

United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

Fourth UN/LOCODE Advisory Group Meeting

Trent Palmer (USA)

UNGEGN Bureau

27 Nov. 2020



UNGEGN

United Nations Group of Experts
on Geographical Names



UNGEEN

UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names

- A subsidiary body of ECOSOC
- Develops procedures and establishes mechanisms for standardization in response to national requirements
- Creates and follows up on the implementation of resolutions
- Supported by a Secretariat at UNHQ (NY)
- Creates working groups to focus on specific areas of current concern and interest
- Has 24 geographical/linguistic divisions for grass roots work



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on Geographical Names

UNGEEN Aims

- Encourage the creation of national names authorities
 - backed by legislation
 - respect local usage of names
 - collect, store and disseminate authorized names - **for government and public use**
- Develop single scientifically-based systems of romanization
- Encourage multi-national datasets
- Collect and facilitate the dissemination of works on place names standardization
- Study and propose principles, policies and methods suitable for helping to resolve general problems of national and international standardization



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on Geographical Names

What UNGEGN is NOT

- Decision maker on feature names
- Point of arbitration on disputes over names
- Place to air political issues, even if they are related in some way to place names
- Decision maker on what processes, legislation or policy is correct for any country



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UNGEEN Bureau

Officers of UNGEEN

Chairperson

- Mr. Pierre Jaillard (France)

Vice-Chairpersons

- Mr. Sungjae Choo (Republic of Korea)
- Mr. Hasanuddin Abidin (Indonesia)

Rapporteurs

- Mr. Trent Palmer (USA)
- Ms. Wendy Shaw (New Zealand)

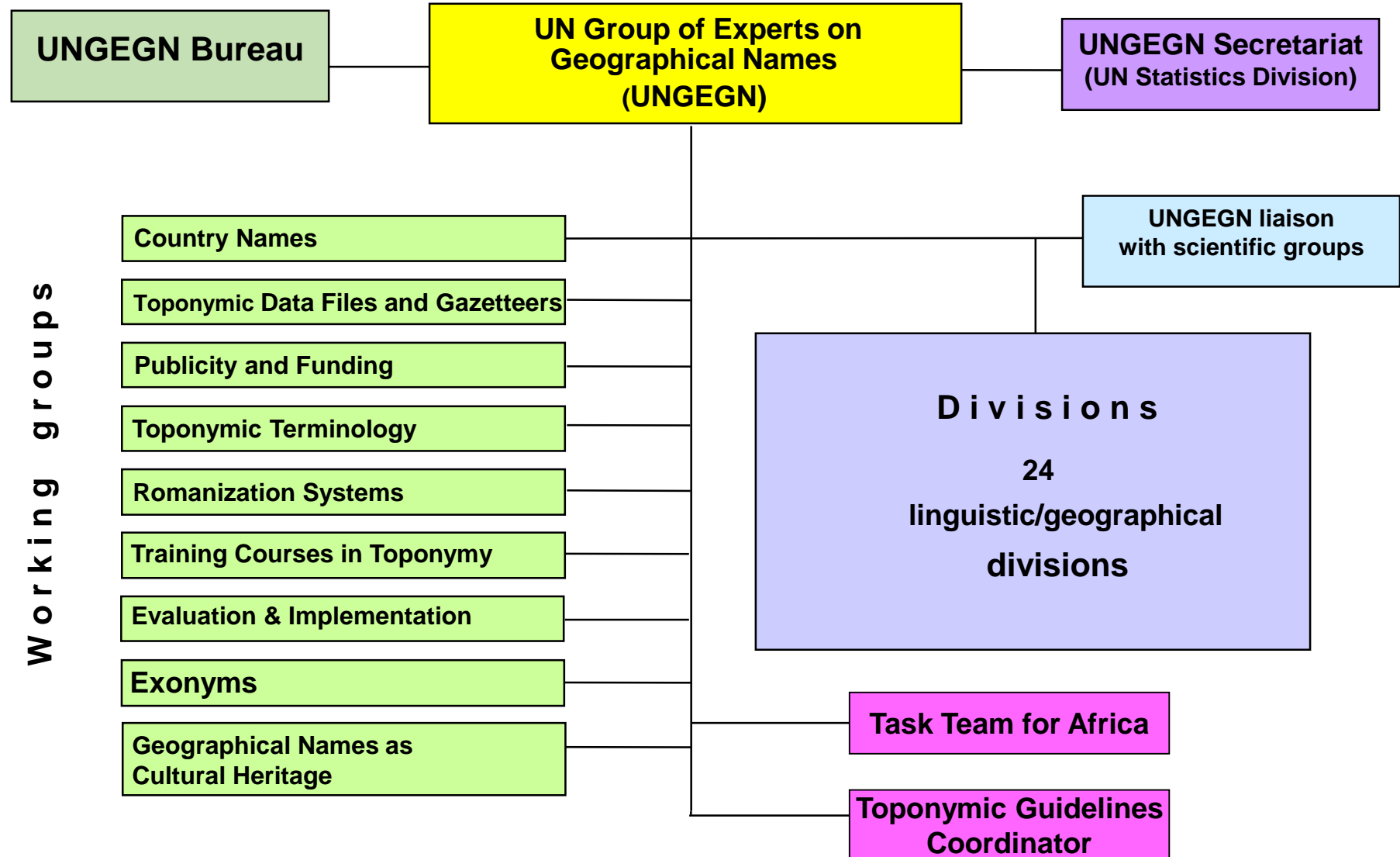


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UNGEGN Structure



Supported by the UN Statistical Division through the UNGEGN Secretariat



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UNGEEN Working Groups

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Inuktitut Titiraisiq

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Δ					
p	pii				
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k	kii	ku	ku	ka	ka
g	gii	gu	gu	ga	ga
m	mii	mu	mu	ma	ma
n	nii	nu	nu	na	na
s/h	sii/hii	su/hu	suu/huu	sa/ha	sa/ha
l	lii	lu	lu	la	la
j	jii	ju	ju	ja	ja
v	vii	vu	vu	va	va
r	rii	ru	ru	ra	ra
q	qii	qu	qu	qa	qa

Romanization

Training



Data files / gazetteers



Evaluation / implementation



Terminology



Exonyms



Cultural heritage

Publicity / funding



Country names

Task Team for Africa

Coordination of Toponymic Guidelines



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UNGEEN Divisions

Africa Central	Baltic	India
Africa East	Celtic	Latin America
Africa South	China	Norden
Africa West	Dutch- and German-speaking	Pacific South-West
Arabic	East Central and South-East Europe	Portuguese-speaking
Asia East (other than China)	Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia	Romano-Hellenic
Asia South-East	East Mediterranean (other than Arabic)	United Kingdom
Asia South-West (other than Arabic)	French-speaking	United States / Canada



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UNGEEN Liaison with other Organizations

1. International Cartographic Association (**ICA**)
2. Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (**ICANN**)
3. International Council of Onomastic Sciences (**ICOS**)
4. International Council on Indigenous Place Names (**ICIPN**)
5. International Hydrographic Organization (**IHO**)
6. International Organization for Standardization (**ISO**) Technical Committee 211 (TC/211)
7. Pan-American Institute of Geography and History (**PAIGH**)
8. Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (**SCAR**)
9. Unicode Consortium



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UN/LOCODE Problem Statement

Because a location name is spelt differently in different languages, the UN introduced UN/LOCODE to identify locations for international trade and transport

The Advisory Group is Seeking the **official version** of location names



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UNGEEN Resources

UNGEEN World Geographical Names Database (Beta version)

Small set of names: country names, capitals and major cities

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/geonames/>

National Names Authorities: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungeen/naa/>

French-speaking Division database:

<http://www.toponymiefrancophone.org/divfranco/Bougainville/recherche.aspx>

Contact information, reference documents, and links



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U.S. BGN GEOnet Names Server (GNS)

Foreign geographic names database for the U.S. national names authority – the U.S. Board on Geographic Names (BGN)

<https://geonames.nga.mil/gns/html/>

Presents the U.S. view on the official names, but may be useful because of variant names (cross-reference). UN/LOCODE Advisory Group is welcome to utilize this resource (data download, tailored search, feedback)



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Recommendations

- Maintain current ISO 3166-1 country name and code information
(Note: UN/LOCODE country list is not current)
- Utilize the beta UNGEGN World Geographic Names Database or other UNGEGN-network databases and lists
- Contact national authorities, where applicable
- Use GNS (USA) to search worldwide city names
- Establish liaison with UNGEGN, if necessary



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