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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 (<https://ggim.un.org/meetings/GGIM-committee/13th-Session/>). The Committee is invited to take note of the report and to consider the request to nominate its representatives to serve on the collaborative project coordination committee, which seeks to strengthen relations between the Committee of Experts and the Group of Experts.

Summary of the report

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 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.

* [E/C.20/2023/1](https://www.un.org/Depts/under20/2023/1).



In the 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 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.
