

10 April 2025

English

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

**2025 session**

New York, 28 April – 2 May 2025

Item 8 (a) of the provisional agenda <sup>1</sup>\*

**Culture, heritage and language recognition: Geographical names  
as culture, heritage and identity**

**Report of the Working Group on Geographical Names as Cultural  
Heritage**

Submitted by the Working Group on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage\*\*

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\* GEGN.2/2025/1

\*\* Prepared by the Incubator Group for the revitalization of the Working Group on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage;

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## 1. Background

The Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) has consistently highlighted the technical, economic, social, and cultural benefits of standardizing geographical names. It recognizes these names as key elements of cultural heritage, reflecting historical, folkloric, traditional, and ideological changes within societies. This includes encouraging the development of principles and practices to support the less tangible social concepts of geographical naming. These include connection to place through traditional, ancestral, historical, cultural, and language associations. Recognizing the importance of these human needs acknowledges a sense of place and why geographical names matter. Beyond the practical need for communicating location identification, geographical names preserve identity and belonging. Aligned with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) definition of cultural heritage, UNGEGN has initiated discussions on preserving and managing the cultural aspects of geographical names.

The cultural heritage dimensions of geographical names are often not addressed within a single agency, National Names Authority (NNA), National Geospatial Information Agency (NGIA), Ministries of Tourism or other such national institutions.

This ongoing focus on geographical names as cultural heritage led to resolutions by the United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names<sup>2</sup> (UNCSGN) in 2002, 2007, and ultimately in 2012, when a resolution was adopted to establish criteria for recognizing and protecting the cultural heritage aspect of names and a Working Group on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage<sup>3</sup> within the framework of UNGEGN to address the topic of cultural heritage. Further, several Bulletins of UNGEGN have addressed the topic of geographical names as cultural heritage.<sup>4</sup> Recently, [Bulletin 68](#), released in December 2024, featured the theme “The role of geographical names in preserving cultural heritage”.

## 2. The Working Group on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage prior to October 2024

The Working Group on the Promotion of Indigenous and Minority Group Geographical Names was established to address Resolution 1 of the Eighth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names<sup>5</sup> (UNCSGN) agreed in Berlin from 27 August to 5 September 2002. By general request, the scope was expanded in 2006 to the Working Group on the Promotion of Recording and Use of Indigenous, Minority and Regional Language Group Geographical Names. At the time of the tenth UNCSGN in 2012, the Working Group proposed that this unwieldy name should be changed, and at a side meeting on the margins of the tenth UNCSGN, the Working Group on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage was ‘named’. Its primary goal is to oversee activities related to advancing indigenous and minority geographical names as well as emphasizing the importance of names as vital cultural heritage. Key topics for the Working Group include geographical names used by minorities, the legislation and policies related to geographical names as cultural heritage, and promoting fieldwork and the registration of names.

From 2016 several side meetings of the Working Group were held, and recognizing the broad scope of the Working Group’s objectives, it reorganized its practical tasks into several specialized Focus Groups. These Focus Groups, aimed to align with responsibilities in Strategy 2 and Strategy 4 of the UNGEGN Strategic Plan and Programme of Work 2021–2029, namely:

1. Geographical names in relation to minorities and Indigenous peoples
2. Legislation, policies, and best practices for geographical names
3. Commercial and commemorative naming, including urban naming

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<sup>2</sup> UNCSGN Conference resolutions on this subject were passed, for example, VIII/9, IX/4 and IX/10, X/3. Several resolutions have promoted collection and recognition of indigenous and minority toponyms (for example, II/36, V/22, VIII/1, IX/5); and UNGEGN Recommendation 5 (2019), follows up I/16 and I/20 in addressing geographical names from unwritten languages

<sup>3</sup> The precursor to this Working Group was established in order to address Resolution 1 of the Eighth Conference (Berlin, 2002) as a Working Group on the Promotion of Indigenous and Minority Group Place Names, with the aim to oversee activities relating to the promotion of indigenous and minority geographical names as means of cultural retention/revitalization. The mandate of the Working Group was extended as a result of resolution 5 of the Ninth Conference (New York, 2007) to cover guidelines for field collection, gathering of models for promotion of these names and opening dialogue with other groups involved in this work.

<sup>4</sup> Also see: Bulletin 48 of May 2015 on the theme ‘Geographical names as cultural heritage.’

<sup>5</sup> E/CONF.94/3 See: <https://docs.un.org/E/CONF.94/3>

4. Crowd-sourcing to collect stories behind the names
5. The names of unwritten languages
6. Naming in tourism and branding

However, due to various challenges, including the resignation of the Convenor and lack of active Focus Group leaders, the Working Group as a whole has not made significant progress since 2023, with the exception of the Focus Group on Indigenous and Minority Language Geographical Names. This Focus Group held a side event at the 2023 Session and has submitted a separate report to the 2025 Session (see [GEGN.2/2025/94/CRP.94](#)).

### 3. Efforts to revitalize the Working Group on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage

During the intersessional period, the UNGEGN Vice-chairs, with the support of two members of the Extended Bureau, was tasked with a review of the functioning of the Working Group. In an effort to revitalize it and encourage expert participation, the UNGEGN Bureau issued a “Call for Experts” in Bulletin 67 (available at [UNEGN Bulletin No. 67](#), p.49). This included a form for those interested in contributing to the work. Furthermore, the theme “Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage” was selected for [Bulletin 68](#), released in December 2024.

As a result of these efforts, a small incubator group was formed in October 2024, composed of experts from eight countries (Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Iceland, Mozambique, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom and Zambia) supported by the UNGEGN Secretariat. In the first months of 2025, representatives from Australia and New Zealand also joined the Working Group.

The Incubator Group met virtually from October 2024 until this present 2025 session and undertook various tasks to revitalize, reinitialize, and recompose the Working Group. These tasks included:

- i. **Discussing future working modalities**, in particular the question of convenorship, as membership of the group was consolidated. These discussions feed into Strategy 3: Effective work programmes.
- ii. **Preparing a questionnaire** for circulation to all member states to gather information on work undertaken in each country regarding geographical names as cultural heritage. The answers to this Questionnaire will help identify key themes for discussion, addressing the needs of Member States and aiding UNGEGN with regard to the Strategic Plan and Programme of Work. An outline of this Questionnaire is provided as a background document to this present report. The Questionnaire is to be launched and opened online ahead of the 2025 Session and it will be open for three weeks following the close of the Session. The Working Group intends to convene a webinar to share the results of the Questionnaire with the broader UNGEGN community and provide insights into how this informs its ongoing work plan. This work will feed into Strategy 5: Promotion and capacity building, as well as Strategy 4: Culture, heritage and language recognition.
- iii. **Organizing a side-event to be held at this present 2025 Session.**
- iv. **Discussing the possible use of social media** for promotion and communication in the future, in line with elements of Strategy 5: Promotion and capacity building.
- v. **Discussing the group’s web pages and the need for updating outdated information.**

In March 2025, the Incubator Group dissolved into the Working Group proper following the appointment of co-Convenors.

### 4. The revitalized Working Group on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage

As of the current 2025 session, the Working Group is pleased to report to the Group of Experts that it now considers itself fully functional and operational, turning its focus towards advancing activities related to the importance of names as cultural heritage and the promotion of indigenous and minority geographical names. Since its revitalization, the Working Group has agreed on and then accomplished several activities:

- i. **Convening of regular meetings.** The Working Group has set a regular beat of meetings, meeting almost fortnightly. As it has reestablished itself, it intends to reduce its cadence of meetings, enabling members to work to advance its Work Plan and report back on a monthly to quarterly basis;
- ii. **Participation at the upcoming Session and the organization of a side event at the 2025 session**, in collaboration with the Focus Group on Indigenous Geographical Names;
- iii. **The Development of a Terms of Reference.** In noting the need to define the scope, objectives, and responsibilities of the Working Group (in alignment with the UNGEGN 2021–2029 Strategic Plan), the Working Group has

developed a Terms of Reference. It is intended that these Terms of Reference can inform and facilitate the working modalities of the Working Group, as well as guide current or future sub-groups, by fostering expectation setting for existing and new members alike.

- iv. **Advancing a Work Plan 2025–2027.** The Work Plan 2025–2027 (see Annex 1) is in the process of being developed. The Working Group has, in broad terms, agreed on a set of activities and means of implementation (either through Focus Groups or accomplishment by the Working Group itself). The Working Group intends to finalize its Work Plan 2025–2027 following the 2025 session (and leveraging the opportunity to raise awareness and promote the Working Group) and intends to report on its progress to the UNGEGN Bureau. This revised Work Plan is likely to include alterations to the six focus groups identified by earlier convenors of the Working Group (as listed above in Section 1) so as to ensure planned activities are feasible and outputs achievable in the time remaining for the current SP&PoW.
- v. **Communications.** The need to archive documentation and enhance the web pages for the group;
- vi. **Appointing new (co-) Convenors.** Following open, inclusive and participatory discussion, the Working Group appointed by acclamation Ms Emily Lethbridge (Iceland) and Mr Rafe Benli (Australia) as its co-Convenors;
- vii. **Seeking greater coordination and coherence.** Both within itself and with its Focus Group on Indigenous Geographical Names.
- viii. **Finalizing the Questionnaire prepared by the Incubator Group** and coordinating its release.

## 5. Reviewing the progress of the Focus Groups

In light of the Working Group's scant progress in the period 2023 to late 2024, there are no reports from the Focus Groups, except those detailed in the report of the Focus Group on Indigenous Geographical Names (GEGN.2/2025/94/CRP.94). The Working Group commends the work of Canada in its work to renew this Focus Group and wishes to endorse its call "Member States that wish to participate and provide input, guidance or support to the focus group are invited to email their expressions of interest to the following address: [geonames-toponymes@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca](mailto:geonames-toponymes@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca)."

## 6. Looking to 2025 and beyond

The Working Group's membership currently includes Argentina, Australia (co-Convenor), Brazil, Canada, Iceland (co-Convenor), Mozambique, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and Zambia. Nevertheless, it is hoped that representatives from many more UNGEGN Member States will express a willingness to participate in the group following the 2025 Session and planned side event to ensure diverse expertise and global perspectives. These include Member States and observers of UNGEGN, as well as participants from other bodies, such as the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), where relevance and opportunity align.

The Working Group also aims to seize opportunities as they arise, such as reviewing and hopefully endorsing work currently ongoing beyond the scope of the Working Group but with high relevance to its ongoing efforts. These include reports presented at this Session, such as the report "The guidelines for geographical names as cultural heritage: A framework for experts and researchers on geographical names (GEGN.2/2025/164/CRP.164)". This report, submitted by the Republic of Korea, is of high relevance to the ongoing work of the Working Group, and there exists the opportunity to review these nationally developed guidelines and bring them to the global level via a process of participatory and interactive consultation among the Working Group and the broader UNGEGN.

Moreover, across the various reports on geographical names presented at this Session, common themes include the recognition and preservation of Indigenous and minority languages, the restoration of original names, and the promotion of cultural heritage (see Annexes 2 and 3). Other areas include the treatment of geographical names in multilingual areas and the addressing and naming of urban features. The Working Group notes with optimism that the above lists are by no means exhaustive and only serve to highlight the importance of the present topic.

## 7. Summary

Since its revitalization, the Working Group has established a regular meeting schedule, initially convening almost fortnightly. As the group has reestablished itself, it plans to reduce the frequency of meetings to allow members to focus on advancing the Work Plan and reporting back on a monthly to quarterly basis.

In preparation for the upcoming Session, the Working Group is collaborating with its Focus Group on Indigenous Geographical Names to organize a side event at the 2025 session. Additionally, the Working Group has developed a Terms of Reference to define its scope, objectives, and responsibilities in alignment with the UNGEGN 2021–2029 Strategic Plan. This document aims to facilitate the Working Group's working modalities by setting clear expectations for both existing

and new members and will serve as a background document for UNGEGN to note and provide guidance. The Working Group's Work Plan for 2025–2027 is currently being developed, with broad agreement on activities and implementation methods, either through Focus Groups or by the Working Group itself. The plan will be finalized following the 2025 session, leveraging the opportunity to raise awareness and promote the Working Group's initiatives. The revised Work Plan may include adjustments to the six focus groups to ensure that planned activities are feasible and outputs achievable within the remaining time of the current Strategic Plan and Programme of Work.

The Working Group notes that many opportunities are available to explore, and numerous Member States have a demonstrable interest in Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage (as denoted by their contributions under Agenda Item 4 (b) Reports: Governments on the situation in their countries and on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names) are not currently participating in the Working Group. Moreover, the opportunity to involve other complementary groups, such as those from the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, also serves as a strong motivator for increasing engagement within and beyond UNGEGN.

Efforts are also underway to improve communications, including archiving documentation and enhancing the Working Group's web pages. Following inclusive discussions, Ms. Emily Lethbridge (Iceland) and Mr. Rafe Benli (Australia) have been appointed as co-Convenors by acclamation. The Working Group is also launching a questionnaire to gain a deeper understanding of the interest and interlinkages of the work within Member States and geographical names as cultural heritage.

As it turns to 2025 and beyond, the Working Group wishes to urge UNGEGN to participate in, and support the delivery of, its Work Plan 2025–2027. Interested experts wishing to join the Working Group or to share responsibility for particular aspects of its work are encouraged to contact the co-Convenors and the Secretariat.

## **8. Points for discussion**

The Group of Experts is invited to:

- (a) Commend the work of the Incubator Group in the revitalization of the Working Group on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage;
- (b) Support the work of the revitalized Working Group on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage;
- (c) Note the Working Group's Terms of Reference;
- (d) Express its view on, and provide guidance to, the Working Group's Work Plan 2025 – 2027, including its approach and potential timelines;
- (e) Urge the active participation in the Working Group's activities; and,
- (f) Contribute to the Questionnaire on geographical names as cultural heritage and share resources and relevant national material with the Working Group.

**Annex 1: Work Plan 2025–2027****Activity 1: Engagement and communication (led by co-Convenors)**

- Raise awareness of the WG's aims, engaging with member states and geographical/linguistic divisions on the activities of the working and focus groups;
- Foster collaboration between member states and encourage new membership within the groups;
- Communicate with other UNGEGN Working Groups, collaborating actively where possible;
- Link to other bodies working on aspects of geographical names and cultural heritage (e.g. UNESCO, UNPFII);
- Leverage other opportunities that present themselves too communicate and highlight the importance of geographical names as cultural heritage, and to promote the overall work of UNGEGN.

**Activity 2: Focus Group on Indigenous Geographical Names (led by Canada)**

- support the international recognition and promotion of the significance of geographical names that originate from Indigenous languages.
- support Member States in establishing, updating or improving their operational and standardization practices related to indigenous geographical naming.

**Activity 3: Focus Group on Commemorative Naming, including urban naming (led by Australia)**

- highlight importance of commemorative names and the requirements for their use.
- Provide recommendations to UNGEGN on best practice models for the use of commemorative names.
- Assist member states in establishing, and improving operational practices related to the use of commemorative names and urban naming

**Activity 4: Focus Group on Legislative and Policy-driven aspects of geographical names as cultural heritage (leadership to be established)**

- Support member states looking to implement legislation and/or policy relating to geographical names as cultural heritage
- Provide information to Member States and other parties on good practice relating to legislation, geographical names and cultural heritage
- Determine commemorative naming links to Sustainable Development Goals

**Annex 2: Overview of the impact of cultural heritage on geographical names standardization in reports submitted for the 2025 Session**

*The below is a highly summarised review by the Working Group of national reports and readers are strongly encouraged to review the reports in their totality.*

- **New Zealand** (GEGN.2/2025/62/CRP.62) highlights how the Board's decisions provide a window into New Zealand's unique cultural heritage;
- **United Kingdom** (GEGN.2/2025/27/CRP.27) The report highlights the importance of Welsh language place names and the efforts to protect and promote them;
- **Norway** (GEGN.2/2025/77/CRP.77) discusses the extensive field collection of names and processes on office treatment all contribute to the recognition of commitment to maintaining geographical names as vital elements of cultural identity;
- **Brazil** (GEGN.2/2025/103/CRP.103) notes how it is promoting the cultural values of geographical names (in alignment with Strategies 2, 4i, 4ii, and 4iii of the UNGEGN SP& PoW 2021-2029);
- **Poland** (GEGN.2/2025/29/CRP.29) reports on how multilingual areas directly address the preservation and promotion of cultural heritage;
- **Mauritania** (GEGN.2/2025/120/CRP.120) extensively discusses the influence of Arab, Berber, and Negro-African cultures on Mauritania's toponymy and highlights how nomadism and sedentarization have affected place names;

- **Indonesia** (GEGN.2/2025/134/CRP.134) emphasizes that efforts aim to ensure the accurate representation of geographical names that respect cultural heritage and local identity. It also acknowledges community-led initiatives that play a vital role in preserving local geographical names and cultural heritage;
- **Canada** (GEGN.2/2025/97/CRP.97) details how the Geographical Names Board of Canada's domestic activities during the intersessional period supported preserving cultural heritage;
- **Italy** (GEGN.2/2025/59/CRP.59) examines how the Association of Italian Geographers has also created a research group on "Critical Toponymy, Naming Policies and Spatialization of Memory" and plans an international conference on "Inclusive Toponymy." The report mentions a conference on "Toponyms as a means of expressing identification, location, possession, belonging, division, and respect for peoples' cultures";
- **Austria** (GEGN.2/2025/145/CRP.145) presents bilingual map creation and studies on politically sensitive street names, and offensive naming to indicate consideration of cultural heritage;
- **Cyprus** (GEGN.2/2025/16/CRP.16) expresses its honor to have most of its geographical names included in ancient texts, collating data from history, linguistics, archaeology, literature, cartography and folklore;
- **Spain** (GEGN.2/2025/24/CRP.24) recognizes the co-official languages (Catalan, Basque, Galician, Valencian and Occitan) and the richness of linguistic modalities as a cultural heritage to be respected. The report also notes the distribution of powers among the General Administration of the State and the Autonomous Communities due to the administrative organization and linguistic reality of Spain. Under impact of cultural heritage);
- **Brunei Darussalam** (GEGN.2/2025/74/CRP.74) discusses how it understands geographical names from the aspects of history, culture, meaning;
- **Greenland** (GEGN.2/2025/102/CRP.102) touches on the structure of the Greenlandic language and its dialects and their impact on place name standardization and provides specific examples of dialectal variations in place names and how they are handled;
- **Türkiye** (GEGN.2/2025/154/CRP.154) examines the impact of cultural heritage on geographical names standardization. It refers to the Turkish Historical Society's work in preserving historical place names and cultural heritage. It details projects undertaken to identify and document historical artifacts and place names;
- **The Republic of Korea** (GEGN.2/2025/162/CRP.162) details how it has sponsored research aimed at developing a set of guidelines to emphasize the protection of geographical names as cultural heritage. Incorporating regional generic terms into specific terms to name geographical names, aimed at preserving and raising awareness of geographical names as cultural heritage;
- **Finland** (GEGN.2/2025/79/CRP.79) describes safeguarding inherited place names in Finnish, Swedish, and Saami. It is also written in the wiki catalogue of Finnish Intangible Cultural Heritage;
- **The Russian Federation** (GEGN.2/2025/85/CRP.85) mentions that the legal framework considers geographical names as an integral part of the historical and cultural heritage. It includes immortalizing names of honored figures of science and culture;
- **Colombia** (GEGN.2/2025/111/CRP.111) emphasizes the "Toponimia Nativa" project, which focuses on the social processes, cultural heritage, and traditions related to territories;
- **Hungary** (GEGN.2/2025/88/CRP.88) notes a multiannual toponymic programme at Óbuda University that includes "names as cultural heritage";
- **Malaysia** (GEGN.2/2025/55/CRP.55) emphasizes inclusivity and cultural understanding by involving Indigenous and local communities in the naming process, ensuring that names respect cultural and historical contexts;
- **Australia** (GEGN.2/2025/69/CRP.69) highlights the impact of cultural heritage by mentioning collaboration with First Languages Australia (FLA) and the Australian National Placenames Survey (ANPS);
- **Estonia** (GEGN.2/2025/109/CRP.109) the renaming of streets due to incompatibility with Estonian history and culture;
- **South Africa** (GEGN.2/2025/168/CRP.168) emphasizes the importance of transforming the spatial legacy of apartheid and colonialism through the standardization of geographical names. It also mentions naming geographical features after struggling veterans as a form of restorative justice;
- **Sweden** (GEGN.2/2025/91/CRP.91) details how the Historic Environment Act emphasizes preserving place-names as part of the intangible cultural heritage;
- **India** (GEGN.2/2025/137/CRP.137) identifies its multilingual nature through detailing its rich cultural and historical context reflected in its languages and geographical names;
- **Croatia** (GEGN.2/2025/87/CRP.87) touches on cultural aspects, specifically the treatment of names in multilingual areas. It mentions recommendations for naming streets and squares in Italian;
- **Iceland** (GEGN.2/2025/90/CRP.90) mentions efforts to incorporate geographical names in the context of a new permanent exhibition about Icelandic cultural heritage, manuscripts and language.

### Annex 3: Overview of reports recognizing the significance of minority and Indigenous geographical names and language as part of standardization programmes

- **New Zealand** (GEGN.2/2025/62/CRP.62) A major focus is on engaging with Māori communities and restoring original Māori geographical names. The Kā Huru Manu project is a joint effort with the Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu to create an online cultural heritage atlas;
- **United Kingdom** (GEGN.2/2025/27/CRP.27) The report focuses on the recognition and significance of Welsh geographical names in standardization programs, especially the work done to standardize Welsh place names within Eryri National Park;
- **Norway** (GEGN.2/2025/77/CRP.77) Recognition of Kven and Sami names challenge to address the historical legacy where Sami geographical names were systematically silenced;
- **Peru** (GEGN.2/2025/151/CRP.151) The report provides information on the origin of the name “Tumbes” and concludes by emphasizing the strengthening of cultural identity and the contribution to a more precise knowledge of the terrain through the standardization process;
- **Mexico** (GEGN.2/2025/106/CRP.106) The report describes the investigation of the meanings of native names of municipal head towns, acknowledging the presence of indigenous languages in Mexico. It acknowledges that over 7 million people speak indigenous languages. The report explicitly focuses on identifying radicals in native names, particularly in Maya and Náhuatl. The aim is to standardize the structure of native geographical names and systematize them for consistent registration of meanings across linguistic groups;
- **Poland** (GEGN.2/2025/29/CRP.29) The report details the recognition and use of minority languages in geographical names, specifying the number of localities with additional names in languages like German, Kashubian, Lithuanian, and Belarusian;
- **Mauritania** (GEGN.2/2025/120/CRP.120) The report touches upon the influence of different ethnic groups (Berber, Arab, Pulaar, Soninke, Wolof, Bambara) on place names;
- **Ukraine** (GEGN.2/2025/32/CRP.32) Law passed on recognition of indigenous peoples facilitating the restoration of minority language geo names (Crimean Tatar);
- **Indonesia** (GEGN.2/2025/134/CRP.134) The report mentions the development of the Sulawesi Local Generic Names Catalog. This catalog documents generic terms, vocabulary, and literary and language maps of Sulawesi, focusing on the linguistic richness and diversity of the region;
- **Canada** (GEGN.2/2025/97/CRP.97) The report emphasizes the GNBC’s work in supporting and promoting Indigenous geographical names and addressing derogatory place names. It highlights the development of “An Indigenous Place Names Handbook” with the Gwich’in Tribal Council. The “In the Languages of these Lands” exhibit showcased geographical names rooted in Indigenous languages. The Respectful Geographical Naming Working Group facilitates collaboration and action to address derogatory or offensive place names in Canada;
- **Oman** (GEGN.2/2025/89/CRP.89) The report mentions Oman’s deep interest in place names dating back to ancient times, evident in historical accounts, encyclopedias, dictionaries of Arabic and Omani place names, and poetry collections describing specific locations;
- **Italy** (GEGN.2/2025/59/CRP.59) The report mentions the Friuli-Venezia Giulia Region;
- **Austria** The bilingual map and studies on street names suggest attention to minority languages and cultural significance;
- **Latvia** (GEGN.2/2025/114/CRP.114) The report details the promotion of indigenous Livonian place names and dialectal Latvian place names. It highlights the maintenance, protection, and development of the Livonian language;
- **Japan** (GEGN.2/2025/23/CRP.23) The report acknowledges the inclusion of indigenous, minority, and regional language names;
- **USA** (GEGN.2/2025/100/CRP.100) The report discusses the recognition and significance of minority and Indigenous geographical names in standardization programs;
- **Brunei Darussalam** (GEGN.2/2025/74/CRP.74) The report encourages the use of names and languages that have cultural, historical and ethnic significance;
- **Spain** (GEGN.2/2025/24/CRP.24) The NGBE registers official names and their variations agreed upon by competent public administrations, suggesting accommodation of different language variations;
- **Netherlands** (GEGN.2/2025/117/CRP.117) In the Key Register Topography, a review of Frisian water names has been performed and many previously missing Frisian water names have been added to the database, especially names of canals in towns and villages. Canal names in the distinct local Frisian language Hylpers have been registered. On topographic maps, names in Frisian are given preference over Dutch names;
- **Greenland** (GEGN.2/2025/102/CRP.102) The report emphasizes the prioritization and preservation of the Greenlandic language and culture in place name standardization;
- **Denmark** (GEGN.2/2025/35/CRP.35) Information about the linguistic interpretation of a place name that is in fact a basis for the decided standardized form is not linked to the excel-file either;



- **Finland** (GEGN.2/2025/79/CRP.79) In addition, the descriptive terms on the maps in Finnish, Swedish, and Saami were checked in 2024 (for example fi: satama – sv: hamn – sme: hámman – smn: haammân – sms: sätkk);
- **Russian Federation** (GEGN.2/2025/85/CRP.85) The report mentions names were given to settlements in constituent entities of the Russian Federation, with consideration of the interests of citizens;
- **Colombia** (GEGN.2/2025/111/CRP.111) A significant portion of the report is dedicated to the recognition and preservation of indigenous geographical names and languages through the “Toponimia Nativa” project. The report details work with the Cofán, Palenquero, Raizal, and Posioho communities;
- **Hungary** (GEGN.2/2025/88/CRP.88) In order to promote the use of minority settlement names, the tables registering justified cases have been updated on the basis of the census 2022. Hungary is also joining the “Minority place-name standardization” project;
- **Malaysia** (GEGN.2/2025/55/CRP.55) This is directly addressed by the inclusion of Indigenous and local communities in the naming process;
- **Australia** (GEGN.2/2025/67/CRP.67) It also discusses the recognition and significance of minority and Indigenous geographical names and language in standardization programs, offensive names and the importance of incorporating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in the development of place naming principles;
- **Estonia** (GEGN.2/2025/109/CRP.109) The report specifically discusses the support for the use of minority place names, providing examples of parallel Estonian and Swedish names, and the standardization of populated place names in the Võru variety;
- **Sweden** (GEGN.2/2025/91/CRP.91) The report mentions government initiatives to support national minorities and minority languages, including place-name presentation in minority languages;
- **India** (GEGN.2/2025/137/CRP.137) The report mentions the existence of 99 non-scheduled languages and several other languages and dialects, suggesting an awareness of linguistic diversity beyond the official languages;
- **USA** (GEGN.2/2025/100/CRP.100) mentions the approval of a proposal to change Clingmans Dome to Kuwohi, the Cherokee name for the mountain. The Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communications (SCNANTC) is explicitly focused on enhancing Tribal communication and encouraging Tribal participation in the BGN process, including the adoption of Tribal language names.