largest archipelagic country, comprising more than 17,000 islands and stretching more than 5,000 km from east to west. It encompasses 1.9 million km<sup>2</sup> of land and more than 6 million km<sup>2</sup> of waters (including archipelagic waters, territorial sea, contiguous zone, continental shelf and exclusive economic zone). Consequently, it has a vast maritime zone and a large seabed area that are rich in natural resources.

The Government of Indonesia has a clear policy to protect its sovereignty and sovereign rights over its maritime zones. This is reflected in several government regulations and laws that provide the legal framework for the management and protection of maritime zones and seabed areas in the country, including regarding the use, conservation and management of natural resources.

Indonesia has been a member of the International Hydrographic Organization since 1951 and a party to the United Convention on the Law of the Sea. The Convention gives sovereign rights to Indonesia, and all coastal States, to manage resources and impose relevant regulations with regard to its exclusive economic zone and the continental shelf.

In order to manage the exclusive economic zone and the continental shelf, Indonesia has been conducting numerous field surveys, which have led to the discovery of undocumented underwater features. Thus, Indonesia believes that it is a matter of urgency to have national or even international guidelines on how a coastal

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\* GEGN.2/2023/1.

\*\* The full report was prepared by Rahmah Atikah Khansa, Sora Lokita, and Sultrawan Mangiri of the Coordinating Ministry for Maritime Affairs and Investment Affairs, and Dyah Pangastuti and Ratna Sari Dewi of the Geospatial Information Agency. It will be available under document symbol GEGN.2/2023/49/CRP.49, in the language of submission only, at [https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/3rd\\_session\\_2023/](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/3rd_session_2023/).



State names the features that lie between its exclusive economic zone and the continental shelf. Indonesia closely observes international best practices.

In terms of geographical names, the Government of Indonesia has a policy of standardizing and submitting geographical names to international organizations. Government regulation No. 2 of 2021 regulates the standardization of geographical names.

Indonesia has identified 92 undersea features. Eight of those features were standardized by the Subcommittee on Undersea Features Names in 2022. Four additional features were also submitted to the Subcommittee, but they have not been reviewed.

Indonesia has therefore been actively participating in international organizations to standardize geographical names and gain recognition for the names used for underwater features in its waters. Nonetheless, Indonesia proposes that further discussions be held among international agencies on the naming process of underwater features, including with regard to developing relevant guidelines.

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