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

Virtual, 3–7 May 2021

Item 5 (a) of the provisional agenda*

**Cooperation and liaison with other organizations:
international organizations**

**Report of the Joint International Cartographic Association/
International Geographical Union Commission
on Toponymy**

Summary**

The report highlights the activities that the Joint International Cartographic Association (ICA)/International Geographical Union (IGU) Commission on Toponymy has pursued since the 2019 session of the “new” United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, held in New York from 29 April to 3 May 2019, and contains its programme for 2021. The Commission was established in 2011 under the patronage of the then Chair of the Group of Experts, Helen Kerfoot the then President of ICA, Georg Gartner, and the then President of IGU, Ron Abler, to foster toponymic research in geography and cartography complementary to that of the Group of Experts, with its focus on standardization, and the International Council of Onomastic Sciences, with its focus on linguistics. That goal was to be pursued by organizing events as part of international conferences and by holding separate symposiums on specific topics, mostly in cooperation with local institutions.

The Commission currently has 163 full and corresponding members from 46 countries on all continents. Before the 2019 session of the Group of Experts, the Commission hosted or co-hosted 19 events as part conferences and symposiums. Between the 2019 and 2021 sessions, the following events, described in the full report, were held:

(a) Pre-conference symposium to the International Cartographic Conference on national names boards, held in Tokyo on 11 and 12 July 2019;

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

** The full report was prepared by Peter Jordan (Austria), Austrian Academy of Sciences, International Cartographic Association (ICA) liaison officer, ICA Chair of the Joint ICA/International Geographical Union (IGU) Commission on Toponymy. The report will be available under document symbol GEGN.2/2021/74/CRP.74, in the language of submission only, at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/2nd_session_2021/.



(b) Twenty-ninth International Cartographic Conference, session of the Commission held in Tokyo, from 15 to 20 July 2019;

(c) Fifth International Symposium on Place Names on the topic “Recognition, regulation, revitalisation: place names and indigenous languages”, held in Clarens, South Africa, from 18 to 20 September 2019, in cooperation with the University of the Free State;

(d) GeoNames symposium on place names and migration, held in Vienna from 6 to 8 November 2019, in cooperation with the Dutch- and German-speaking Division of the Group of Experts, the Austrian Board on Geographical Names, the Austrian Federal Office of Metrology and Surveying and the Austrian geographical society.

During the period under review, the following papers presented at events organized or co-organized by the Commission were published:

(a) Chrismi-Rinda Loth, ed., *Recognition, Regulation, Revitalisation: Place Names and Indigenous Languages – Proceedings of the Fifth International Symposium on Place Names* (Bloemfontein, South Africa, 2020);

(b) Allison Dollimore and Peter Jordan, eds., *Place Names and Migration: Proceedings of the Symposium in Vienna, 6–8 November 2019* (Hamburg, Germany, 2021).
