

13 February 2023

Original: English

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

New York, 1–5 May 2023

Item 14 of the provisional agenda*

Geographical names data management**Monitoring of the availability of free, easily accessible and
authorized data on digital geographical names****Summary****

The Working Group on Geographical Names Data Management has responsibility for all subtasks and actions of strategy 1 of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names strategic plan and programme of work for 2021–2029, on technical expertise, and has started to work on most of the actions, including action 1-iii-8, the aim of which is to monitor the availability of free and easily-accessible authorized digital geographical names data as it is seen as a key driver in encouraging the use of nationally-standardized geographical names.¹

Action item 1-iii-8 is relevant to aim IV of the strategic plan and programme of work, which is to enhance, nationally, regionally and globally, the maintenance and dissemination of standardized geographical names data.

The paper describes the approach and the feedback provided by countries as well as the current status and planned next steps.

The main goal of the task has been to provide the Group of Experts and all Member States with an overview of all free and easily-accessible authorized digital geographical names data. The plan is to update the corresponding Group of Experts web page, which contains links to geographical names databases for as many countries as possible (<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/ungegn/geonames.html>).

* GEGN.2/2023/1.

** The full report was prepared by Victoria Fölsing (Germany) and Marija Brnot (Slovenia). The report will be available under document symbol GEGN.2/2023/74/CRP.74, in the language of submission only, at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/3rd_session_2023/.

¹ See https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/documents/UNGEGN_Strategic_Plan_2021_V4.pdf.

