



# Economic and Social Council

6 January 2021

Original: English

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## United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

**Second session**

New York, 3–7 May 2021

### Documentation for the session

#### Note by the secretariat

##### Languages of submission and deadlines

1. The six official languages of the United Nations, namely, Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish, will be the official languages of the session.
2. Governments are requested to email to the secretariat of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, at their earliest convenience, but not later than 15 March 2021, the full-length documents (national reports, divisional reports, working group reports and technical papers) prepared in respect of items on the provisional agenda for the 2021 session ([GEGN.2/2021/1](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/2nd_session_2021/)). The full-length documents should not exceed 3,300 words (approximately 10 pages). Documents should be submitted with summaries, which should not exceed 500 words. Summaries should be submitted before 22 January 2021 in order for them to be translated and issued in the six official languages.
3. It is vital that Governments and experts comply with the above-mentioned deadlines so that their documents may be issued and made accessible on the website of the Group of Experts ([https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/2nd\\_session\\_2021/](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/2nd_session_2021/)), before the convening of the session.

##### Theme for the session

4. The theme for the second session is “Geographical names supporting sustainable development and management of the pandemic”. It is aligned to the theme of the 2021 high-level political forum on sustainable development as defined by the General Assembly in resolution [74/298](#), “Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development”. The alignment of themes supports General Assembly resolution [70/1](#), in which it called for Economic and Social Council intergovernmental bodies and forums to reflect the integrated nature of the



Sustainable Development Goals as well as the interlinkages between them. Governments are encouraged to consider the integrated, indivisible and interlinked nature of the Goals with their work on the standardization of geographical names. A special focus on the theme of the session is welcomed; however, the submission of documents focused on general issues and the challenges of the standardization of geographical names is also encouraged.

#### **Formatting and presentation of documents**

5. Documents should be in Microsoft Word and emailed to the secretariat (see para. 11). The related resolution and the item of the provisional agenda under which the document is to be considered must be indicated. Governments are encouraged to include a final paragraph in each document in which they state the action that the Group of Experts is being invited to take, such as recommendations to be noted, for discussion, for an opinion or for endorsement. Governments should be aware that, for the work of the session to be completed at the scheduled meetings, some documents may be considered for information and not for presentation purposes.

6. The full-length documents will be distributed in the original official language(s) of submission. Governments should ensure that acronyms and abbreviations are spelled out the first time they appear. If numerous acronyms and abbreviations are used, they should be set out in a list at the beginning of the document.

#### **National reports**

##### **(Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda)**

7. In accordance with the provisions set out in resolution V/7 of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (available at [www.ngii.go.kr/portal/ungn/mainEn.do](http://www.ngii.go.kr/portal/ungn/mainEn.do)), Governments are requested to adhere to the guidelines below when drafting their national reports on progress made since the first session of the Group of Experts, in 2019. National reports should include the following:

- (a) A summary, of not more than 500 words, outlining the main issues discussed;
- (b) Background information or a historical sketch (only for countries that did not present national reports at previous conferences);
- (c) A discussion of goals and national programmes;
- (d) A discussion of problems, solutions and achievements during the reporting period;
- (e) Conclusions and recommendations.

8. Some information on national standardization may be more appropriately submitted as separate papers for discussion under other agenda items.

#### **Divisional reports**

##### **(Item 4 (b) of the provisional agenda)**

9. Reports submitted by the division of the Group of Experts should include material of common interest to the divisions. Some information may be more appropriately included in national reports or under the activities of particular working groups (or other agenda items) than in divisional reports.

#### **Report of the session**

10. A report on the session will be issued.

11. Correspondence should be addressed to the secretariat of the Group of Experts ([geoinfo\\_unsd@un.org](mailto:geoinfo_unsd@un.org)). Courtesy copies should also be addressed to Cecille Blake ([blake1@un.org](mailto:blake1@un.org)) and Vilma Frani ([frani@un.org](mailto:frani@un.org)).

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