

# Eighth Session of the UN Committee of Experts on GGIM

## Item 16 Strengthening collaboration with the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN)

Presented  
On behalf of  
UNGEGN's Chair, William Watt - Australia



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Global Geospatial Information Management

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# OUTLINE

1. The Importance of Geographical Names
2. UN-GGIM/UNGEGN Relationship
3. Recent Events
4. Future Opportunities
5. Points for Discussion



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UNGEGN: “Promoting the collection, standardization and dissemination of geographical names”



Geographical names are an essential part of geospatial information management and its fundamental data themes



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# Geographical Names are Ubiquitous

Agriculture/Forestry

Marine

Human Health

Defense/Security

Education

Pollution

Global Warming

Urbanization

Congestion

Biodiversity

Development

Water

Logistics

Energy

Mining

Utilities

Governance

Land Use

Tourism

Transportation

Business



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# Creation of the “New” UNGEGN

Economic and Social Council Resolution 2018/2,  
10 November 2017

## **The resolution** - *Future organization and methods of work of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names*

- Discontinues the UNCSGN and the UNGEGN in their current format.
- New body named the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names
- The new UNGEGN will convene biennial sessions, over a period of five days, beginning in 2019
- Has full authority to set its strategic direction and adopt resolutions to be submitted to ECOSOC
- The elected Bureau of the Group of Experts is to oversee the 2017–2019 transition

# New Rules of Procedure and Draft Agenda

- On 24th July 2018 at its 51<sup>st</sup> plenary meeting ECOSOC adopted UNGEGN's Draft Rules of Procedure and Draft Agenda.
- This ECOSOC resolution completes a series of tasks which achieves the objective of creating a new agile, efficient and more effective body.
- UNGEGN has now consolidated its structure and reduced the number of meeting days, resulting in cost savings and efficient decision making and implementation practices.



# FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

1. Continue to support the UN-GGIM WG on Fundamental Data Themes
2. The creation of a liaison group
  - develop a SMART plan for collaborative engagement
3. UN-GGIM experts contribute to UNGEGN's WG on Toponymic Data files and Gazetteers
4. Work jointly to encourage and communicate the benefits of geographical names standardization and the importance of creating names authorities/committees



# FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

1. Regional collaboration – support UNECA's Geonyms project to create a web based geographical names gazetteer for African Member States.
2. Explore with the support of the Academic Network strengthening the infusion of toponymy/geographical names education in GIM university programmes





# INVITATION to UNGEGN MEETINGS

The Committee of Experts – is invited to participate in the following UNGEGN meetings:

1. Symposium on “***Role and importance of expert knowledge in the standardization of geographical names***”
  - 10-13 October 2018
  - Brussels, Belgium
2. First Session of “new” UNGEGN
  - 29 April - 3 May 2019
  - United Nations Headquarters, New York



# POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

The Committee is invited to:

- a) Take note of the report and progress made by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names;
- b) Express its views on the way forward on building a stronger relationship between UNGEGN and the Committee; and
- c) Encourage participation in future UNGEGN biennial sessions, commencing in 2019



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# Thank you



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