



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
19 May 2021

Original: English

Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

Eleventh session

New York, 23, 24 and 27 August 2021

Item 14 of the provisional agenda*

Collaboration with the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

Collaboration with the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to bring to the attention of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management the report prepared by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, which will be available in the language of submission only from the relevant web page of the Committee of Experts (<http://ggim.un.org/meetings/ggim-committee/11th-session/>). The Committee is invited to take note of the report and to express its views on supporting the collaborative initiatives and efforts of the Group of Experts on the standardization of geographical names in Member States.

Summary of the report

At its tenth session, held virtually on 26 and 27 August and 4 September 2020, the Committee of Experts adopted decision 10/112, in which it congratulated the Group of Experts on its efforts to develop a strategic plan and programme of work in a transparent manner and aligned to the priorities of Member States as well as the broader United Nations development agenda. The Committee reaffirmed the importance of a stronger relationship between the Committee and the Group of Experts to strengthen communication and collaborative activities between geospatial information management authorities and geographical names authorities at the national level and across themes, including creating awareness on toponomy and sharing guidelines, methods and practices on the standardization of geographical names. Furthermore, the Committee supported the establishment of a liaison group between the Committee and the Group of Experts to act as a guiding mechanism to manage the flow of information between the two bodies and to continue to identify areas of joint work, and welcomed the proposal to convene a joint meeting of the Bureau of the Committee and the Bureau of the Group in early 2021.

* E/C.20/2021/1.



In the report, the Group of Experts presents its collaborative activities at the global, regional and national levels as part of its efforts to implement the decisions of the Committee of Experts at its tenth session. The report contains an overview of the Group's second session, held virtually from 3 to 7 May 2021, and of its intersessional activities, including the development of its strategic plan and programme of work, which is aligned with the larger policy framework of the United Nations, and its actions to encourage and assist in the creation of geographical names authorities. The Group also highlights the work being done to support efficient geographical names data management, and emphasizes the importance of innovation in methodology and technology for the development of integrated national geographical names databases, web services and applications for a variety of purposes. They may be used, for example, in the health-care and emergency response fields, in particular for management of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, or to monitor the Sustainable Development Goals.
