

United Nations Nations Unies

SECRETARIAT OF UNITED NATIONS GROUP
OF EXPERTS ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
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Dear Colleagues,

Third session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) *1-5 May 2023*

I am pleased to inform you that the 2023/third session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) will be convened from 1 to 5 May 2023 at the United Nations headquarters in New York. The United Nations has returned to full operational capability, and intergovernmental meetings are ongoing. Therefore, the UNGEGN 2023/third session will be in person only and will be guided by prevailing public health measures.

The official announcement of the 2023/third session has been issued through a Note Verbale, which was communicated to all Permanent Missions to the United Nations in New York on 27 October 2022. A copy of the Note Verbale is attached for your reference.

In terms of substantive arrangements, I wish to advise that the theme for the 2023/third session of UNGEGN is “*Strengthening relationships, links and connections in geographical names standardization and for sustainable development and pandemic recovery*”. The theme supports General Assembly resolution 70/1, which called for ECOSOC inter-governmental bodies and forums to reflect the integrated nature of the sustainable development goals (SDGs) as well as the interlinkages between them. The theme is also aligned to [UNGEGN’s Strategic Plan and Programme of Work 2021-2029](#), Strategy 2: Relationships, links and connections. Governments are therefore encouraged to consider the integrated, indivisible and interlinked nature of the SDGs with their work on the standardization of geographical names. A special focus on the theme of the session is welcomed, however, the submission of documents focusing on general issues and challenges of geographical names standardization is also encouraged.

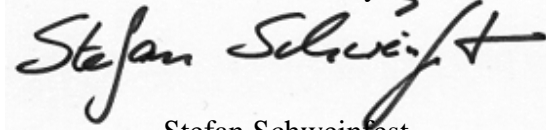
Please note that a tentative provisional agenda ([GEGN.2/2023/1](#)) and an advanced unedited version of the guidelines for document preparation ([GEGN.2/2023/INF/1](#)) have been posted to the UNGEGN 2023/third session website. Governments and their experts are encouraged to submit their summary reports in support of items of the provisional agenda no later than **20 January 2023**, and to submit their full documents no later than **13 March 2023**.

Experts who plan to participate in the 2023/third session will need to comply with the formality of requesting your Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York to inform the Secretary-General of the names of the members of their government who will attend the session, by registering the composition of their delegations in the e-deleGATE portal (under ECOSOC/ United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names), which will open on **27 February 2023**. The contact information for your Permanent Mission is available on the following website: <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/member-states>. Please note that participating experts should be made available at their government's expense. Arrangements for hotels need to be made by individual participants (or their Mission) at hotels of their own choice. Practical information and updates will be made available to confirmed participants in due course. I encourage you to monitor UNGEGN's website https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/3rd_session_2023/ and be alert for emails from geoinfo_unsd@un.org for updates.

Should you have additional questions or need assistance regarding the forthcoming session, please do not hesitate to contact the UNGEGN Secretariat (Ms. Cecille Blake, email blake1@un.org and Ms. Vilma Frani, email frani@un.org).

I hope to be able to welcome you in New York for the 2023/third session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.

Yours sincerely,



Stefan Schweinfest
Director
UNGEGN Secretariat
United Nations Statistics Division/DESA