

Paper for Consideration by SCUFN**Report of UNGEGN**

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Executive Summary: This document reports on the activities of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) since SCUFN-35.1

Related Documents: SCUFN 36-05.4B

Related Projects: N/A

Introduction

1. The aim of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) is to encourage national and international geographical names standardization, promote the international dissemination of nationally standardized geographical names information, and adopt single romanization systems for the conversion of each non-Roman writing system to the Roman alphabet.

Discussion

2. As previously reported, UNGEGN began a new phase of its existence in 2019, holding its first “new” session in the spring of that year. The 2023 session of the “new” UNGEGN was held 1-5 May 2023 in New York City.

3. The focus of UNGEGN during the lead-up to the 2023 session was the implementation of its strategic plan and programme of work as well as strengthening its operational structure. The strategic plan and many other resources are available at the UNGEGN website at: <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/>.

4. UNGEGN continues to encourage strengthening liaison relationships with other international bodies, such as the IHO. The theme of the 2023 session was “Strengthening relationships, links and connections in geographical names standardization and for sustainable development and pandemic recovery”.

5. A report on the IHO's activities related to geographical names was presented at the 2023 session. A sub-bullet of UNGEGN Decision 3/2023/8 'Cooperation and liaison with other international organizations' states that UNGEGN “recognized the activities and progress that the International Hydrographic Organization had achieved in naming undersea and maritime features and encouraged national names authorities to submit proposals for undersea feature names to the International Hydrographic Organization/Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Subcommittee on Undersea Feature Names and to promote the work of undersea feature names standardization within their respective programmes of work.”

6. The 2025 session of UNGEGN is scheduled for 28 April – 2 May 2025 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

7. All papers submitted to UNGEGN sessions are posted at the UNGEGN website.

Action Required of SCUFN

5. SCUFN is invited to:

- a. Note this report
- b. If engaged with national names authorities, encourage participation in the activities of UNGEGN, if not already doing so.