



# Economic and Social Council

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## Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

### Fourteenth session

New York, 7–9 August 2024

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

### 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/14th-session/>). The Committee is invited to take note of the report and to express its views on the actions pursued to strengthen relations between the Committee of Experts and the Group of Experts.

### Summary of the report

At its thirteenth session, held from 2 to 4 August 2023, the Committee of Experts adopted decision 13/114, in which it welcomed the report prepared by the Group of Experts on Geographical Names and noted the activities conducted to implement its strategic plan and programme of work for the period 2021–2029, including the launch of the redeveloped World Geographical Names database and the convening of the 2023 session of the Group of Experts from 1 to 5 May 2023, including the new national dialogue approach. The Committee of Experts reiterated its continued support for strengthening collaboration between the Committee of Experts and the Group of Experts, in particular the project to prepare a compendium of institutional arrangements on shared good practices for geographical names standardization between national mapping agencies and national names authorities, welcomed the offers from Member States to participate in and provide nominations for the proposed expert body joint task team, and further suggested examining the practicality of the options provided in order to identify a pragmatic approach towards implementation.

The Committee recognized the relevance of standardized geographical names to statistics and second-level administrative boundaries and the importance of the expert

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\* E/C.20/2024/1.



support of the Group of Experts to both the United Nations Geospatial Network, in its One United Nations Geospatial Situation Room initiative, and enabling data services deployed through United Nations One Map, and welcomed the closer collaboration and cooperation with the Group of Experts and the assurance of the United Nations Geospatial Network that it would liaise closely with the Group of Experts, including in the context of its World Geographical Names Database, to leverage the knowledge and expertise of the Group.

In the report, the Group of Experts presents its activities conducted during the intersessional period to implement decision 13/114. It also provides a general update on the implementation of its strategic plan and programme of work 2021–2029, including the advancements made in redeveloping the World Geographical Names Database and related work done in advancing the proposal to generate a universal unique identifier for cities. The Group of Experts details the Bureau’s participation in activities of the Economic and Social Council, such as the annual meeting of its subsidiary bodies, its contribution to the 2024 high-level political forum on sustainable development, and the preparation of the Group of Experts annual infographic that details in a graphical form the outcomes from its 2023 session.

The Group also reports on efforts to strengthen relations between the Committee of Experts and the Group of Experts. This work includes the implementation of the collaborative project, which seeks to develop a compendium of institutional arrangements and operational good practices. Also reported is the preliminary work being done in support of the implementation of the collaborative project, through the collection of good practices emerging from relations between national mapping agencies and national names authorities on the basis of contributions made to the 67th issue of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names bulletin. The Group of Experts further reports on its other collaborative activities, including supporting initiatives pursued by its liaison partners such as the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History and the International Cartographic Association in advancing capacity development, research and the standardization of geographical names.

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