



Economic and Social Council

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**United Nations Group of Experts on
Geographical Names**
2025 session
New York, 28 April–2 May 2025

Documentation for the session

Note by the Secretariat

Languages of submission and deadlines

1. The six official languages of the United Nations, namely Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish, will be the official languages of the session.
2. Governments are requested to email the Secretariat, at their earliest convenience, but not later than 10 March 2025, the full-length documents (national reports, divisional reports, working group reports and technical papers) prepared in respect of items on the provisional agenda of the 2025 session ([GEGN.2/2025/1](#)). The full-length documents should not exceed 3,300 words (approximately 10 pages). They should be submitted with summaries, which should not exceed 500 words. Summaries should be submitted before 17 January 2025 in order for them to be translated and issued in the six official languages.
3. It is vital that Governments and experts comply with the above-mentioned deadlines so that their documents may be issued and made accessible on the website of the Group of Experts¹ before the convening of the session.

Theme of the session

4. The theme of the session is “Advancing geographical names standardization through inclusive, culturally informed and evidence-based solutions to support sustainable development”. The theme conforms with General Assembly resolution [70/1](#), in which mention was made of reviews by the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and other intergovernmental bodies and forums, which should reflect the integrated nature of the Sustainable Development Goals as well as the interlinkages between them. The theme was therefore created based on the Council’s thematic focus for 2025, “Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for leaving no one behind”, which focuses on the review of Goals 3, 5, 8, 14 and 17. Governments are therefore encouraged to consider the integrated, indivisible and interlinked nature of the Goals in relation to their work

¹ See https://unstats.un.org/unsd/unegcn/sessions/4th_session_2025/.



on the standardization of geographical names. Governments are also welcome to focus on the theme of the session. The submission of documents focused on general issues, the challenges of geographical names standardization and the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names strategic plan and programme of work 2021–2029 are also encouraged.

Formatting and presentation of documents

5. Documents should be submitted in Microsoft Word format to the secretariat by email (see para. 15). They should include references to relevant resolutions of the United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names and recommendations of the Group of Experts, as appropriate. Most importantly, the item of the provisional agenda under which the document is to be considered must be indicated.

6. Governments are encouraged to include a final paragraph² in each technical document in which they state the action or actions that the Group of Experts is being invited to take, for example to take note of, discuss or endorse a set of recommendations. Governments should be aware that, in order to ensure that the work of the session is completed at the scheduled meetings, some documents may be considered for information rather than for discussion. Please indicate whether the documents submitted are for information or for discussion.

7. The full-length documents will be distributed in the original official language or languages of submission. Governments should ensure that acronyms and abbreviations are spelled out the first time that they appear. If numerous acronyms and abbreviations are used, they should be set out in a list at the beginning of the document.

National reports

(Item 4 (b) of the provisional agenda)

8. In accordance with the provisions of resolution V/7 of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names,³ Governments are requested to adhere to the guidelines below when drafting their national reports on progress made since the 2023 session of the Group of Experts. Governments may wish to use the model national report template⁴ prepared by the East Central and South-East Europe Division, which was welcomed by the Group at its 2023 session in decision 3/2023/2. Should Governments not wish to use that template, their national reports should include the following:

- (a) Summary, of not more than 500 words, of the main issues discussed;
- (b) Background information or historical sketch (only for countries that did not present national reports at previous sessions);
- (c) Discussion of goals and national geographical names standardization programmes;
- (d) Discussion of problems, solutions and achievements during the reporting period;
- (e) Update on action taken to support the implementation of the strategic plan and programme of work, paying particular attention to cultural heritage;
- (f) Conclusions and recommendations.

² Examples are available under the “Other documents” tab of the Group’s web page.

³ Available at www.ngii.go.kr/portal/ungn/mainEn.do.

⁴ Available under the “Other documents” tab of the Group’s web page.

9. Detailed information on national standardization initiatives, research and projects may be more appropriately submitted as separate papers for discussion under other agenda items.

10. To facilitate the national dialogue (the segment at which national reports are presented and discussed), Governments are asked to provide the focus topic or topics discussed in their national reports (which should be aligned with the strategic plan and programme of work and the provisional agenda) and examples of topics on which they wish to speak briefly during the dialogue. It is very important that these topics be submitted as they will serve as the basis for the organization of the dialogue.

11. The organizers of the dialogue will review the submissions and invite Governments to submit:

(a) The name, job title and email address of the Member State representative who will be presenting the national report;

(b) Speaking notes, of approximately two to three minutes, to facilitate the work of the interpreters, as well as slides (template to be provided) on the agreed topic to be used during the dialogue.

12. The organizers will endeavour to align the dialogue with Governments' preferences, but in some cases may need to deviate from them, with the agreement of the Government concerned, for reasons of balance and variety.

Divisional reports

(Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda)

13. Chairs of geographical and linguistic divisions are required to submit reports on the work and achievements during the intersessional period. Reports submitted by a division should include material on activities and issues of common interest to States members of the division. Division Chairs may wish to report on the structure and operation of the divisions or the challenges that they face. Information referring to individual countries may be more appropriately included in national reports. Some topics may be better suited to submission and discussion under other agenda items.

Report of the session

14. A report will be issued.

15. Correspondence should be addressed to the Secretariat (geoinfo_unsd@un.org). Courtesy copies should also be addressed to Cecille Blake (blakel@un.org) and Bermet Tashybekova (bermet.tashybekova@un.org).