
**United Nations Group of Experts On
Geographical Names****2023 session**

New York, 1 – 5 May 2023

Agenda item 5 (c) of the provisional agenda ***Cooperation and liaison with other organizations:****Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management**

Cooperation and liaison with other organizations: Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

Submitted by UNGEGN Bureau and UNGEGN Secretariat **

Summary

For the past five years papers, reports and proposals have been presented on strengthening relations between United Nation Group of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) and United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN), with varying levels of success. An initial item of collaboration was having two UNGEGN experts actively contribute to the work of the UN-GGIM Working Group on Global Fundamental Geospatial Data Themes. They assisted with the preparation of the description of the theme “Geographical Names”, one of the 14 adopted Global Fundamental Geospatial Data Themes. Other collaborative actions have been the staging of three joint meetings of both Bureaux and reporting to and attending each other’s plenary sessions.

The Group of Experts at its 2021 session, in Decision 2/2021/4 (e), welcomed the invitation for more formal cooperation between the Group of Experts and the Committee of Experts. Similarly, the Committee of Experts at its eleventh session in 2021, in Decision 11/112 (b and c), supported efforts and actions for strengthening interaction and collaboration between the Bureaux of the Committee of Experts and the Group of Experts, including opportunities for partnership, and also encouraged Member States to improve communication, coordination and cooperation between geospatial information management authorities and geographical names authorities at national and regional levels, including across thematic areas, to strengthen geospatial information management. At its twelfth session in 2022 the Committee of Experts in Decision 12/114 (d) noted the continuing efforts to build a stronger relationship between the Committee of Experts and the Group of Experts, and supported the collaborative project proposal from the Group of Experts to develop a compendium of institutional arrangements on shared good practices for geographical names standardization between national mapping and geospatial agencies and

* GEGN.2/2023/1

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national names authorities (E/C.20/2022/18/Add.1). The aims of the project are to increase cooperation, create synergies and share knowledge and good practices for the standardization of geographical names

The full report provides a background on the past efforts to strengthen relations between UNGEGN and UN-GGIM and policy directives and guidance from the UN Economic and Social Council on promoting strengthening of collaboration among its functional commissions and expert bodies. The report covers the development of the project proposal, its objectives and proposed outcomes and activities. Further, the report contains actions taken to engage and inform national names authorities and UNGEGN Divisions on the benefits, requirements, and modalities for project implementation.

Included in this report as an annex is the project proposal on strengthening collaboration between UN-GGIM and UNGEGN, which is presented for approval by the Group of Experts.

The Group of Experts is invited to take note of the report, express its views on the proposed project to strengthen collaboration with the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) and to approve its implementation to produce a compendium of institutional arrangements on shared good practices between national mapping agencies and national names authorities.

I. Background

1. A central tenet of UNGEGN's operations is forging and maintaining relations with relevant organizations. This objective is included in the Group's Strategic Plan and Programme of Work, at Strategy 2, Relationships, links and connections, which seeks to strengthen UNGEGN's existing collaborations vis-à-vis other United Nations activities, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and programmes of United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) and other subsidiary bodies such as the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management.

2. In accordance with its mandate and given the importance of collaboration, UNGEGN has over the years cultivated relations and has forged strong alliances with international bodies such as the International Cartographic Association (ICA), Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO), Unicode Consortium and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) among others. These relations have been strengthened through the active participation of their members and nominated liaison officers, working together on projects of mutual interest. Advances in telecommunication and technology, coupled with the increased use of geospatial information management tools and their application to spatial data infrastructures, have spurred on an evolution in functions, methods and levels of interaction among these inter-governmental and international bodies and their stakeholders.

3. In 2016, the Committee of Experts mandate was strengthened with UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) resolution 2016/27, which "Stresses the need to strengthen the coordination and coherence of global geospatial information management ... through appropriate coordination mechanisms, including in the broader United Nations system..." UNGEGN, in recognition of this resolution, agreed in decision 29/101 of its 29th Session held in Bangkok, to encourage its Bureau to elaborate in a transparent and consultative manner, with all Member States, the articulation of the business case and a long-term vision for UNGEGN, and the definition of the relationship with the Committee of Experts. Thus began the journey towards strengthening relations between both expert bodies of ECOSOC.

II. Policy Directives from ECOSOC and Decisions of the Subsidiary Bodies

Policy Directives from ECOSOC

4. In resolutions A/RES/74/303 and A/RES/72/306 the General Assembly encourages ECOSOC (as the parent body of both the Group of Experts and the Committee of Experts) to create synergies and coherence among its subsidiary bodies, to address gaps, overlaps, and duplication in their respective agendas, both as they relate to the 2030 Agenda. Promoting strengthening of collaboration among functional commissions and

expert bodies of ECOSOC is also supported in the [Summary of Recommendations](#) (section III, paragraphs 15, 19, 22 and 24) adopted by ECOSOC at its 2022 Management Segment, an outcome of its review process.

Decisions of the Committee of Experts

5. At the seventh session of the Committee of Experts in 2017, the UNGEGN Bureau was invited to table a report on its activities under agenda item 16 “Strengthening collaboration with the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names”. UNGEGN not only submitted a report, but also a background document entitled “[Relationship of UNGEGN with UN-GGIM – Building Bridges](#)” which proposed common principles and ideas for a cooperation model, based mainly on an exchange of knowledge and communication, and approaches for engagement between UNGEGN and UN-GGIM at the global, regional and national levels. The proposal was supported by six principles aimed at engendering good working relations between the two bodies. The Committee of Experts endorsed the proposal to build a stronger relationship between the Group of Experts and the Committee of Experts, to advance the cause of geographical names and geospatial information management and supported the common principles of cooperation as a positive communication tool and a means for closer collaboration.

6. On the path towards strengthened relations, both bodies have conducted several collaborative activities which included: i) face to face joint meetings between the bureaux, ii) each body has an agenda item on the other’s agenda which requires the preparation of reports and presentations to be made at each body’s plenary meeting and iii) UNGEGN’s experts have supported the work of the UN-GGIM on the [Global Fundamental Geospatial Data Themes](#), specifically on the Geographical Names theme. The fourteen data themes were approved by the Committee of Experts at its eighth session in 2018.

7. There have also been several decisions and proposals from both bodies in support of strengthening collaboration which has proved very challenging to be implemented. Table 1 shows the UN-GGIM sessions, reports and decisions and references UNGEGN’s reports in which the proposals have been outlined.

Table 1. Decisions and proposals to strengthen relations between the bodies

Sessions, Reports and Decisions	Proposed Activities
UN-GGIM 2017 Report of the seventh session E/2017/46 E/C.20/2017/18 Decision 7/114	UNGEGN’s Bureau Report - E/C.20/2017/17/Add.1 1. Convene one virtual meeting annually between the two Bureaux. 2. Where and when possible, have members of each expert body attend each other’s plenary meetings. 3. Consider the creation of a liaison group between the two expert bodies or the appointment of liaison representatives/focal points, with responsibility for managing

Sessions, Reports and Decisions	Proposed Activities
	<p>interactions between UNGEGN and UN-GGIM</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Work with the UN-GGIM Academic Network to have universities include toponymy in their courses/programmes in Geographic Information. 5. Develop a collaborative/integrated work plan and common agenda items.
<p>UN-GGIM 2018</p> <p>Report of the eighth session E/2018/46 E/C.20/2018/19</p> <p>Decision 8/114 welcomed the proposal to create a liaison group</p>	<p>UNGE GN's Bureau Report - E/C.20/2018/17/Add.1</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The two UNGEGN experts will continue to work with the UN-GGIM Working Group on Fundamental Data Themes. 2. Discuss the need for a liaison group for both Bureaux, 3. Discuss opportunities for UNGEGN to contribute to Agenda 2030/SDG indicator discussions and monitoring 4. Work jointly to encourage and communicate the benefits of geographical names standardization and the importance of creating names authorities/committees
<p>UN-GGIM 2019</p> <p>Report of the ninth session E/2020/46 E/C.20/2019/19</p> <p>Decision 9/114</p>	<p>UNGE GN's Bureau Report - E/C.20/2020/17/Add.1</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide input and review of the data strategic pathway of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, Implementation Guide. 2. National mapping agencies/geospatial information management agencies and national names authorities consider forging links to share and exchange technical expertise, share geographical names data, and conduct joint data collection exercises. 3. Work jointly to encourage and communicate the benefits of geographical names standardization and the importance of creating names authorities 4. pursue joint capacity building initiatives particularly for those countries in transition and on the cusp of implementing national geospatial information management systems
<p>UN-GGIM 2020</p> <p>Report of the tenth session E/2021/46 E/C.20/2020/35</p> <p>Decision 10/112 supported the</p>	<p>UNGE GN's Bureau Report - E/C.20/2020/34/Add.1</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Decision 8/114 to create a liaison group brought forward with a proposal for its structure and responsibilities. 2. A restatement of proposals 1 to 4 made in the report to the ninth UN-GGIM session.

Sessions, Reports and Decisions	Proposed Activities
establishment of a liaison group between both bodies.	
UN-GGIM 2021 Report of the eleventh session E/2022/46 E/C.20/2021/16 Decision 11/112	UNGEGN's Bureau Report - E/C.20/2021/15/Add.1 1. A restatement of proposals 1 to 4 made in the report to the tenth UN-GGIM session. 2. Facilitate collaboration and workshops on Linked Data between national names authorities and Linked Data practitioners.
UN-GGIM 2022 Report of the twelfth session E/2023/46 E/C.20/2022/19 Decision 12/114 supported the collaborative project proposal.	UNGEGN's Bureau Report - E/C.20/2021/15/Add.1 1. Work jointly at the global, regional and national levels to encourage and communicate the benefits of geographical names standardization and the importance of creating names authorities; and 2. At the global level, pursue joint capacity building initiatives, particularly for those countries in transition and on the cusp of implementing national geospatial information management systems.

8. Decisions and proposals outlined in the table indicate that both intergovernmental bodies have acknowledged the need to strengthen their relations, have mutual representation and identify items for collaborative work. This is particularly supported by decision 8/114 of the Committee of Experts at its eighth session, where it welcomed the proposal to create a liaison group tasked with defining operational working relations and coordinating future collaborative work. The call for the creation of a liaison body was further strengthened at the tenth session of the Committee of Experts. In the report E/2021/46-E/C.20/2020/35 decision 10/112 supported the establishment of a liaison group between the Committee of Experts and the Group of Experts to act as a guiding mechanism to manage the flow of information between the two bodies and to continue to identify areas of joint work and welcomed the proposal to convene a joint meeting of the Bureau of the Committee and the Bureau of the Group in early 2021. Regrettably these proposals are still be implemented.

III. Overview of the Collaborative Project

9. Continuing the strengthening of relations journey, the Bureau of the Group of Experts has prepared a collaborative project proposal, an action item to be pursued by both bodies to develop a compendium of institutional arrangements on shared good

practices between National Mapping Agencies (NMAs) and National Names Authorities (NNAs).

10. The proposal invites NMAs and NNAs to collaborate and contribute to the development of a compendium of institutional arrangements and operational good practices that strengthens working relations between mapping and national names authorities to support the collection, management, and dissemination of standardized geographical names. The expected resulting outcomes are stronger relations between both expert bodies and also between their counterpart national bodies, whose operations and practices may be made more efficient and effective through the use of the principles, good practices and guidelines which will be developed from the project.

11. Further details on the proposal, the problems being addressed, the high-level tasks, areas of geographical names data management to be considered, stakeholders and implementation options are outlined in the Appendix of this report.

IV. Communicating and Sharing the Project Proposal

12. The proposal was first shared by the UNGEGN Bureau to the Committee of Experts at its twelfth session in 2022. At this session, twelve Member States in their interventions for agenda item 16, “Collaboration with the UNGEGN” indicated their support for the project proposal. The Member States are listed in table 2. These countries could serve as the first batch of participants to be formally invited to participate in this collaborative project exercise.

Table 2. UN-GGIM Member States who supported the Collaborative Project Proposal

Countries/Bodies	Comments
1. Argentina	Supports the collaborative project and creating awareness
2. Canada	Welcomes the project and looking forward to participating
3. Germany	Supports proposal to conduct collaborative project and willing to contribute
4. Jamaica	Endorses project and is interested in the project
5. Morocco	Supports the project and wishes to participate
6. New Zealand	Supports the collaborative proposal
7. Sweden	Supports the collaborative project to strengthen relations between the mapping and naming bodies
8. United Kingdom	Supports the proposed activities
9. UN-GGIM Africa	Endorses the suggestion to foster coordination
10. UN-GGIM Europe	Supports the project

13. A special meeting of a small task team of the UNGEGN Bureau was convened to discuss the implementation of the collaborative project. Decisions were taken to i) send a note to eight Member States that indicated interest and support during twelfth UNGGIM session, to confirm their support and the level of support; ii) present the collaborative project to the Bureau/Divisional meeting on 9th December 2022; iii) plan and stage a side event to share project findings and strengthen its implementation; this is to be planned for the first week of May during the 2023 UNGEGN Session and iv) to expand on the factors/areas to be considered to conduct the study of good practices. The task team also designed five options for implementation (see the project proposal in the Appendix). It was also decided that the initial project will address the situation in a sample of Member States. In addition, there should be geographic balance across the countries to be asked to participate in the project, and also countries having National Mapping Agencies and National Names Authorities in one organization and also as separate organizations.

14. Further to the task team meeting and decisions, the collaborative project was shared twice with the Chairs of UNGEGN linguistic and geographical divisions on 9 December 2022 and the 30 March 2023 at the meetings with the UNGEGN Bureau. At the first meeting the project implementation options were shared with Divisional chairs, and they were encouraged to inform their members of the collaborative project proposal and to submit their interest to participate on the option considered most feasible. The response to the request was very low, with three of the 14 divisions who had attended the meeting providing feedback. At the meeting of 30 March 2023 Divisional Chairs were again encouraged to circulate the collaborative project to its members for their information in advance of this report being tabled at the 2023/3rd UNGEGN session.

15. It is hoped that should the collaborative project be supported, the ensuing work will provide the opportunity and impetus to establish a liaison group between both bodies, thereby fulfilling decision 8/114 of the Committee of Experts. The Group of Experts is invited to express its views on the proposed project to strengthen collaboration with the Committee of Experts and to approve its implementation to produce a compendium of institutional arrangements on shared good practices between national mapping agencies and national names authorities.

V. Points for discussion

16. The Group of Experts is invited to:
- a) Take note of the present report and express its view on the efforts of the UNGEGN Bureau and Secretariat
 - b) Approve the proposed project to strengthen collaboration with the Committee of Experts to produce a compendium of institutional arrangements on shared good practices between national mapping agencies and national names authorities.

APPENDICES

Strengthening Collaboration between UN-GGIM and UNGEGN Project Proposal

A. Project Title

Preparation of a compendium of institutional arrangements on shared good practices between national mapping agencies and national names authorities

B. Background

1. The Committee of Experts at its eleventh session, in decision 11/112, supported efforts and actions for strengthening interaction and collaboration between the Bureaux of the Committee of Experts and the Group of Experts, including opportunities for partnership, and also encouraged Member States to improve communication, coordination and cooperation between geospatial information management authorities and national names authorities at the national and regional levels, including across thematic areas, to strengthen geospatial information management.
2. Promoting strengthening of collaboration among functional commissions and expert bodies of ECOSOC is also supported in the [summary recommendations by the Vice President of ECOSOC](#), noted by the Council's decision 2022/334 adopted at its Management Segment on 2 June 2022. Reference is made to Recommendations (section III, paragraphs 15, 19, 22 and 24) which outlines ways to promote the further strengthening of collaboration among ECOSOC's Functional Commissions and Expert Bodies.
3. A significant achievement for UNGEGN on strengthening relations, was to have had two nominated experts who actively participated in work of the Committee of Experts Working Group on Global Fundamental Geospatial Data Themes. They made considerable contributions to preparing the description of the theme "Geographical Names", one of the 14 adopted Global Fundamental Geospatial Data Themes.
4. Further proposals to the Committee of Experts included: (i) meetings of both Bureaux, (ii) creating an inventory of institutional arrangements to be used to develop a typology of UN-GGIM and UNGEGN organizations, to be circulated to both bodies for discussion; (iii) exploring the possible collaboration with the UN-GGIM Academic Network to consider including geographical names in the delivery of GIS education and training; and (iv) pursuing the creation of a liaison group with representatives from both bodies to provide a regular flow of information between both expert bodies.
5. Both ECOSOC bodies may consider (i) forging links to share and exchange technical expertise, share geographical names data, and conduct joint data collection exercises among other cost saving and efficiency initiatives; (ii) work jointly at the global, regional and national level to encourage and communicate the benefits of geographical names standardization and the importance of creating

national names authorities; and (iii) at the global level pursue joint capacity building initiatives particularly for those countries in transition and on the cusp of implementing national geospatial information management systems.

6. In pursuance of these decisions and resolutions, the Group of Experts proposes a collaborative project to prepare a compendium of institutional arrangements on shared good practices between national mapping agencies and national names authorities.

C. Objectives

7. This proposal invites National Mapping Agencies (NMAs) and National Names Authorities (NNAs) or other relevant authorized names bodies to collaborate and contribute to the development of a compendium of institutional arrangements and operational good practices that strengthens working relations between mapping and geographical names authorities to support the collection, management, and dissemination of standardized geographical names.
 - i. To build a stronger relationship between the Group of Experts and the Committee of Experts.
 - ii. To identify, collate and document relevant and acceptable principles, examples of good practices and guidelines/recommendations that may be used by both NMAs and NNAs across Member States to strengthen their operations.

D. Problem Statements

- i. In many countries NMAs and NNAs are in separate organizations and often operate in silos with minimal collaboration on relevant and related geographical names mapping activities. In other cases, both NMAs and NNAs are within the same government agency/organizations, yet sometimes have limited or no relations. Having no relations often leads to duplication of effort, multiple and inconsistent names data sets, non-compliance and agreement breaches and overall inefficient use of resources.
- ii. Lack of awareness of and sensitivity to the importance and benefits of geographical names, and the competencies required for the authoritative standardization of geographical names.
- iii. Budgetary and human resource constraints and lack of prioritization of the importance of geographical names standardization activities and operations.

E. Tasks

8. The initial tasks identified required to undertake the exercise is outlined below. They are subject to further refinement, identification of responsible parties and time frame. It is envisioned that the activities to be conducted will be voluntary and cost neutral. Should financing be available consideration can be given to contracting the services of a consultant.

Initial High-Level Tasks

1. Select and solicit participation of NMA's and NNA's/relevant names bodies

2. Create a project coordination team consisting of members from both expert bodies.
3. Decide on areas to be queried and prepare questions to be asked of NMA's and NNA's by way of interviews and or surveys.
4. Conduct a desk study - one on one discussion/interview sessions or on-line surveys and on-line web searches of NMA's and NNA's websites
5. Collate and analyze data from interviews, surveys and desk study with a summary of finding.
6. Prepare first draft of compendium of good practices.
7. Review and feedback from the project coordination team the to finalize compendium of good practices.
8. Present the completed compendium at the 2025/fourth UNGEGN session and fourteenth session on UN-GGIM.
9. Conduct joint side events to discuss findings and identify future activities.

F. Areas for geographical names data management to be considered for interview sessions with NMA's and NNA's.

9. The number of factors to be considered in collating good practices will depend on the availability of resources to conduct the exercise. This exercise is expected to extract and identify the benefits, advantages and disadvantages of the collaboration modalities and practices across NMA's and NNA's and how these practices contribute to Member States achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and development targets. A list of factors to be considered in investigating working practices, taking into consideration NMA's and NNA's that reside in the same organization and those that are separate and or in different entities are as follows.
 1. Legislation, policies, standards, guidelines, strategies, work plans and programmes
 2. Institutional arrangements – operating modalities, human resources, working structures
 3. Technology
 4. Data management – from collection and storage to dissemination and use
 5. Communication, public relations and engagement with stakeholders – efficient information exchange
 6. Financial management
 7. Cultural

See the appendices for a list of Member States and NMA's and NNA's and draft proposed questions for the interview sessions. Please note that the list of Member States is high level and not exhaustive, as there are other types of organizations which undertake geographical names standardization activities.

G. Stakeholders/Partners

10. The tasks as outlined in section E require the participation of representatives from both expert bodies, a focal point for project coordination and management and project workers.
 1. Representatives from the UN-GGIM Bureau
 2. Representatives from the UNGEGN Expanded Bureau
 3. Selected NMA's and NA's. Two tables are provided showing countries and NMA's and NNA's, the first table lists countries having NMA's and NNA's in the same organization and the other

table list countries not where NMA's and NNA's are not in the same organization. (Please note that the lists of Member States are not complete.)

4. UN Statistics Division -UN-GGIM and UNGEGN Secretariats
5. Consultants, Interns, Fellows

H. Project Implementation

11. How the project is to be staffed is to be addressed. Several options have been identified and are to be explored to determine feasibility. This requires further scoping of the project in terms of factors to be considered, number of countries to be included in the survey – ensuring geographical balance across UN member states and duration among others.

Option 1

The UNSD identifies and assigns existing staff within the division to coordinate and conduct the project and tasks.

Option 2

The UNSD seeks the services of a UN intern for a period of six months. Lead time will be required to contract an intern.

Option 3

NMA's and NNA's identify staff to be placed on virtual secondment for an agreed time and duration.

Option 4

NMA's and NNA's conduct a self-study to identify good practices according to a template/questions to be designed.

Option 5

Contract the services of a consultant to complete the project. This option is only feasible should funding be made available through UNSD existing resources or trust fund support of a UN Member State.

Noting that the options presented will be further analysed to determine the pros and cons to help make informed decisions on which option(s) will be adopted. In addition, implementation could be a combination of options, depending on the uptake from Member States, voluntarism, and the availability of resources.

Geographical Names and Geospatial Data Management in same organization

Country	UNGEGN Organization	UN-GGIM Organization
	Geographical Names and Geospatial Data Management in same organization	
Argentina	National Geographic Institute	National Geographic Institute
Austria	Austrian Board on Geographical Names	Federal Office of Metrology and Surveying
Botswana	Department of Surveys & Mapping	Department of Surveys and Mapping
Brazil	Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics, Centro de Referencia em Nomes Geograficos	Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics

Country	UNGEGN Organization	UN-GGIM Organization
Canada	Natural Resources Canada	Natural Resources Canada
Chile	Instituto Geografico Militar	Ministry of National Property
Cyprus	Cyprus Permanent Committee for the Standardization of Geographical Names, Department of Lands and Surveys	Cyprus Department of Lands and Surveys
Czechia	Czech Office for Surveying, Mapping and Cadastre	Land Survey Office of the Czech Republic
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Institut Géographique du Congo (IGC)	Institut Géographique du Congo (IGC)
Egypt	Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics	Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics
Finland	National Land Survey of Finland	National Land Survey of Finland
France	IGN France International	National Institute of Geographic Information
Germany	Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy	Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy
Hungary	Institute of Geodesy, Cartography and Remote Sensing	Institute of Geodesy, Cartography and Remote Sensing (FÖMI)
Indonesia	Geospatial Information Agency	Geospatial Information Agency
Islamic Republic of Iran	National Cartographic Center of Iran	National Cartographic Center of Iran
Italy	Commission for the Italian Official Toponymy, Italian Geographic Military Institute	Italian Geographic Military Institute
Japan	Geospatial Information Authority of Japan	Geospatial Information Authority of Japan
Lithuania	State Enterprise Centre of Registers of the Republic of Lithuania	State Enterprise "Centre of Registers"
Madagascar	National Institute for Cartography and Hydrography	National Institute for Cartography and Hydrography
Malaysia	Department of Survey and Mapping Malaysia (JUPEM)	Department of Survey and Mapping Malaysia (JUPEM)
Mexico	Instituto Nacional de Estadística Geografía e Informática	Instituto Nacional de Estadística Geografía e Informática
New Zealand	New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa	Toitū Te Whenua Land Information New Zealand
Philippines	National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA)	National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA)
Republic of Korea	National Geographic Information Institute	National Geographic Information Institute
Russian Federation	Federal Service for State Registration, Cadastre and Cartography (Rosreestr)	Federal Service for State Registration, Cadastre and Cartography (Rosreestr)

Country	UNGEEN Organization	UN-GGIM Organization
Singapore	Singapore Land Authority	Singapore Land Authority
Sri Lanka	Survey of Sri Lanka	Survey Department of Sri Lanka
Sweden	Institute of language and folklore Lantmäteriet,	Lantmäteriet, (The Swedish mapping, cadastral and land registration authority)

* Note names of organizations may not be correct as they may have changed

Geographical Names and Geospatial Data Management are not in the same organization

Country	UNGEEN Organization	UN-GGIM Organization
	Geographical Names and Geospatial Data Management are not in the same organization	
Algeria	National Council of Geographical Information	National Institute of Cartography and Remote Sensing (Algeria)
Australia	Department of Natural Resources Mines and Energy - Permanent Committee on Place Names	Geoscience Australia
Cameroon	Geographical Research Division, National Commission on Toponymy	National Institute of Cartography
China	Ministry of Civil Affairs	National Administration of Surveying, Mapping and Geoinformation of China
Denmark	Copenhagen University	Danish Geodata Agency
Estonia	Place Names Board of Estonia, Institute of Estonian Language	Estonian National Land Board
Ireland	Department of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht	Ordnance Survey Ireland
Netherlands	Dutch Language Union	Cadastral and Land Registry Agency and Mapping Agency
Norway	The Language Council of Norway/Ministry of Culture	Norwegian Mapping Authority
Poland	Commission for Standardization of Geographical Names outside Poland, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Administration	Geodesy and Cartography of Poland
Romania	Institute of Geography of the Romanian Academy	National Agency for Cadastre and Land Registration of Romania
Saudi Arabia	National Committee on Geographical Names in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	General Commission for Survey
South Africa	Department of Arts and Culture, south African Geographical Names Council	Department of Rural Development and Land Reform
Sweden	Institute for Language and Folklore Lantmäteriet	Lantmäteriet (The Swedish mapping, cadastral and land registration authority)

Country	UNGEGN Organization	UN-GGIM Organization
		authority)
United Kingdom	Permanent Committee on Geographical Names	Ordnance Survey
United States	U.S. Board on Geographic Names	U.S. Census Bureau
	U.S. Department of State	

*** Note names of organizations may not be correct as they may have changed**

APPENDIX II

UNGEEN – UN-GGIM Collaborative Project

Draft proposed questions

- (A) Is the same government Department responsible for national mapping and for a national geographical names authority?

The response is "YES" to having the responsibilities of national mapping and national names in the same organization.

- (1) Name of Department, Agency or Organization
- a) Is this military and/or civilian mapping?
 - b) Are the responsibilities for national and/or international mapping
- (2) For the geographical names, is the responsibility for
- a) Coordinating an independent national names board/ committee
 - b) Organizing a names committee within the Department
 - c) Acquiring / deciding internally, by individuals, on names to use on Departmental maps
- (3) Provide some details of the relationship of the two activities within the Department
for example:
- a) At what management level is the responsibility for both?
 - b) What is the type and extent of interaction?
 - c) What legislation supports this?
- (4) Outline some BENEFITS of this relationship, based upon selection from the following:
- a) Technical:
 - i. Availability of names for Departmental products
 - ii. Arrangements for field collection of names and topographic data
 - iii. Creation and maintenance of databases/gazetteer services
 - iv. Other
 - b) Financial:
 - i. Avoiding duplication of resources and work effort
 - ii. Common understanding of personnel resources required
 - iii. Other
 - c) Cultural:
 - i. Common understanding of national cultural sensitivities in relation to products and decision-making
 - ii. Other
 - d) Information exchange:
 - i. Transparent and efficient information exchange

- ii. Communication with the public and stake-holders
 - iii. Other
- e) Addressing UN SDG goals:
- i. How having the two functions within the same department assists progress
 - ii. Other
- (5) DISADVANTAGES of colocation of the two functions
- a) Please indicate any disadvantages of this arrangement
- (6) What IMPROVEMENTS could be made within this framework to create a better understanding of the significance of good naming practices and of the needs of a mapping agency.
- (7) Are there particular practices that you follow that you would like to highlight as “GOOD PRACTICES” for others to follow?

The response is "NO" to having the responsibilities of national mapping and national names in the same organization.

- (1) Names of Departments, Agencies or Organizations responsible for:
- a) national mapping
 - b) a national names authority
- (2) Some REASONS for this separation:
- for example,*
- a) historical distinction
 - b) cultural and linguistic links important for geographical names vs. mapping
 - c) university authority and responsibility vs. government activity
 - d) names are for international use vs national mapping activity
 - e) other
- (3) What is the INTERACTION between mapping and names?
- for example:*
- a) names are provided to mapping agency
 - b) mapping agency is represented on naming authority
 - c) programmes and reports are shared between the two areas
 - d) databases are shared
 - e) other
- (4) Outline some of the BENEFITS of the existing arrangement
- for example:*
- a) technical
 - b) financial
 - c) cultural
 - d) information exchange
 - e) other

- (5) Outline some of the DISADVANTAGES of the existing arrangement
for example:
- a) little contact between the two groups
 - b) lack of knowledge exchange or awareness of each other's programmes
 - c) greater difficulty for public to access information
 - d) addressing UN-GGIM goals
 - e) other
- (6) What IMPROVEMENTS could be made within this framework to create a better understanding of the significance of good naming practices and of the needs of a mapping agency.
- (7) Are there particular practices that you follow that you would like to highlight as "GOOD PRACTICES" for others to follow?