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Economic and environmental questions: geospatial information

**Letter dated 15 June 2023 from the Permanent Representative of
the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to
the President of the Economic and Social Council**

Upon instructions from my Government, and with reference to the 2023 session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, held from 1 to 5 May 2023, at which an erroneous name was used for the Persian Gulf, as contained in documents GEGN.2/2023/103/CRP.103 and GEGN.2/2023/91/CRP.91, I would like to state the following:

Geographical names are a part of the valuable heritage of human beings, inherited from the past, and their preservation and transmission to future generations is a duty that has been emphasized for years by many, including the United Nations. Some geographical names are rooted in history and continue to be made mention of in maps, books, travelogues and correspondence for thousands of years. There is no doubt about their authenticity, including the names of the world's most famous oceans and mountain ranges. The name of the Persian Gulf is clearly, and without a shadow of a doubt, unique in all documents and maps, and in all languages and scripts, dating back thousands of years. Therefore, blemishing the name of the Persian Gulf, even for non-scientific reasons, is not up to the experts present at that meeting.

Furthermore, Secretariat document [ST/CS/SER.A/29/Rev.1](#), dated 14 May 1999, regarding the legitimacy and accuracy of the documents of the historical name of the Persian Gulf, as well as the established practice of different countries and the United Nations over the past century in using only this historical name, all recognize and emphasize that the only true geographical designation for the body of water lying between the Iranian Plateau and the Arabian Peninsula is the Persian Gulf.

In light of the foregoing, we call upon Member States to adhere to the norms and arrangements governing the protection of geographical names.



I would be grateful if you would circulate the present letter as a document of the Economic and Social Council, under agenda item 18 (i), and place it on the official website of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.

(*Signed*) Amir Saeid **Iravani**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
