UN-Habitat data disaggregation and identifiers for cities

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Unique identifier system for cities

There is no unique identifier system for cities. Thus, by examining good practices of data management, principles of Linked Data, and other relevant concepts through the lens of geographical names, this paper discusses factors around a unique identifier for cities as a means of responding to Recommendation 23 and Decision 3/2023/174 of the Group of Experts and recommends entrusting this decision to the Secretariat, based on available resources and technical capacity of the WGN DB
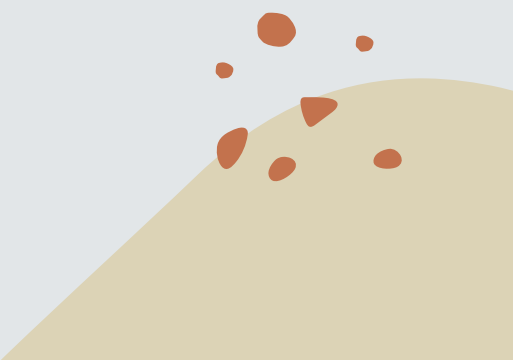
Objective of the WGN DB suite of applications

The primary objective of the WGN DB suite of applications is to serve as a tool for managing geographical name data for cities and countries with the aim of providing UNGEGN experts, governments, and the public at large, access to an authoritative global repository of standardized geographical names of countries, capitals and other cities (primarily those with populations over 100,000).

Future Decision Point: Determine the content (attribute) information required for the WGN DB within an Online Consultation in 2024. Confirm (1) **mandatory as 'appropriate'** and (2) **agree on a prioritisation (and support with resources) of 'future considerations.'**

Disaggregation of Statistics By Geography

Disaggregation of statistics by geography is crucial because it allows for a more detailed and nuanced understanding of socio-economic, environmental, and demographic conditions across different regions. When data is broken down geographically, policymakers and stakeholders can see beyond national averages, which often mask significant disparities within a country.

Many countries, both developed and developing, struggle with translating their statistical data into local action, which is a significant challenge that needs to be addressed.