Eighth Session of the UN Committee of Experts on GGIM

Item 16
Strengthening collaboration with the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNEGGN)

Presented
On behalf of
UNEGGN’s Chair, William Watt - Australia
OUTLINE

1. The Importance of Geographical Names
2. UN-GGIM/UNGE GN Relationship
3. Recent Events
4. Future Opportunities
5. Points for Discussion
UNGEGN: “Promoting the collection, standardization and dissemination of geographical names”

Geographical names are an essential part of geospatial information management and its fundamental data themes
Geographical Names are Ubiquitous

Agriculture/Forestry

Defense/Security

Pollution

Urbanization

Congestion

Development

Energy

Mining

Land Use

Marine

Utilities

Tourism

Transportation

Human Health

Education

Global Warming

Biodiversity

Water

Logistics

Governance

Business

Positioning geospatial information to address global challenges

ggim.un.org
Creation of the “New” UNGEGN
Economic and Social Council Resolution 2018/2, 10 November 2017

The resolution - *Future organization and methods of work of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names*

- Discontinues the UNCSGN and the UNGEGN in their current format.
- New body named the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names
- The new UNGEGN will convene biennial sessions, over a period of five days, beginning in 2019
- Has full authority to set its strategic direction and adopt resolutions to be submitted to ECOSOC
- The elected Bureau of the Group of Experts is to oversee the 2017–2019 transition
New Rules of Procedure and Draft Agenda

• On 24th July 2018 at its 51\textsuperscript{st} plenary meeting ECOSOC adopted UNGEGN’s Draft Rules of Procedure and Draft Agenda.

• This ECOSOC resolution completes a series of tasks which achieves the objective of creating a new agile, efficient and more effective body.

• UNGEGN has now consolidated its structure and reduced the number of meeting days, resulting in cost savings and efficient decision making and implementation practices.
FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

1. Continue to support the UN-GGIM WG on Fundamental Data Themes
2. The creation of a liaison group
   • develop a SMART plan for collaborative engagement
3. UN-GGIM experts contribute to UNGEGN’s WG on Toponymic Data files and Gazetteers
4. Work jointly to encourage and communicate the benefits of geographical names standardization and the importance of creating names authorities/committees
FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

1. Regional collaboration – support UNECA’s Geonyms project to create a web based geographical names gazetteer for African Member States.

2. Explore with the support of the Academic Network strengthening the infusion of toponymy/geographical names education in GIM university programmes
INVITATION to UNGEGN MEETINGS

The Committee of Experts – is invited to participate in the following UNGEGN meetings:

1. Symposium on “Role and importance of expert knowledge in the standardization of geographical names”
   • 10-13 October 2018
   • Brussels, Belgium

2. First Session of “new” UNGEGN
   • 29 April - 3 May 2019
   • United Nations Headquarters, New York
POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

The Committee is invited to:

a) Take note of the report and progress made by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names;

b) Express its views on the way forward on building a stronger relationship between UNGEGN and the Committee; and

c) Encourage participation in future UNGEGN biennial sessions, commencing in 2019
Thank you