

22 February 2023

English

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

**2023 session**

New York, 1 – 5 May 2023

**Agenda item 7 of the provisional agenda \***

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

**Investigating the change of geographical names and its role in  
sustainable development**

**Summary \*\***

Access to the correct, transparent and clear geographical names approved by the national bodies of the countries is considered as a basis for national and international communication, especially in the advanced digital world, and it strengthens relations, links and connections for sustainable development and improving relations between countries. Residents of the same political unit consider themselves to belong to a unit that has a specific name. Therefore, the more heterogeneity of these names and their changes with the cultural and social relations in the region, the merrier the integrity among the region's residents will follow. This will further lead to national unity and integration.

The present study investigates and extracts the changed geographical names, including the names of provinces, cities, districts and villages, in the period after the Islamic Revolution and their documentation according to various sources (Ministry of Interior, government website, book collections of judicial laws, official newspapers, geographical cultures, etc.) and their analysis. Geographical names change in the world for various reasons and one of the most important reasons is ideological and political change, and such a change can cause tension and finally divergence and cause a lack of sustainable development. But the findings of the present research show that the name change process in Iran at the studied stage was mostly due to changes in the structure of country divisions, and this case includes promotion, abstraction, annexation and any change in the scope of political units.

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\* GEGN.2/2023/1

\*\* The full report was prepared by Hoseyn Isaniya, National Cartographic Center of Iran. The report will be available under document symbol GEGN.2/2023/108/CRP.108, 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/).