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**United Nations Group of Experts on
Geographical Names****2021 session**

Virtual, 3–7 May 2021

Item 14 of the provisional agenda*

Toponymic data files and gazetteers**Linked data considerations for geographical
name standardization****Summary****

Linked data is a set of design principles for sharing machine-readable, interlinked data on the Internet, and open data is a concept whereby data can be freely used, reused and redistributed with no or minimal restrictions. Together, considering linked open data approaches in relation to geographical names data management could further the aims of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names by making gazetteers and related information more interoperable and reusable.

The paper is prepared in response to decision 1/2019/13 of the Group of Experts, made at its 2019 session, in which it recognized technological methods such as linked data for the provision of geographical names data to be considered by the Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers in future. It contains a discussion on the opportunities and challenges to linked open data approaches for geographical name data management, accounts about national and regional developments and actions that could be taken by names authorities and the Group of Experts.

* [GEGN.2/2021/1](#).

** The full report was prepared by Susan Birtles (Australia) on behalf of the Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers. It will be available under document symbol GEGN.2/2021/6/CRP.6, in the language of submission only, at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/2nd_session_2021/.

