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

New York, 1–5 May 2023

Item 5 (a) of the provisional agenda*

**Cooperation and liaison with other organizations:
international organizations**

**Report of the Joint International Cartographic Association/
International Geographical Union Commission
on Toponymy**

Summary**

The report highlights the activities that the Joint International Cartographic Association (ICA)/International Geographical Union (IGU) Commission on Toponymy has pursued since the 2021 session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, held virtually from 3 to 7 May 2021, and contains its programme for 2023. The Commission was established in 2011 to foster toponymic research in geography and cartography complementary to that of the Group of Experts, with its focus on standardization, and the International Council of Onomastic Sciences, with its focus on linguistics. That goal was to be pursued by organizing events as part of international conferences and by holding separate symposiums on specific topics, mostly in cooperation with local institutions.

The Commission currently has 178 full and corresponding members from 49 countries on all continents. Between the 2021 and 2023 sessions of the Group of Experts, the following events, described in the full report, were held:

(a) IGU conference on heritage geographies, on the topic “Politics, uses and governance of the past”, held in Lecce, Italy, from 26 to 28 May 2021; session entitled “Place names as a part of the cultural heritage”;

(b) Eighth Association of European Geographical Societies Congress on the Geography of Europe, held in Prague from 28 June to 1 July 2021; session entitled “Minority place name standardization: a comparison of regulations and approaches in Europe”;

* GEGN.2/2023/1.

** The full report was prepared by Peter Jordan (Austria), Austrian Academy of Sciences, International Cartographic Association (ICA) liaison officer, ICA Chair of the Joint ICA/International Geographical Union (IGU) Commission on Toponymy. The report will be available under document symbol GEGN.2/2023/36/CRP.36, in the language of submission only, at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/3rd_session_2023/.



(c) Thirty-fourth IGU International Geographical Congress, held in Istanbul, Türkiye, from 16 to 21 August 2021; session entitled “Place names as indicators of human perception of space”;

(d) Sixth International Symposium on Place Names, on the topic “Standardization and the wealth of place names: aspects of a delicate relationship”, held in Bloemfontein, South Africa, from 29 September to 1 October 2021, organized by the University of the Free State in collaboration with the Joint ICA/IGU Commission on Toponymy;

(e) Second International Pan American Symposium on Toponymy, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 17 to 19 November 2021, organized by the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics, as well as Pittsburgh Plate Glass, a global company, which is very active in Brazil, and GeoCart, and co-organized by the Group of Experts, the Joint ICA/IGU Commission on Toponymy, the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History and two other Brazilian institutions;

(f) Thirtieth International Cartographic Conference, held in Florence, Italy, from 14 to 18 December 2021; session entitled “Toponymy in cartography”;

(g) Conference entitled “Atlases in time: national and regional issues”, on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the creation of the Instituto Geográfico Nacional, held in Madrid from 20 to 23 April 2022, organized by the Instituto in cooperation with the ICA Commission on Atlases, the ICA Commission on Map Design and the Joint ICA/IGU Commission on Toponymy;

(h) IGU Centennial Congress, held in Paris from 18 to 22 July 2022; session entitled “Place names as (positive or negative) brands”;

(i) EuroCarto 2022, held in Vienna from 19 to 21 September 2022; pre-conference workshop on the Joint ICA/IGU Commission on Toponymy research project entitled “Minority place name standardization: a comparison of regulations and approaches in Europe”.

During the period under review, the following proceedings of events organized or co-organized by the Commission were published:

(a) Allison Dollimore and Peter Jordan, eds., *Place Names and Migration: Proceedings of the Symposium in Vienna*, 6–8 November 2019 (Hamburg, Germany, 2021);

(b) Proceedings of the second International Pan American Symposium on Toponymy, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 17 to 19 November 2021. *Revista Brasileira de Geografia*, vol. 67, No. 1 (2022);

(c) Chrismi-Rinda Loth, ed., *Standardisation and the Wealth of Place Names: Aspects of a Delicate Relationship – Proceedings of the 6th International Symposium on Place Names 2021* (Bloemfontein, SunBonani Conference, 2022).