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English

**United Nations Group of Experts on
Geographical Names****2025 session**

New York, 28 April–2 May 2025

Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda*

Reports: Divisions of the Group of Experts**Status Report on the Divisions of the Group of Experts****Summary****

At its 2023 session, held from 1 to 5 May 2023, the Group of Experts adopted Decision 3/2023/6 in which it took note of report [GEGN.2/2023/113/CRP.113](#) and acknowledged the need expressed by some Divisions for more support from the Bureau and the Secretariat, including space on the website to archive divisional matters. The Group of Experts adopted the guideline entitled “Responsibilities of Divisional Chairs and Executive Group”. Further, the Group of Experts encouraged Member States to participate in divisional activities and to revitalize inactive Divisions and encouraged the Divisions to actively contribute to the implementation of the Strategic Plan and Programme of Work 2021–2029, in particular work items relevant to Divisions”.

This full report highlights the major activities conducted by the UNGEGN Bureau and secretariat during the intersessional period, including a summary of the findings and main outcomes which emanated from the four meetings of the UNGEGN Bureau and Division Chairs, held on 14 November 2023, 12 April 2024, 15 November 2024 and 14 March 2025. Also provided in the report is a brief update on the status of Divisions, including suggestions for strengthening the operations and sustainability of those which have been inactive.

Further, this report presents draft guidelines on the creation and dissolution of Divisions for consideration by the Group of Experts. These guidelines are being tabled to provide guidance to Member States on the requirements and procedures needed to be followed to create and dissolve Divisions. UNGEGN has a history of creating and dissolving Divisions, evidenced by its existing 24 linguistic and geographical Divisions. Whereas the [UNEGN Rules of Procedure](#) Rule 47 outlines

* GEGN.2/2025/1

** The full report was prepared by the UNGEGN Bureau and the UNGEGN Secretariat. The report will be available under document symbol GEGN.2/2025/158/CRP.158, in the language of submission only, at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/4th_session_2025/

eight guidelines on the responsibilities and operations of Divisions, it is silent on the creation and dissolution of Divisions. The knowledge on how Divisions are created and dissolved resides in UNGEGN resolutions, conference and session reports, and the institutional memory of former UNGEGN Chairs. The Group of Experts is being asked to review and adopt these guidelines.