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Item 16 of the provisional agenda*

Collaboration with the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

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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/12th-Session/>). The Committee is invited to take note of the report and to express its views on supporting a collaborative project proposal to develop a compendium of institutional arrangements and operational good practices, which is aimed at strengthening relations between the Committee and the Group of Experts.

Summary of the report

At its eleventh session, held virtually on 23, 24 and 27 August 2021, the Committee of Experts adopted decision 11/112, in which it congratulated the Group of Experts on the adoption of its strategic plan and programme of work for the period 2021–2029 at its session in May 2021, and noted that the strategic plan would provide information to external bodies including the Committee of Experts and promote collaboration between United Nations bodies towards wider standardization of geographical names. The Committee supported efforts and actions for strengthening interaction and collaboration between the Bureaux of the Committee and the Group of Experts, including opportunities for partnership such as raising awareness of the importance of toponymy, sharing guidelines, methods and practices for the standardization of geographical names and the preservation of indigenous place names as part of the cultural heritage of a country. Furthermore, the Committee encouraged Member States to improve communication, coordination and cooperation between geospatial information management authorities and geographical names

* [E/C.20/2022/1](http://www.un.org/Depts/under20/).



authorities at the national and regional levels, including across thematic areas, to strengthen geospatial information management.

In the report, the Group of Experts presents its activities conducted during the intersessional period to implement decision 11/112. The report also provides an overview of the implementation of the Group of Experts 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 encourage Member States to prepare guidelines for the application and use of geographical names on printed and digital products (toponymic guidelines). The report also contains a collaborative 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.
