

United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

2025 Session

28 April – 2 May 2025

Item 3 (c) of the provisional agenda

**Reports of the Bureau and the Secretariat: Monitoring and
evaluation of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical
Names strategic plan and programme of work 2021-2029**

Background document

Available in English only

**Implementation of the UNGEGN Strategic Plan and Programme of Work 2021-2029 by
Member States and Divisions, as reported in the 2023 session**

May 2025

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APPENDIX 2. Implementation of the UNGEGN Strategic Plan and Programme of Work 2021-2029 by Member States and Divisions, as reported in the 2023 session

Cabo Verde (CRP.135)

- Cabo Verde plans to request active cooperation and support from the Portuguese-speaking Division in relation to the UNGEGN Strategic Plan.
- Action items of the Strategic Plan and Programme of Work 2021-2029:
 - 3-iii-9: Encourage Working Group convenors and Division chairs to share and develop ideas for linking and cooperating with each other.

Canada (CRP.85)

- Following the 2021 UNGEGN session, the Geographical Names Board of Canada (GNBC) has initiated a review for implementing the Strategic Plan, focusing on governance, internal and external communication, collaboration enhancement, and database content and management improvements.
- Emphasis was given on strengthening toponymic practice, database enhancement, and the removal of derogatory place names.
- Action items of the Strategic Plan and Programme of Work 2021-2029:
 - Consideration of the implementation of Strategies 1, 2, and 4.

Costa Rica (CRP.126)

- Since joining UNGEGN in 2022, Costa Rica has focused on 'Relationships, connections, and linkages' in the 2021-2029 Strategic Plan to pursue international cooperation for names standardization, including participation in the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) capacity-building program of the National Geographic Information Institute of the Republic of Korea.
- Action items of the Strategic Plan and Programme of Work 2021-2029:
 - 2-ii-6: Continue to communicate and liaise with existing groups and explore further effective ways of cooperation

Mexico (CRP.21)

- The National Institute of Statistics, Geography and Informatics (INEGI) of Mexico, as part of the implementation of Strategy 1 (Technical Expertise), has invited the Dominican Republic and Saint Lucia to participate in the project "Capacity-building for the design and updating of coastal geographical information in environmental planning and the construction of resilient beaches."
- Workshops were conducted on generating digital elevation models, coastal mapping, and the standardization of geographical and undersea feature names in continental and island regions.
- Action items of the Strategic Plan and Programme of Work 2021-2029:
 - 1-i-2: Evaluate and assess exchange standards for geographical names information and for web services
 - 1-i-3: Present geographical names data management topics at national and international conferences

New Zealand (CRP.33)

- The New Zealand Geographic Board prioritizes contributing to, influencing, and applying international good practices for standardized and consistent naming.
- Achievements over two years align with the UNGEGN Strategic Plan.
 - Contributions to the principles and procedures for Antarctic naming (Strategy 2).
 - Development of a cookbook for the attribution of undersea feature names (Strategies 1 and 2).
 - Participation as co-presenters in the UNGEGN webinar "Developing digital gazetteers using free and open-source software" (Strategy 1).
 - Adoption of new policies considering gender balance, inclusion, and diversity in the use of Māori attributive names.
- Action items of the Strategic Plan and Programme of Work 2021-2029:
 - 2-ii-6: Continue to communicate and liaise with existing groups and explore further effective ways of cooperation.
 - 1-ii-6: Examine processes and recommend best practices for geographic names management.
 - 1-iii-9: Organize workshops on innovative research and/or technical issues/topics.

Republic of Korea (CRP.130)

- In alignment with the five strategies of the UNGEGN Strategic Plan, the Republic of Korea has identified 17 actionable projects. Progress has been made in the following two projects:
 - Project 2-4: Continuing Collaboration with PAIGH in the Field of Geographical Names: A capacity-building program was organized in November 2022 with participation of 20 experts (2-ii-6, 5-i-2).
 - Project 3-2: Research and Database Management of Standardization Resolutions: A research was conducted on UN geographical names standardization resolutions, including classification, extraction of core content and coding (3-ii-4). Updates to the resolutions and recommendations database were completed (3-ii-6).
- The Republic of Korea intends to continue reporting on the implementation of these projects in alignment with the UNGEGN SP&PoW.
- Action items of the Strategic Plan and Programme of Work 2021-2029:
 - 2-ii-6: Continue to communicate and liaise with existing groups and explore further effective ways of cooperation.
 - 3-ii-4: Codify the resolutions and recommendations into a coherent and hierarchical whole.
 - 3-ii-6: Continue to maintain and update the compendium and database of the resolutions and recommendations.
 - 5-i-2. Monitor and evaluate promotion and capacity building

Saudi Arabia (CRP.101)

- The National Committee of Geographical Names in Saudi Arabia supports Strategic Plan item 1-iii-8 and hopes to propose concrete measures for its implementation, and Initiated work to operate the National Geospatial Platform in conjunction with statistical indicators produced by General Authority of the Statistics, including spatial location, standardized names, essential attributes, and relevant SDG items.
- Action items of the Strategic Plan and Programme of Work 2021-2029:
 - 1-iii-8: Monitor the availability of free and easily-accessible authorized digital geographical names data.

South Africa (CRP.134)

- South Africa conducted regular updates of geographical names information in the national GIS system, led by the South African Geographical Names Council (SAGNC) and National Geospatial Information (NGI). Updated names information were Immediately provided to digital maps operated by other agencies.
- Organic cooperation was encouraged with name-related institutions for standardization.
- Action items of the Strategic Plan and Programme of Work 2021-2029:
 - 1-i-2: Evaluate and assess exchange standards for geographical names information and for web services.
 - 2-ii-6: Continue to communicate and liaise with existing groups and explore further effective ways of cooperation

Africa Central Division (CRP.15)

- Burundi supports the activities of the representative from the Geographical Institute of Burundi to strengthen participation and cooperation in UNGEGN programs and pursues national surveying and name standardization projects.
- Action items of the Strategic Plan and Programme of Work 2021-2029:
 - 2-iii-7: Encourage collaboration with academia.

Arabic Division (CRP.6)

- The Arabic Division plans to standardize romanization of Arabic names, participate in strategic programs, and strengthen the national geographical names framework in cooperation with UNGEGN.
- Action items of the Strategic Plan and Programme of Work 2021-2029:
 - 1-i-4: Promote, agree upon, and disseminate romanization systems.

Latin America Division (CRP.20)

- Members of the Division participated in the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) capacity-building program of the National Geographic Information Institute of the Republic of Korea.
- The Division conducted online meetings with name officials and experts from member countries to introduce UNGEGN activities and projects.
- Action items of the Strategic Plan and Programme of Work 2021-2029:
 - 2-ii-6: Continue to communicate and liaise with existing groups and explore further effective ways of cooperation.
 - 3-iii-9: Encourage Working Group convenors and Division chairs to share and develop ideas for linking and cooperating with each other.

Norden Division (CRP.55)

- The Norden Division urges rapid response and strategic planning in name management projects related to geographical changes in Greenland and Iceland, significantly impacted by global warming and climate change, in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
- The Division proposes regular updates of each division's meeting minutes on their web pages within the UNGEGN website to monitor the achievement and progress of UNGEGN objectives.
- Action items of the Strategic Plan and Programme of Work 2021-2029:
 - 3-iii-9: Encourage Working Group convenors and Division chairs to share and develop ideas for linking and cooperating with each other.

Portuguese-speaking Division (CRP.9)

- Following the 2021 UNGEGN session, Brazil and Mozambique took the initiative of reactivating the Division, who held meetings and managed to contact three other Portuguese-speaking countries, Cabo Verde, Sao Tome and Principe, and Timor-Leste.
- UNCSGN resolutions and UNGEGN recommendations were translated into Portuguese.
- The Division has pursued the development of standardization strategies and university courses in response to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
- Action items of the Strategic Plan and Programme of Work 2021-2029:
 - 3-iii-9: Encourage Working Group convenors and Division chairs to share and develop ideas for linking and cooperating with each other.
 - 3-ii-6: Continue to maintain and update the compendium and database of the resolutions and recommendations.

United States-Canada Division (CRP.80)

- In line with the Strategic Plan from the second UNGEGN session, the United States-Canada Division is actively revitalizing division operations to enhance relationships and connections.
- Action items of the Strategic Plan and Programme of Work 2021-2029:
 - 3-iii-9: Encourage Working Group convenors and Division chairs to share and develop ideas for linking and cooperating with each other.