

**Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial
Information Management**

Tenth session

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Item 14 of the agenda

**Collaboration with the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names
(for information)**

Statement provided by:

Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa (UN-GGIM: Africa)

Statement:

1. The geospatial information community in Africa is sensitized on the importance of collecting and recording geographic names in orderly and standardized manner. However, despite Africa’s coverage by the global geospatial service providers like Esri, Google and Bing Maps has improved during the past years, the geographical names gathered through crowd sourcing are not validated and approved by national governments and also in most cases they do not reflect the true culture and heritage of the countries.
2. An African project on place names will thus improve the coverage quality of African countries by helping to avail validated and approved geographical names.
3. Africa takes note of the report of the Group of Experts and remain committed to continue working with UNGEGN to advance easily accessible standardized geographical names that is vital in today’s highly globalized and digitally interconnected world.
4. The Region further reiterates its the call for collaboration with all interested parties, including Member States to join hand with the region to assist and encourage African countries to setup geographical names authorities so that they can be the sole sources of validated and approved names reflecting their cultural, social and historical heritages, and also to strengthen and enhance the functionalities of the GeoNyms application for capturing and validating the toponyms.

Submitted on:

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