
Economic and Social Council

24 July 2023

Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management Thirteenth session

New York, 2–4 August 2023

Item 16 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

Summary

The present paper contains the report of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) for consideration by the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management.

At its twelfth session, held from 3 to 5 August 2022, the Committee of Experts adopted decision 12/114, in which it welcomed the report prepared by the Group of Experts and noted the progress in implementing its strategic plan and programme of work for the period 2021–2029, including the work to redevelop the World Geographical Names Database with standardized and innovative interfaces. The Committee also noted the importance of standardized geographical names and toponymic guidelines, as an important element of a country's Indigenous languages and linguistic and cultural heritage, as well as its semantic topographical characterization, and urged Member States and their national mapping and geospatial agencies to develop and adopt toponymic guidelines in collaboration with their national geographical names authorities. Furthermore, the Committee supported the collaborative project proposal to develop a compendium of institutional arrangements on shared good practices for geographical names standardization between national mapping and geospatial agencies and national names authorities.

In this present report, the Group of Experts presents its activities conducted during the intersessional period to implement decision 12/114. It also provides an overview of the implementation of its strategic plan and programme of work 2021–2029, including the launch of the redeveloped World Geographical Names Database, activities pursued to encourage Member States to prepare guidelines for the application and use of geographical names on printed and digital products (toponymic guidelines) and its Bureau's participation in activities of the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council. In addition, the report also contains a summary of the preparations for and convening of the 2023 session of the Group of Experts from 1 to 5 May 2023, including the new national dialogue approach related to its agenda item 4 (a), entitled "Governments on the situation in their countries and on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names". Also covered in the report is the work being done to strengthen relations between the Committee of Experts and the Group of Experts. This includes the implementation of the collaborative project, which seeks to develop a compendium of institutional arrangements and operational good practices. The Group of Experts wishes to establish a coordination mechanism with representatives from both expert bodies and therefore calls upon the Committee to nominate its representatives.

* E/C.20/2023/1

I. Introduction

1. At its twelfth session, held from 3 to 5 August 2022, the Committee of Experts adopted decision 12/114, in which it welcomed the report prepared by the Group of Experts and noted the progress in implementing its strategic plan and programme of work for the period 2021–2029, including the work to redevelop the World Geographical Names Database with standardized and innovative interfaces. The Committee also noted the importance of standardized geographical names and toponymic guidelines, as an important element of a country's Indigenous languages and linguistic and cultural heritage, as well as its semantic topographical characterization, and urged Member States and their national mapping and geospatial agencies to develop and adopt toponymic guidelines in collaboration with their national geographical names authorities. Furthermore, the Committee supported the collaborative project proposal to develop a compendium of institutional arrangements on shared good practices for geographical names standardization between national mapping and geospatial agencies and national names authorities.

2. This present report contains an overview of the Group of Experts' activities conducted during the intersessional period to implement decision 12/114. It also provides an overview of the implementation of its strategic plan and programme of work 2021–2029, including the launch of the redeveloped World Geographical Names Database, activities pursued to encourage Member States to prepare guidelines for the application and use of geographical names on printed and digital products (toponymic guidelines) and its Bureau's participation in activities of the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

3. In addition, the report also contains a summary of the preparations for and convening of the 2023 session of the Group of Experts from 1 to 5 May 2023, including the new national dialogue approach related to its agenda item 4 (a), entitled "Governments on the situation in their countries and on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names". Also covered in the report is the work being done to strengthen relations between the Committee of Experts and the Group of Experts. The Committee of Experts is invited to take note of the report and to express its views on the call to establish a coordination mechanism with representatives from both expert bodies to support the implementation of the collaborative project. Points for discussion and decision are provided in paragraph 38.

II. UNGEGN's Activities

Implementation of UNGEGN Strategic Plan and Programme of Work 2021-2029

4. The UNGEGN Strategic Plan and Programme of Work was approved in May 2021 by the Group of Experts at its 2021 session and subsequently approved by ECOSOC, at its management segment meeting on 22 July 2021. The Strategic Plan and Programme of Work 2021-2029, and supporting documentation, are available on the [UNGEKN website](#). The UNGEGN programme of work has five strategies, which are further broken down into 18 major objectives, supported by 51 action items.

5. Coordination and monitoring of the implementation of the Strategic Plan and Programme of Work is being done by UNGEGN vice-chairs and working group convenors. The progress of implementation has regularly been updated and discussed in the meetings of the UNGEGN Bureau and Working Group Convenors. For the intersessional period there was noticeable progress in implementation across all five strategies, notwithstanding the restrictions caused by the pandemic. At its 2023 session the Group of Experts approved several amendments to the tasks in its Strategic Plan and Programme of Work. The Group also recognized the growing need to align discussions of the UNGEGN sessions with the focus areas of the Strategic Plan and Programme of Work. To address this concern the session agenda was amended and approved also at its 2023 session. The changes will become applicable at UNGEGN's 2025 session.

6. The full report ([GEGN.2/2023/22/CRP.22](#)) on the implementation of the Strategic Plan and Programme of Work during the period 2021-2023, was presented to the Group of Experts at its 2023 session, and is available on the UNGEGN website.

Contribution to ECOSOC - annual meetings of its subsidiary bodies

7. ECOSOC operates at the centre of the United Nations system and works to advance all three pillars of sustainable development - economic, social and environmental. It is also responsible for the follow-up to a number of major United Nations conferences and summits. The cornerstones of the work of ECOSOC are the promotion of sustainable development, the implementation and evaluation of the 2030 Agenda and COVID-19 transformative recovery.

8. The United Nations system plays a critical role in supporting Member States' implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). System-wide coherence at global, regional, sub-regional and country levels is crucial for the United Nations system to deliver on its mandates effectively. The annual meeting of ECOSOC with the chairs of its functional commissions and expert bodies, and the high-level political forum (HLPF) on SDGs follow-up and review, are two mechanisms which are used by the United Nations to encourage other multilateral processes, agencies and entities to participate and present the alignment of their work with the SDGs, national to global COVID-19 recovery efforts and their contribution to the processes.

9. For the reporting period, the UNGEGN Secretariat supported the Bureau to contribute to deliberations and participate in ECOSOC meetings such as the Integration Dialogues, and the annual meeting of the Bureau of ECOSOC with the Chairpersons of the Functional Commissions and Expert Bodies.

The 2023 Session of the Group of Experts

10. The United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) as the substantive Secretariat for the Group of Experts, welcomed 219 delegates from 62 Member States, including observers, civil society, international organizations, the private sector, and academia, to an open and totally in-person 2023 session of the Group of Experts from 1 to 5 May 2023. The session was organized based on the formal procedures as laid out in the UNGEGN Rules of Procedure and session practices prior to the virtual session in 2021. The session addressed the theme "*Strengthening relationships, links and connections in geographical names standardization and for sustainable development and pandemic recovery*". This theme is not only aligned to the theme of the 2023 ECOSOC High-level Political Forum on sustainable development, but also to UNGEGN's Strategic Plan and Programme of Work 2021-2029, Strategy 2: Relationships, links and connections. Good relationships, links and connections are fundamental to all UNGEGN's strategies and are at the heart of the work of the United Nations.

11. The UNGEGN Secretariat processed 242 documents, consisting of 3 procedural documents, 114 summaries and 125 reports. Forty nine of the 125 reports, or 39%, were country reports. For this session an additional 25 papers were received and processed as compared to the 2021 session. Substantively, the Group of Experts introduced and discussed 60 technical papers (excluding national and divisional reports).

12. In pursuance of Recommendation 2 of the 2019 UNGEGN session, approved by ECOSOC in decision 2019/231, which requested the UNGEGN Bureau to facilitate an interactive process for the presentation of country reports, a national dialogue was conducted. The objective of this approach was to provide Member States an opportunity to present and share their national/domestic experiences in an interesting and beneficial way.

13. This new approach proved to be successful, interactive, and contributed to knowledge transfer and enrichment among Member States. Common strands and work methods became apparent, and the session drew conclusions on areas of shared endeavour and ways of working, and possible future work in the areas of crowd sourcing of geographical names data and data validation methodologies.

14. Noteworthy highlights included two panel discussions, one featured geographical names and the environment and the second featured the session's theme. Both panel discussions and the diverse views expressed were appreciated, noting that work in both areas would strengthen the Group's capacity to develop and share expertise to support Member States' geographical names standardization activities. There were also four special presentations: i) *Indigenous issues, cultural heritage, language and identity* by a board member (Canada) of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, ii) *Addressing Data Challenges: responding to emergencies and disasters* by the Director of International Business at Esri, iii) *The Gazetteers.net web application: a tool for harvesting digital gazetteers*, delivered jointly by the Herder Institute and the Leibniz Institute - Germany and iv) *Geographical Names by Google: empowering users* by two Directors from Google. To view the special presentations please go to the Special Presentation tab on the [UNGEGN 2023 session webpage](#). Through consensus the date (28 April to 2 May 2025) and provisional agenda for the 2025 UNGEGN session, the procedural report and recommendations and decisions emanating from the session were successfully adopted. The 2023 UNGEGN session report ([E/2023/84](#)) is now available.

UNGEGN Bureau, Expanded Bureau and Divisional Activities

15. Effective meetings are a strong form of communication within teams, they also should improve productivity as they provide the space for feedback and keep participants on course for projects. Meetings provide a forum for the sharing of ideas, for making decisions, solving challenges and also allowing team members to build relationships and connections. During the intersessional period the UNGEGN Secretariat planned and convened three expanded virtual Bureau (Bureau and convenors of working groups and task teams) meetings, four virtual core Bureau meetings and two Bureau and Divisional meetings.

16. The main focus of the bureau and working group meetings were the implementation of the UNGEGN Strategic Plan and Programme of Work 2021-2029, a review of UNGEGN working groups, addressing operational and management issues, contributing to the UN Sustainable Development, 2030 Agenda and collaborating with ECOSOC and its relevant subsidiary bodies, such as the UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) and prepare for the 2023 UNGEGN session.

World Geographical Names Database

17. UNSD, as the Secretariat of UNGEGN, maintains the "World Geographic Names Database," an authoritative data repository containing multilingual, multi-scriptural geo-referenced short and full geographical names (in all six UN languages) for countries (the 193 UN Member States), their capitals, major cities with population over 100,000 and related audio files. The data contained in the database are generally submitted by national geographical names authorities, the UN Protocol office and extracted from the [UNTERM database](#).

18. During the intersessional period UNSD conducted a project to redevelop the UNGEGN World Geographic Names Database and web application. Details on this exercise and future plans for managing and maintaining the database have been provided in ([GEGN.2/2023/111/CRP.111](#))

Publicity and Awareness

19. The UNGEGN Secretariat, with the support of the UNGEGN Expanded Bureau and the Working Group on Publicity and Funding implement publicity and awareness raising activities. These include the preparation and publishing of the UNGEGN Bulletin, maintaining the UNGEGN website, and management of a Twitter account. Table one lists the three bulletins issued over the intersessional period. The bulletin serves as the main source of informing and communicating with UNGEGN Member States, and its wider community of stakeholders who are interested in the standardization of geographical names.

Bulletin No.	Date of Issue	Theme
63	June 2022	Geographical Names as Indicators of the Environment
64	November 2022	Making Geographical Names Data Accessible
65	June 2023	Strengthening relationships, links and connections in geographical names standardization and for sustainable development and pandemic recovery

Table 1 - Bulletins and Themes prepared during the reporting period

20. Toponymic Guidelines is an important and useful tool that supports the dissemination of national names standardization work. It is also necessary to review and keep toponymic guidelines current given changes in official languages, spelling rules of a language, the administrative divisions of a country, the toponymic terminology and abbreviations used on topographic maps, the contact details of the national geographical names authority and the source material for authoritative names.

21. The Group of Experts therefore encourages Member States not having toponymic guidelines, or having outdated guidelines, to develop and/or revise their guidelines. This can be achieved through collaboration between national mapping agencies and national geographical names authorities.

Capacity Development

22. UNSD supported a one-week toponymic training session in Bali, Indonesia for the Asia South-East Division from 19 to 23 June 2023. This training was postponed twice given the COVID-19 pandemic. The training featured 'Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage' was jointly designed, planned and executed by the Indonesian Geospatial Information Agency (Badan Informasi Geospasial), UNSD, and the UNGEGN Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy.

23. The course was attended by 78 participants (34 females and 44 males), seven trainers, and 15 teaching assistants. Course participants were from the following seven countries: Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Laos People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Oman, Saudi Arabia and Viet Nam and represented a cross section of disciplines including education, surveying, cartography, information management, linguistics, land administration and geospatial information management. This five day course consisted of 32 hours of lectures, exercises and group discussions and 12 hours of field work (including travel time) and covered topics such as the principles and concepts of geographical naming and the standardization of a country's toponyms, national names agencies models and procedures, geographical names data collection using modern methods, geographical names as cultural heritage, and geographical names data processing and management.

24. Responses to the training evaluation questionnaire (55 of 78 participants completed the questionnaire) showed that knowledge of geographical names standardization improved for 87% of the respondents, 87% also indicated that they would implement the knowledge and skills gained, and 82% said the course content met their expectations. The field work and geographical names data collection component was found most useful, and the major positives were the practical content, the sharing of country experiences and the easy interaction between presenters and participants.

25. Additional capacity development activities included the hosting of the webinar on ‘*Linked Open Data Developments - What's in it for UNGEGN and its Experts?*’ held on 30 September 2022. The webinar was well received and was attended by a global audience of over 100 participants. Webinar concept notes, presentations, videos and recordings are available on the UNGEGN webpage at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/working_groups/wg6.cshtml/. Based on the positive feedback received from webinar participants, the UNGEGN Expanded Bureau has indicated a willingness to continue staging them, with the focus on topics relevant to Member State requirements and in line with its programme of work.

III. Collaborative activities

26. For the past six years papers, reports, and proposals have been presented on strengthening relations between the Committee of Experts and UNGEGN. Collaboration among functional commissions and expert bodies of ECOSOC is also supported in the [summary recommendations by the Vice President of ECOSOC](#), noted by the Council’s decision 2022/334 adopted at its Management Segment on 2 June 2022. The UNGEGN Secretariat has been supporting the strengthening relations initiative by assisting with the preparation of working papers, facilitating meetings between both bodies, and identifying opportunities and tendering proposals for collaborative activities.

Participation of UNGEGN at the twelfth session of the Committee of Experts

The Collaborative Project

27. At the twelfth session of the Committee of Experts, a representative from Germany and member of the UNGEGN expanded bureau, introduced UNGEGN’s report ([E/C.20/2022/18/Add.1](#)) under agenda item 16- Collaboration with the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names. An important element of the report was the project proposal on the development of a compendium of institutional arrangements and operational good practices aimed at strengthening relations between the Committee of Experts and the Group of Experts. The proposal was well received and included in the report of the session ([E/2023/46-E/C.20/2022/19](#)) decision 12/114 (d), which noted the efforts to build a stronger relationship between the Committee of Experts and the Group of Experts, supported the collaborative project proposal to increase cooperation, create synergies, and share knowledge and good practices for the standardization of geographical names. The decisions also included urging Member States and their national mapping and geospatial agencies to develop and adopt toponymic guidelines in collaboration with their national geographical name’s authorities and encouraging the participation of representatives of national mapping and geospatial agencies to the 2023 UNGEGN session.

28. During the session, eight Member States in their interventions for agenda item 16, “Collaboration with the UNGEGN” indicated their support for the project proposal. The Member States are listed in table 2. These countries could serve as the first group of participants to be formally invited to participate in this collaborative project exercise.

Countries/Bodies	Comments
1. Argentina	Supports the collaborative project and creating awareness
2. Canada	Welcomes the project and looking forward to participating
3. Germany	Supports proposal to conduct collaborative project and willing to contribute
4. Jamaica	Endorses project and is interested in the project
5. Morocco	Supports the project and wishes to participate
6. New Zealand	Supports the collaborative proposal
7. Sweden	Supports the collaborative project to strengthen relations between the mapping and naming bodies
8. United Kingdom	Supports the proposed activities
9. UN-GGIM Africa	Endorses the suggestion to foster coordination
10. UN-GGIM Europe	Supports the project

Table 2- UN-GGIM Member States who supported the Collaborative Project Proposal

29. The collaborative project was shared with the Chairs of UNGEGN linguistic and geographical divisions, and they were encouraged to inform their members of the collaborative project proposal and to submit their interest to participate on the option considered most feasible. A special meeting of a small task team of the UNGEGN Bureau was convened to discuss the implementation of the collaborative project. Considered were various options to implement the project and also factors/areas to be considered to conduct the study of good practices. Five options were considered which require further scoping of the project in terms of factors to be considered, number of countries to be included in the survey, ensuring geographical balance across UN member states and duration among others. Option 1 - UNSD identifies and assigns existing staff within the division to coordinate and conduct the project and tasks. Option 2 - UNSD seeks the services of a UN intern for a period of six months. Lead time will be required to contract an intern. Option 3 - National mapping agencies (NMA's) and National Names Authorities (NNA's) identify staff to be placed on virtual secondment for an agreed time and duration. Option 4 - NMA's and NNA's conduct a self-study to identify good practices according to a template/questions to be designed. Option 5 - Contract the services of a consultant to complete the project. This option is only feasible should funding be made available through UNSD existing resources or trust fund support of a UN Member State. Noting that the options presented will be further analysed to determine the pros and cons to help make informed decisions on which option(s) will be adopted. In addition, implementation could be a combination of options, depending on the uptake from Member States, voluntarism, and the availability of resources.

30. The ensuing work will provide the opportunity and impetus to establish a liaison group between both bodies, thereby fulfilling decision 8/114 of the Committee of Experts. Included in the appendix of this report are the beginnings of proposed questions in support of the collaborative exercise separated into questions for bodies with mapping and names in the same entity and those with bodies in separate entity.

31. At its 2023 session in May, the Group of Experts was invited to express its views on the proposed project to strengthen collaboration with the Committee of Experts and to approve its implementation to produce a compendium of institutional arrangements on shared good practices between national mapping agencies and national names authorities.

32. The Group of Experts in Decision 3/2023/9 ([E/2023/84](#)) recognized that the Committee of Experts had acknowledged and supported the proposal to collaborate on the development of a compendium of institutional arrangements on shared good practices for geographical names standardization between national

mapping and geospatial agencies and national names authorities, to increase cooperation, create synergies and share knowledge and good practices for the standardization of geographical names and welcomed the offer by Indonesia to assist with the development of a compendium of good practices of the Group of Experts and the Committee of Experts at the national level.

Collaboration with UN Maps

33. UN Maps is a geospatial initiative that aims to assist UN Peacekeeping missions by providing its peacekeepers with topographic maps, to support peace and security, navigation and logistics, to help the missions in their tactical and operational activities, as well as help countries torn by conflict to create the necessary conditions for lasting peace. Building upon previous initiatives in which the main objective was the production of topographic maps, the United Nations Global Service Centre (UNGSC), the United Nations Geospatial Information Section in New York, and three peacekeeping missions - UNSOS, MONUSCO and MINUSCA - established in August 2019 the foundation of a new global initiative UNMaps. The organization has a thriving community ranging from UN personnel in the field (GIS groups, UN offices, military and police) to academia (high schools and universities), from local communities and NGOs to any remote volunteer in the world. Remote volunteers are contributing to the mapping efforts by editing directly in OpenStreetMap, where the community is responsible for millions of edits.

34. Two UNGEGN experts, from the United Kingdom and Norway attended the 2nd UNMaps Conference which took place from 6 to 11 March 2023 in Valencia, Spain. The conference was attended by almost 90 participants from 45 UN entities and external partners. The goal of the conference was to strengthen the coordination, collaboration and sharing mechanisms on geospatial information within the United Nations system and beyond. The Conference theme was “Building greater UN Maps Together” and was an opportunity to explore how geospatial data and services can help to deliver the collective mandates of the United Nations such as addressing climate change, sustaining food systems, ensuring universal access to care and education, and ensuring peace and justice for all countries. UNGEGN representatives delivered a presentation entitled ‘Promoting the collection, standardization and publication of geographical names’ and also participated in a panel discussion.

35. Pertinent issues discussed in relation to toponymy included the use and proper recording of geographical names. The peacekeeping missions are often faced with multi-layered conflicts where language and use of language plays a role in the conflict. Thus, the use or non-use of a certain geographical name in a specific context may be seen as problematic by one side in a conflict, so efforts must be made to ensure correct recording and usage of names. Three areas in which UNGEGN could assist the UN community were identified. They were (i) training in the collection and recording of geographical names, (ii) the collection of geographical names with emphasis on preparing a standardized set of mutually upgradable (and reversible) standards for recording geographical names and (iii) making national geographical names data available.

36. The Group of Experts in decision 3/2023/8 - Cooperation and liaison with other international organizations, supported further cooperation with the United Nations Geospatial Network and United Nations Maps and in that regard urged the United Nations Geospatial Network of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management and appropriate representatives of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names to establish an appropriate mechanism to promote the work and importance of the Group of Experts and geographical names to the United Nations system.

IV. General remarks

37. UNGEGN remains committed to advancing the standardization of geographical names and implementing the decisions of past and current sessions of the Committee of Experts. For the reporting period the focus was on strengthening the interlinkages across the subsidiary bodies of the Group of Experts and the bodies and agencies within the UN system. Consideration is being given to having continued emphasis on strengthening relations and increasing awareness on and importance of the work on standardization of geographical names, particularly in the areas of cultural heritage, recognizing the decade of Indigenous Languages, the importance of standardized names to disaster risk management and creating a culture of inclusivity using standardized geographical names.

V. Points for discussion

38. The Committee of Experts is invited to:

- (a) Take note of the present report provided by the Group of Experts and express its views on its intersessional activities;**
- (b) Note the date of the Group of Experts 2025 session, to be convened from 28 April to 2 May 2025 and consider UN-GGIM representation to attend the session, present the report of the Committee of Experts and make a special presentation; and**
- (c) Support the establishment of a coordination mechanism with representatives from both expert bodies, provide nominations from the Committee of Experts as representatives to an “Expert Body Joint Task Team” in order to discuss and consider the five options contained in paragraph 29 towards determining the prerequisites to start producing a compendium of institutional arrangements on shared good practices between national mapping agencies and national names authorities.**

APPENDIX

Strengthening Collaboration between UN-GGIM and UNGEGN Project

- (A) Is the same government Department responsible for national mapping and for a national geographical names authority?

The response is "YES" to having the responsibilities of national mapping and national names in the same organization.

- (1) Name of Department, Agency or Organization
- a) Is this military and/or civilian mapping?
 - b) Are the responsibilities for national and/or international mapping
- (2) For the geographical names, is the responsibility for
- a) Coordinating an independent national names board/ committee
 - b) Organizing a names committee within the Department
 - c) Acquiring / deciding internally, by individuals, on names to use on Departmental maps
- (3) Provide some details of the relationship of the two activities within the Department
for example:
- a) At what management level is the responsibility for both?
 - b) What is the type and extent of interaction?
 - c) What legislation supports this?
- (4) Outline some BENEFITS of this relationship, based upon selection from the following:
- a) Technical:
 - i. Availability of names for Departmental products
 - ii. Arrangements for field collection of names and topographic data
 - iii. Creation and maintenance of databases/gazetteer services
 - iv. Other
 - b) Financial:
 - i. Avoiding duplication of resources and work effort
 - ii. Common understanding of personnel resources required
 - iii. Other
 - c) Cultural:
 - i. Common understanding of national cultural sensitivities in relation to products and decision-making
 - ii. Other
 - d) Information exchange:
 - i. Transparent and efficient information exchange
 - ii. Communication with the public and stakeholders
 - iii. Other
 - e) Addressing UN SDG goals:
 - i. How having the two functions within the same department assists progress
 - ii. Other
- (5) DISADVANTAGES of colocation of the two functions
- a) Please indicate any disadvantages of this arrangement
- (6) What IMPROVEMENTS could be made within this framework to create a better understanding of the significance of good naming practices and of the needs of a mapping agency.

-
- (7) Are there particular practices that you follow that you would like to highlight as “GOOD PRACTICES” for others to follow?

The response is "NO" to having the responsibilities of national mapping and national names in the same organization.

- (1) Names of Departments, Agencies or Organizations responsible for:
- a) national mapping
 - b) a national names authority
- (2) Some REASONS for this separation:
- for example,*
- a) historical distinction
 - b) cultural and linguistic links important for geographical names vs. mapping
 - c) university authority and responsibility vs. government activity
 - d) names are for international use vs national mapping activity
 - e) other
- (3) What is the INTERACTION between mapping and names?
- for example:*
- a) names are provided to mapping agency
 - b) mapping agency is represented on naming authority
 - c) programmes and reports are shared between the two areas
 - d) databases are shared
 - e) other
- (4) Outline some of the BENEFITS of the existing arrangement
- for example:*
- a) technical
 - b) financial
 - c) cultural
 - d) information exchange
 - e) other
- (5) Outline some of the DISADVANTAGES of the existing arrangement
- for example:*
- a) little contact between the two groups
 - b) lack of knowledge exchange or awareness of each other’s programmes
 - c) greater difficulty for public to access information
 - d) addressing UN-GGIM goals
 - e) other
- (6) What IMPROVEMENTS could be made within this framework to create a better understanding of the significance of good naming practices and of the needs of a mapping agency.
- (7) Are there particular practices that you follow that you would like to highlight as “GOOD PRACTICES” for others to follow?