2023/Third UNGEGN Session

Newcomers Orientation to UNGEGN and the Session

1 May 2023

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2023 Orientation
Conference Room 4

Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)
WELCOME
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
AND TO
THE GROUP OF EXPERTS
ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
WELCOME from UNGEGN Bureau and Secretariat

- Third/2023 session of UNGEGN,
  - operating under the adjusted methodology proposed at the 2017 United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names and decided by ECOSOC in July 2018

- First in-person UNGEGN session since 2019

- Introducing newcomers
  - to UNGEGN and
  - the formal procedures of a United Nations inter-governmental meeting

- Hope to assist for a better understanding
  - for new delegates and observers
  - benefit more from the week’s discussions
What is important to know?

1. The United Nations

2. Background on UNGEGN
   – Aims
   – History
   – Bureau, Working Groups and Divisions
   – Website and resolutions

3. Your role BEFORE/DURING/AFTER Sessions
   – Side events
   – Rules of Procedure
   – Interventions

4. Meeting Documents
   – Annotated Provisional Agenda; Organization of work
   – Reports/Conference room papers
   – Other documents

... Questions ...
UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names

• A subsidiary body of ECOSOC
• Promotes standardization of geographical names in response to national requirements
• Creates and follows-up on the implementation of resolutions
• Provides a forum for discussion – geographers, linguists, administrators, GIS specialists, cartographers ...
• Supported by a Secretariat at UNHQ (NY)
• Creates working groups and task teams to focus on specific areas of current concern and interest
• Has 24 geographical/linguistic divisions for grassroots work
What UNGEGN is NOT

• Decision maker on feature names
• Arbitrator of disputes over names
• Place to air political issues, even if they are related in some way to place names
• Decision maker on what processes, legislation or policy is correct for any country
UNGEGN’s aims

• Encourage the creation of national names authorities
  • backed by legislation
  • respect local usage of names
  • collect, store and disseminate authorized names - for government and public use

• Raise awareness of the value and benefits of geographical names standardization

• Recognize the value of geographical names both to identify place and as elements of cultural heritage

• Develop single scientifically-based systems of romanization

• Contribute to work of UN bodies and collaborate with non-UN organizations
Early days of UNGEGN

• **1959 – Resolution 715A (XXVII) of ECOSOC**
  • To bring together experts to advise on geographical names for use in UN Cartography

• **1960 – 1st meeting of experts in New York**
  • USA, France, UK, Iran, Guatemala, China

• **1967 - First Conference held in Geneva**
  • 11 conferences every 5 years until 2017
    • New York, Geneva, London, Athens, Montréal, Berlin
  • 30 UNGEGN sessions – two (2) between conferences
    • New York, Geneva, Vienna, Nairobi, Bangkok

Meredith Burrill, USA
Some Major Milestones – 1970s & 1980s

1970  First Working Groups
1972  “UNEGGN” and first Divisions
1979  Toponymic Guidelines started – e.g. Austria
1982  First Toponymy Training Course - Indonesia
1987  Compendium of Resolutions started
1988  First UNGEGN Newsletter (now Bulletin)

Josef Breu, Austria

Ferjan Ormeling, Snr Netherlands
Milestones – 2000s

2001  First brochure published
2002  UNGEGN website launched
2004  Task Team for Africa
       Online UNGEGN World geo-names database
2010  Online database of Resolutions
2012  Web-based training course
2016  Formalized cooperation with UN-GGIM
       (started in 2010)
Evolution of UNGEGN – recent history

• 2017 – Reorganization to “new” UNGEGN
  • To convene every 2 years starting in 2019
  • Reports to ECOSOC

• 2019 – Creating Strategic Plan
  • Including Programme of Work
    • Document (CRP.94) for approval at this session (Agenda #7)

• 2021 – After approval of Strategic Plan
  • Inviting Member States to become involved in the implementation of the Programme of Work

5 strategies
UNGEFN Structure

Supported by the UN Statistical Division through the UNGEGN Secretariat
Officers of UNGEGN

Chairperson
• Mr. Pierre Jaillard, France

Vice-Chairpersons
• Mr. Sungjae Choo, Republic of Korea
• Ms. Susan Birtles, Australia

Rapporteurs
• Mr. Trent C. Palmer, USA
• Ms. Wendy Shaw, New Zealand
UNEGGDN working groups

Romanization
Training
Geo-names Data Mgmt
Evaluation / implementation
Terminology
Exonyms
Publicity / funding
Country names
Cultural heritage
Task Team for Africa
Coordination of Toponymic Guidelines
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Division</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Language</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa Central</td>
<td>Baltic</td>
<td>India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa East</td>
<td>Celtic</td>
<td>Latin America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa South</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>Norden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa West</td>
<td>Dutch- and German-speaking</td>
<td>Pacific South-West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>East Central and South-East Europe</td>
<td>Portuguese-speaking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia East (other than China)</td>
<td>Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia</td>
<td>Romano-Hellenic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia South-East</td>
<td>East Mediterranean (other than Arabic)</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia South-West (other than Arabic)</td>
<td>French-speaking</td>
<td>United States / Canada</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
UNGEGN Liaison with other Organizations

1. International Cartographic Association (ICA)
2. Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)
3. International Council of Onomastic Sciences (ICOS)
4. International Council on Indigenous Place Names (ICIPN)
5. International Hydrographic Organization (IHO)
6. International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Technical Committee 211 (TC/211)
7. Pan-American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH)
8. Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR)
9. Unicode Consortium
UNGEENN Website
https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/

• Last redesign was in 2019
• **Very large reference source**
  • UNGEENN Bulletin
  • Manuals, media kit, pamphlets
  • World Geographical Names Database
  • National authorities
  • Documents from conferences/sessions
  • Resolutions/recommendations
  • Web-based training
  • Events, Links, Tweets, and more
Resolutions, Recommendations and Decisions
https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/resolutions/
*NEW* https://www.ngii.go.kr/portal/ungn/main.do

• Resolutions, recommendations and decisions reflect the technical work discussed

• From 11 Conferences - 211 resolutions assembled and grouped by subject area (26 groups). Recently added are the Recommendations beginning with the 2019 session.
  • national standardization; toponymic guidelines
  • systems of romanization;
  • distribution of data through gazetteers (hard copy/web);
    data exchange in accepted formats;
  • training and education;
  • cultural heritage; exonyms ....
More about resolutions and recommendations

- **Available on the web**
  - Searchable database
    - Arabic, English, French, Spanish
    - Korean
  - Compendium
    - Arabic, English, French, Spanish
    - Korean; Portuguese

- **“New” UNGEGN**
  - 8 recommendations
  - working decisions
Things you would have done BEFORE the Session

1. Prepared country reports, divisional reports and technical papers

2. Identify and know the responsible officer(s) with Foreign Affairs in Capital and at your Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York
   - Secure and submit accreditation for participation – registration by E-deleGATE
   - Make arrangements to process your UN grounds pass

Participants should continue to:

1. Monitor the UNGEGN website for updates and documents

2. Read the technical reports, discuss and decide on national positions and prepare statements/interventions.
The New York Resource Guide

The information helps to prepare you for your trip to and during your stay in New York.

It covers:

1. Meeting arrangements
2. Identification Badges and Grounds Passes
3. Secretariat Contact Information
4. Working Languages of the meeting
5. General Information
   ▪ Immigration requirements
   ▪ Money
   ▪ Hotels – Address and Telephone Numbers
   ▪ Guide to Neighborhood Restaurants
   ▪ Airports
   ▪ Transportation – Airport and local
   ▪ Postal Services
   ▪ Time and Weather

Welcome to New York (un.org)
Table of Side Events

- Refer to the **Table of Side Events** for schedules and updated information on divisional and working group meetings and technical seminars during the week. [UNEGGN_2023_Side_Events_17April.pdf](UNEGGN_2023_Side_Events_17April.pdf)

- Identify the events you wish to attend and note the times and access arrangements. Any changes will be reflected on the web-site.

- Sides events may be closed or open.
  - Divisional and working group meetings are usually open to all delegates.

- Interpretation is **not** provided for the side events.
The policies and regulations governing the meetings of the UNGEGN are laid out in the Rules of Procedure (Decision 2018/264).

They constitute a set of procedures and conducts that ensure the proper functioning of meetings.

All participants are obliged to respect these rules and follow the procedures.

The Rules of Procedure are available here:

UNGEGN Rules of Procedure

• DEFINITIONS  Rule 2
• COMPOSITION  Rule 3
• REPRESENTATION FOR SESSIONS  Rule 4
• SESSIONS  Rule 5
• AGENDA  Rule 6
• BUREAU  Rules 7 to 9
• SECRETARIAT  Rules 10 to 12
• CONDUCT OF BUSINESS  Rules 13 to 24
• DECISION MAKING  Rules 25 to 36
• ELECTIONS  Rules 37 to 39
• LANGUAGES AND INTERPRETATION  Rules 40 to 41
• DOCUMENTS  Rules 42 to 43
• RECORDS AND MEETINGS  Rules 44 to 45
• SUBSIDIARY BODIES  Rules 46 to 47
• PARTICIPATION OF OBSERVERS  Rule 48
• AMENDMENTS  Rule 49
Meeting Document Symbols

GEGN.2/2021/49

GEGN.2 Session number assigned to the “new” UNGEGN (before the 1st session the symbol was GEGN) /2021 Year of the session /49 Document number

CRP conference room paper

INF Information (e.g. list of participants)

L Limited distribution (generally draft documents)

-/Add… Addendum

-/Rev… Revision (replacing texts previously issued)
Essential session documents

Documentation for the Session
Guidelines on preparation of documents

Symbol e.g. GEGN.2/2021/INF/1

Annotated Provisional Agenda
List of all items to be considered during the session with Agenda Item numbering

Symbol e.g. GEGN.2/2021/1/Rev.1

Organization of work
Detailed listing of Agenda Items that will be chronologically brought before the Group of Experts for considerations

Symbol e.g. GEGN.2/2021/3
Summaries and full reports

**Summaries**
- A brief of a report/technical paper
- Translated in all UN languages if submitted within specified time

**Reports/Technical Papers**
- Provides points, topics for the substantive discussions

**Symbol e.g.**
GEGN.2/2021/6

**Symbol**
GEGN.2/2021/6/CRP.6

**What is the difference between these two symbols?**

**GEGN.2/2021/96/CRP.96**
This report has a summary, 96 appears twice

**GEGN.2/2021/CRP.106**
A report only. No summary was submitted
Reports and Background Documents

Reports are prepared by working groups, divisions, Member States or secretariat. They are available on the Session/Meeting webpages. All Documents have a number/symbol and a title (they may have a summary).

- All **Summaries** are available in all six official UN languages
- **Reports** are only available in the original language of submission
- Reports for Discussion are introduced

Participants are encouraged to read all documents and identify **issues to be discussed**
DURING the Session

Participants are encouraged to:
• Contact your Permanent Mission in New York
• Have your Mission register you on E-deleGATE
• Become acquainted with the UNGEGN agenda work items
• Actively contribute to the discussions through statements and interventions
• Share your experiences, ideas and solutions
• Identify working groups in which to participate
• Join in the side events

Why it is important to actively participate:
• An ideal forum for networking
• Recharge technically and reconnect with experts
• Let your country's achievements and requirements be known
What happens during the session

Meeting times – 2 meetings per day – 10:00 -1:00am and 3:00 -6:00pm (New York time)

Have on hand the Organization of Work

1. Opening of the Session and procedural matters – Agenda items 1 and 2

2. Substantive matters – Agenda items 3 to 16
   i. Chair opens agenda item and invites introduction of papers for discussion
   ii. Representatives/authors introduce papers for discussion
   iii. Interventions from delegations accepted by Chair to speak under that agenda item.
   iv. If time permits, additional interventions will be taken from the floor.
   v. Delivery of the summary of the discussion by the moderator of the agenda item.

3. Review, finalization of decisions and adoption of report on the 2023 session
During the Session - role of the Chair

The Chair:
• May declare the opening and closing of each plenary meeting,
• Direct the discussions,
• Ensure the observance of the Rules of Procedure,
• Accord the right to speak,
• Put questions to the vote and announce decisions
• may propose the closure of the list of speakers,
• Propose a limitation on the time to be allowed to speakers and on the number of times that each member may speak on an item
• May ask Bureau and Working Group members preside over agenda items
Guidelines for Speakers During the Session

• Delegates are seated by country and by divisions for working group agenda items 3-16
• Be short and concise in your interventions – three (3) minutes
• Address the Chair of session (when you address the Chair you address the Group of Experts as a whole).
• Wait to be asked to speak; your microphone will be unmuted
• Speak slowly to allow the Interpreters to do a good job.
• Responding only when invited by the Chair, not directly to another expert
• At all times show respect for other delegations as individuals and for the governments, states, nations and causes they represent.
UNGEFNG Meetings are Public

- All 10 meetings of the session will be broadcasted live on UN Live United Nations Web TV
- Interpretation available in all six (6) UN languages
- Recordings will be posted on the UNGEFGN 2023 Session webpages, after the session
Delegates are kindly encouraged to complete two online forms:
1. Session Evaluation Survey
2. Contact Information for National Geographical Names Authorities

The links to the online forms will be posted on the Session webpage
YOUR role BETWEEN Sessions

Participants are encouraged to:

- Contribute to advancing the **UNEGGN programme of work**
  - Communicate nationally the decisions from the previous conferences and current sessions
  - Advocate and implement nationally the policies and decisions
  - Actively engage with your Divisions: activities; areas of focus; shared challenges, etc.
  - Use the vast body of knowledge contained in the papers and resolutions
- Participate in UNEGGN division and working group meetings
- Contribute your documents, national experiences, etc. to the **UNEGGN Bulletin** and databases, maintained by the Secretariat and Working Groups
- Monitor the UNEGGN website for latest geospatial activities
- Tweet at @UNSD_GEGN
THANK YOU

UNEGGN Secretariat
United Nations
New York

https://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNEGGN
E-mail: geoinfo_unsd@un.org

twitter: @UNSD_GEGN