



**29th Session of the United Nations Group of Experts
on Geographical Names
SIDE EVENT**

**Workshop on Implementing Resolutions:
Experiences of Commemorative Naming**

**Wednesday, 27 April 2016, 12:30-13:45
UNCC Bangkok, Meeting Room C+D**

Objectives

Share the practices of commemorative naming, review the relevant UNCSGN resolution in terms of its usefulness and restraints, and discuss ways to improve its implementation

Background

This workshop has been prepared as an open forum to share experiences of implementing UNCSGN resolutions, for the case of commemorative naming. A resolution was adopted at the 8th Conference (2002) which recommended that the use of personal names be discouraged to designate a geographical feature during the lifetime of the person in question, and that clear statements be provided on the length of the waiting period before using a commemorative name (see the box for the full resolution). Despite this resolution, we observe a number of cases not conforming to this recommendation.

Agenda

- Introduction and background of the workshop
Convenor, Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation
- Presentations on each country's experience of commemorative naming: A specific focus on practices by public and private sector, guidelines provided by names authority, restraints to applying the relevant UNCSGN resolution, etc.
Austria (Peter Jordan), Finland (Ulla Onkamo), Republic of Korea (Sungjae Choo), Sweden (Annette Torenjö), Tunisia (Naima Friha)
- Discussion: review the resolution and share ideas to improve its implementation – how to consider each country's cultural, social, political and economic context
Helen Kerfoot (Canada), Staffan Nyström (Sweden), all participants
- Conclusion and future plans (Convenor of the Working Group)

Organizers

Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation
UNGEGN Secretariat

The workshop is open to all delegates. Any expert interested is welcome to participate.

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UNCSGN Resolution

VIII/2 Commemorative naming practices for geographical features

The Conference,

Noting that the use of names of persons or events to designate features for commemorative purposes or as geographical reminders constitutes an active practice,

Recognizing that the attribution of a personal name to a geographical feature during the lifetime or shortly after the death of a person is a widespread practice,

Recalling that, during a meeting of 1960, the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names acknowledged that naming or renaming of a geographical feature to include the name of a living person could be a source of problems,

Recognizing that this practice is generally disadvantageous, as this type of designation is subject to subsequent changes not recommended by the Conference,

Noting that little guidance exists on the practice of adopting a personal name during the lifetime or shortly after the death of a person,

1. Recommends that the appropriate national authorities discourage the use of personal names to designate a geographical feature during the lifetime of the person in question;
2. Also recommends that the appropriate national authorities include in their guidelines clear statements on the length of the waiting period they wish to establish before using a commemorative name.