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

Virtual, 3–7 May 2021

Item 13 of the provisional agenda*

Exonyms**The fiftieth anniversary of the working group on exonyms
of the Netherlands****Summary****

On 17 October 1960, members of the board of the cartographic section of the Royal Dutch Geographical Society, convened in order to enlist the support of the Society in establishing a permanent commission for geographical names in the Netherlands, stating that, as the spelling of geographical names, and especially its standardization, had become a subject of permanent international consultation, and that the establishment (at the initiative of the Economic and Social Council) of an international commission on geographical names was to be expected, it would behove the Netherlands not to lag behind. In response, the Society instructed one of its members to ask questions in parliament to convince the Government to take action. The Government asked the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences for advice regarding the advisability of Dutch contributions to the discussions at a United Nations conference on the standardization of geographical names. After repeated questions in parliament, on 7 June 1968, the Minister of Education established a commission for foreign geographical names (*Commissie Buitenlandse Aardrijkskundige Namen*). The full report covers the history and accomplishments of the commission and its successors.

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

** The full report was prepared by Ferjan Ormeling, Utrecht University. It will be available under document symbol GEGN.2/2021/67/CRP.67, in the language of submission only, at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/2nd_session_2021/.

