

**Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management**  
**Twelfth Session**  
**3-5 August 2022**

**INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT**

**Agenda item 16**

**Collaboration with the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names**

Thursday, 4 August 2022

Distinguished Experts,

I am very honored to be here as a representative of the Expanded Bureau of the Group of Experts to present its report for consideration by the Committee of Experts with the aim to further strengthen the collaboration.

The Chair of the Group of Experts, Mr. Pierre Jaillard, unfortunately had to cancel his trip to New York at short notice. But, Mr. Jaillard sends his warmest greetings and wishes the 12<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee of Experts to be a success.

As I know both intergovernmental bodies well and as I have been working with them for years, it is a special pleasure for me to present the report today.

Concerning the strengthening of our collaboration I would like to highlight that our common efforts have already been welcomed by ECOSOC within the last review of the subsidiary bodies.

The present report highlights, amongst others, the intersessional activities.

- It provides an overview of the implementation of the strategic plan and programme of work for the period 2021–2029
  - including the work being carried out to redevelop the World Geographical Names database and
  - encouraging Member States to prepare guidelines for the application and use of geographical names on printed and digital products (so-called: toponymic guidelines)
- Furthermore, the report informs about the planned and convened webinars with the focus on increasing awareness and strengthening capacity within the Group of Experts community.

Moreover, the ongoing and potential collaborative activities with the Committee of Experts and others are mentioned, for example

- the well-functioning and already ongoing collaboration of the Regional Committee UN-GGIM Americas with the Caribbean Geospatial Development Initiative (CARIGEO), the Group of Experts and the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN-ECLAC). It is worth noting that the activities must be supported by the national organizations. At all levels, but particular at the national level, the geospatial and geographical names / toponymic skills have to meet!
- Of particular interest is the project proposal on the development of a compendium of institutional arrangements and operational good practices, which is aimed at strengthening relations between the Committee of Experts and the Group of Experts.

In a nutshell, our report invites the Committee of Experts to:

- a) Take note of the report of the Group of Experts, and exemplary practices outlined with a view to consider the possibility of adopting/adapting those which may prove useful to strengthen intra-coordination across the UN-GGIM architecture;
- b) Encourage Member States and their national mapping agencies not having toponymic guidelines or having outdated guidelines, to develop and/or revise guidelines in collaboration with their national geographical names authorities.
- c) Support the proposed collaborative project to prepare a compendium of institutional arrangements on shared good practices for geographical names standardization, between national mapping agencies and national names authorities. Member States are invited to indicate their interest in participating in the proposed project. (Refer to details in Appendix 1.)
- d) Participate in UNGEGN's webinar on "Linked Open Data developments – what's in for UNGEGN and its experts?" on 30 September 2022 and to attend the UNGEGN biennial (third) session from 1 to 5 May 2023 in New York.

I thank you for your attention and remain at your disposal for any discussion you may have.

**Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu, Germany**

**Member of the Expanded UNGEGN Bureau & Convenor of UNGEGN's Working Group on Geographical Names Data Management**

**On Behalf of Mr. Pierre Jaillard, the Chair of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names**