United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

2023 session

New York, 1–5 May 2023

\* [GEGN.2/2023/1](https://undocs.org/en/GEGN.2/2023/1).

\*\* The Chair may be assisted by a facilitator to facilitate the discussions of agenda items.

Item 2 (b) of the provisional agenda\*

Organizational matters

Organization of work\*\*

Note by the Secretariat

1. The proposed organization of work and times for the 2023 session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names has been prepared pursuant to relevant decisions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Bureau of the Group of Experts in order to facilitate the consideration of agenda items within the time and services allocated to the Group.

2. The first meeting of the 2023 session of the Group of Experts will be convened on Monday, 1 May 2023, at 10.30 a.m. Facilities will be available for two formal meetings each day. Morning meetings will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. (except on Monday, 1 May, when the first meeting will start at 10.30 a.m.); afternoon meetings will be held from 3 to 6 p.m.

Proposed organization of work

| *Date/time* | *Agenda item* | *Programme* |
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| **Monday, 1 May** |  |  |
| 10.30 a.m.–1 p.m. | 1. Opening of the session | Opening address by the Chair of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names  Welcome remarks by the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development and Chief Economist in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs |
|  | 2. Organizational matters  (a) Adoption of the agenda  (b) Organization of work  (c) Credentials of observers | Adoption of the agenda, organization of work, credentials of observers |
|  | 3. Reports of the Chair and the Secretariat | Introduction of reports  General discussion and summary |
|  | 4. Reports | National dialogue on national names standardization |
|  | (a) Governments on the situation in their countries and on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names | General discussion and summary |
|  | (b) Divisions of the Groups of Experts | Introduction of divisional reports  General discussion and summary |
| 3–6 p.m. | 8. Monitoring and evaluation of the strategic plan and programme of work, 2021–2029, and of the work of the Group of Experts | Introduction and presentation of documents  General discussion and summary |
|  | 4. Reports (*continued*)  (c) Activities on the standardization of geographical names in Africa;  (d) National and international meetings and conferences | Introduction of reports  General discussion and summary |
|  | 5. Cooperation and liaison with other organizations  (a) International organizations  (b) Economic Commission for Africa  (c) Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management | Introduction of reports  General discussion and summary |
| **Tuesday, 2 May** |  |  |
| 10 a.m.–1 p.m. | Special presentation | United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues |
|  | 4. Reports (*continued*)  (a) Governments on the situation in their countries and on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names | National dialogue on cultural aspects of geographical names standardization  General discussion and summary |
|  | 6. National and international standardization of geographical names  (a) Names collection, office treatment, national authorities, features beyond a single sovereignty and international cooperation | Introduction and presentation of documents  General discussion and summary |
| 3–6 p.m. | 6. National and international standardization of geographical names (*continued*)  (b) Toponymic guidelines for map and other editors for international use |  |
|  | 7. Social and economic benefits, supporting sustainable development, measures taken and proposed for the implementation of resolutions | Introduction and presentation of documents  General discussion and summary |
|  | Panel discussion | Strengthening relationships, links and connections in geographical names standardization and for sustainable development and pandemic recovery |
| **Wednesday, 3 May** |  |  |
| 10 a.m.–1 p.m. | Special presentation | Addressing data challenges responding to emergencies and disasters |
|  | 4. Reports (*continued*)  (a) Governments on the situation in their countries and on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names | National dialogue on technology, innovation and standards for geographical names data management  General discussion and summary |
|  | 9. Issues of publicity for the Group of Experts and funding of Group projects | Presentation by the Convenor of the Working Group on Publicity and Funding  General discussion and summary |
| 3–6 p.m. | 10. Toponymic education | Presentation by the Convenor of the Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy  General discussion and summary |
|  | 11. Toponymic terminology | Presentation by the Convenor of the Working Group on Toponymic Terminology  General discussion and summary |
|  | Panel discussion | Connections between geographical names and the environment |
| **Thursday, 4 May** |  |  |
| 10 a.m.–1 p.m. | Special presentation | The Gazetteers.net Web Application: A tool for harvesting digital gazetteers |
|  | 4. Reports (*continued*)  (a) Governments on the situation in their countries and on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names | National dialogue on cooperation, training and promotion  General discussion and summary |
|  | 12. Geographical names as culture, heritage and identity, including indigenous, minority and regional languages and multilingual issues | Introduction by the Convenor of the Working Group on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage  Presentation of documents  General discussion and summary |
|  | 13. Exonyms | Introduction by the Convenor of the Working Group on Exonyms  Presentation of documents  General discussion and summary |
| 3–6 p.m. | 3. Reports of the Chair and the Secretariat (*continued*)  14. Geographical names data management | Report of the Secretariat –World Geographical Names Database  Presentation, discussion and summary  Introduction by the Convenor of the Working Group on Geographical Names Data Management  Presentation of documents  General discussion and summary |
|  | 15. Writing systems and pronunciation | Introduction by the Convenor of the Working Group on Romanization Systems  Presentation of documents  General discussion and summary |
| **Friday, 5 May** |  |  |
| 10 a.m.–1 p.m. | Special presentation | Geographical names at Google: Giving users the most useful names for their daily tasks |
|  | 4. Reports (*continued*)  (a) Governments on the situation in their countries and on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names | National dialogue on romanization, maritime names and other topics  General discussion and summary |
|  | 16. Other geographical issues | General discussion and summary |
|  | 17. Presentation and adoption of decisions | Presentation of informal papers  Discussion and consideration of the draft decisions |
|  | 19. Arrangements for the 2025 session of the Group of Experts | Consideration of draft provisional agenda of the 2025 session of the Group of Experts |
| 3–6 p.m. | 21. Other business |  |
|  | 18. Adoption of the report on the 2023 session | Presentation of the draft report  Interactive discussion and adoption of the draft report |
|  | 20. Election of officers for the subsequent session | Nominations to membership in the Bureau and their consideration by the Group of Experts |
|  | 22. Closing of the session | Conclusion of the session |