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**Social and economic benefits, supporting sustainable
development, measures taken and proposed for the
implementation of resolutions**

Activating place names in digital geospatial services to support the goals of sustainable development

Summary**

The vast geographical expanse of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is a crucial factor in its natural diversity, which in turn contributes significantly to the formation of its culture. There are customs and traditions specific to each region that reflect the character of the social life of the population in its rich detail. Naturally, the choice of place names is an integral part of this authentic culture. The geographical map of the Kingdom is full of many events that inhabitants have in many cases made reference to in the naming processes.

Today, everyone is aware of the importance of geographical names in documentation, planning, development programmes, population statistics and censuses. They confer economic, social and cultural advantages. The National Committee on Geographical Names in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is working to preserve and document geographical names in the Kingdom. Those efforts are part of a framework of implementing measures being carried out by the relevant authorities, including the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and Housing, whose duties and competencies impinge on this area. This paper highlights a number of aspects.

Efforts are being made to give neighbourhoods, streets and squares in urban areas names that take into account the spatial documentation of geographical names in those areas that are associated with historical and other major events, and landmarks connected with the geography and topography of the locale. This section covers regulations, legislation and governance of the mechanism for choosing names for these urban landmarks that constitute the national guidelines in this area.

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** Abstract prepared by Ali bin Hasan Bakhit, member of the National Committee on Geographical Names. It will be available under document symbol GEGN.2/2023/94/CRP.94, in the language of submission only, at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/3rd_session_2023/.



Modern technology is made use of to disseminate geographical names associated with urban landmarks such as neighbourhoods, streets and squares. Such dissemination uses advanced digital services to insert those names into millions of processes and procedures, thereby making their use more widespread. That can contribute to the achievement of many of the Sustainable Development Goals. Among other things, those designations can help with directions and access to places that can then become hubs for infrastructure that can help in providing public services and emergency services, maintaining security, and addressing various development problems and socioeconomic issues. It can help in providing postal, transportation and delivery services that are prerequisites for digital government and e-commerce. That will affect all classes of society and make lives easier. Identification and dissemination of these names is also of great importance in spatial planning. It helps to factor in urban spatial indicators, notably with regard to green spaces, squares, parks, public places, health, education, energy, water sources and infrastructure. That helps support decision-makers to make decisions that increase the quality of life and improve the urban landscape in residential communities.

We also cover the interactive urban maps platform, its mechanisms for geospatial integration with geographical names, and modalities for linking those names with various map layers. The goal is to document these names within the municipal and residential sector services system in the Kingdom, in addition to other services provided by partners. That includes documenting names used in documents or by providers of such public services as water, electricity, telecommunications and mail. The importance of integrating names into these interactive maps is stressed, as is the vital role they play in facilitating directions and access to locations, in addition to their pivotal role in supporting decision-making.
