



# UNGEEN

# United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

## Geographical names standardization supporting national development

Tuesday 31 August 2021  
from 10:00 am -12:00 EDT (New York)

Cecille Blake  
UNGEEN Secretariat, UN Statistics Division,



# UNGEEN

# United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names





# CARIGEO

Caribbean Geospatial  
Development Initiative

**GEO-EMPOWERING THE CARIBBEAN**

an Initiative implemented by the Americas Regional Committee of  
United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial  
Information Management (UN-GGIM)

# CARIGEO'S PURPOSE



**To improve Spatial Data Infrastructures at the national and regional levels in the Caribbean**

- building on recent and on-going developments*
- leveraging indigenous skills and resources*
- utilising external resources and technical expertise*

# PARTNERS



**UN-GGIM**  
UNITED NATIONS INITIATIVE ON  
GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL  
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT



**UN-GGIM:Americas**  
REGIONAL COMMITTEE OF  
UNITED NATIONS  
ON GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL  
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT  
FOR THE AMERICAS



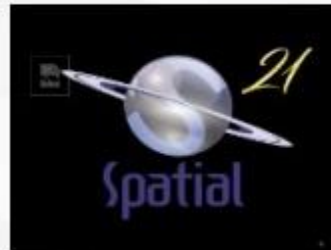
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UNITED NATIONS



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SCIENCE  
OF  
WHERE™



**W.K.  
KELLOGG  
FOUNDATION™**



**THE UNIVERSITY  
OF THE  
WEST INDIES**



**Universidad Nacional  
Autónoma de México**



**United  
Nations**

Department of Economic and Social Affairs



**ACS AEC**  
ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN STATES  
ASOCIACION DE ESTADOS DEL CARIBE  
ASSOCIATION DES ETATS DE LA CARAIBE



**IDB** Improving lives

# CARIGEO Scope of Work

## Aligned to UN-GGIM Frameworks

### Integrated Geospatial Information Framework



### Global Statistical Geospatial Framework



## Objectives

1. Governance and Policies
2. Collaboration and Partnerships
3. Datasets and Tools
4. Capacity Development
5. Communication and Engagement

## Main Activities

1. Assessment of current situation
2. Development of national and regional fundamental geospatial datasets
3. Implementation of regional and national Web-based GIS services to improve data sharing
4. Establish a regional strategy to better connect data to decision making
5. Establish a study on geospatial information policy: recommendations and good practices
6. Capacity building, Communication and Engagement



**Strategic Framework for Disasters**



**Global Geodetic Reference Frame**



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**A MAP,  
A NAME,  
AN  
IDENTITY**

**NEW YORK**

NIUJORKAS นิวยอร์ก NJU JORK  
 NOWY JORK NÝU-ÝORK نيويورك  
 न्यूयॉर्क NUEVA YORK ÑUJORKA  
 EFROG NEWYDD NOVA IORQUE  
 NUA-EABHRAC 纽约 НЬЮ-ЙОРК



**Welcome to UNGEGN**  
 Standardizing geographical names matters

Join a community of experts  
 dedicated to promoting the collection,  
 standardization and dissemination of  
 geographical names.

Start connecting, collaborating and communicating

Website: <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/default.html>  
 E-mail: [geoinfo\\_unsd@un.org](mailto:geoinfo_unsd@un.org)  
 twitter: @UNSD\_GEGN

# UNGEEN- UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names

- A subsidiary body of ECOSOC
- Promotes standardization of geographical names in response to national requirements
- Provides a forum for discussion – geographers, linguists, administrators, GIS specialists, cartographers ...
- **1959 – Resolution 715A (XXVII) of ECOSOC**
  - To bring together experts to advise on geographical names for use in UN Cartography
- **1960 – 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of experts in New York**
  - USA, France, UK, Iran, Guatemala, China
- **1967 - First Conference held in Geneva**



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# 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



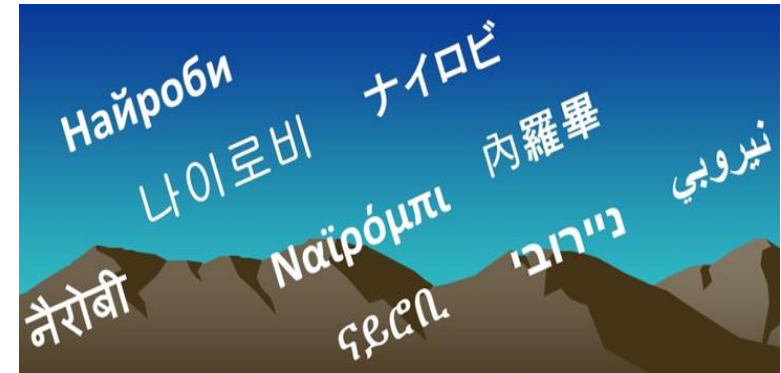
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# UNGEGN aims

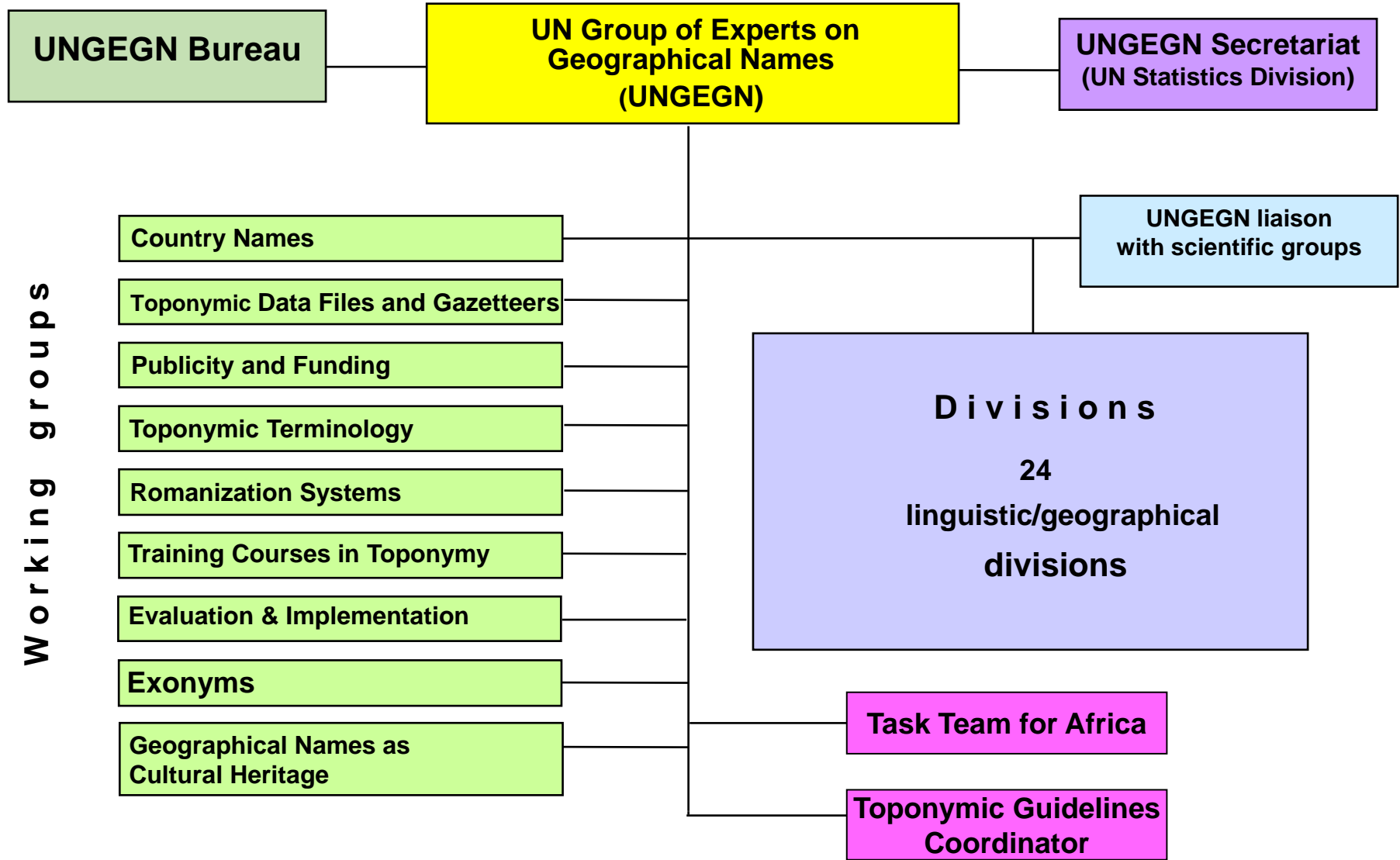
- Encourage the creation of national names authorities
  - backed by legislation
  - respect local usage of names
  - collect, store and disseminate authorized names - for government and public use
- Raise awareness of the value and benefits of geographical names standardization
- Recognize the value of geographical names both to identify place and as elements of cultural heritage
- Develop single scientifically-based systems of romanization
- Contribute to work of UN bodies and collaborate with non-UN organizations



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# UNGEEN Structure



Supported by the UN Statistical Division through the UNGEEN Secretariat



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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 / Ms. Susan Birtles, Australia

### Rapporteurs

- Mr. Trent C. Palmer, USA
- Ms. Wendy Shaw, New Zealand



UNGEEN Chairperson



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# UNGEEN working groups

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**Romanization**

**Training**

**Data files / gazetteers**

**Evaluation / implementation**



**Exonyms**

**Terminology**



**Country names**



**Cultural heritage**

**Publicity / funding**



**Task Team for Africa**

**Coordination of Toponymic Guidelines**



# 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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# UNGEGN Website

<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/>

## Very large reference source

- UNGEGN Bulletin
- [Manuals, UNSD — United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names](#)
- World Geographical Names Database
- Resolutions/recommendations
- [Web-based training](#)
- Events, Links, Tweets, and more

United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

UNGEGN Publications | Bulletin | Media kit | Other reference material | Graphics | Postcards

**Glossary of Terms for the Standardization of Geographical Names (Revised)**

Available languages: [Multilingual](#) [Korean](#)

Note:  
The 2007 Addendum in the six languages of the UN is included in this revised version.

**Geographical names as vital keys for accessing information in our globalized and digital world**

Available languages: [Arabic](#) [Chinese](#) [English](#) [French](#) [Spanish](#) [Russian](#)

**Manual for the National Standardization of Geographical Names**

Available languages: [Arabic](#) [Chinese](#) [English](#) [French](#) [Spanish](#) [Russian](#) [Korean](#)

**Technical reference manual for the standardization of geographical names**

Available languages: [English](#) [Korean](#)



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# Capacity building

- Coordinates toponymic training courses
  - UNSD – given the availability of funds - sponsors 3-5 participants and 3 trainers in support of Toponymy training courses.
    - 2017 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in collaboration with IBGE and
    - 2018 Manila, Philippines in collaboration with NAMRIA
- Maintains UNGEGN-ICA web course in Toponymy – released in July 2012

[UNGEgn-ICA webcourse on Toponymy \(1st release, July 2012\) \(un.org\)](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEgn/docs/_data_ICAcourses/index.html)

## UNGEgn-ICA webcourse on Toponymy (First release July 2012)



Click [here](#) to enter course



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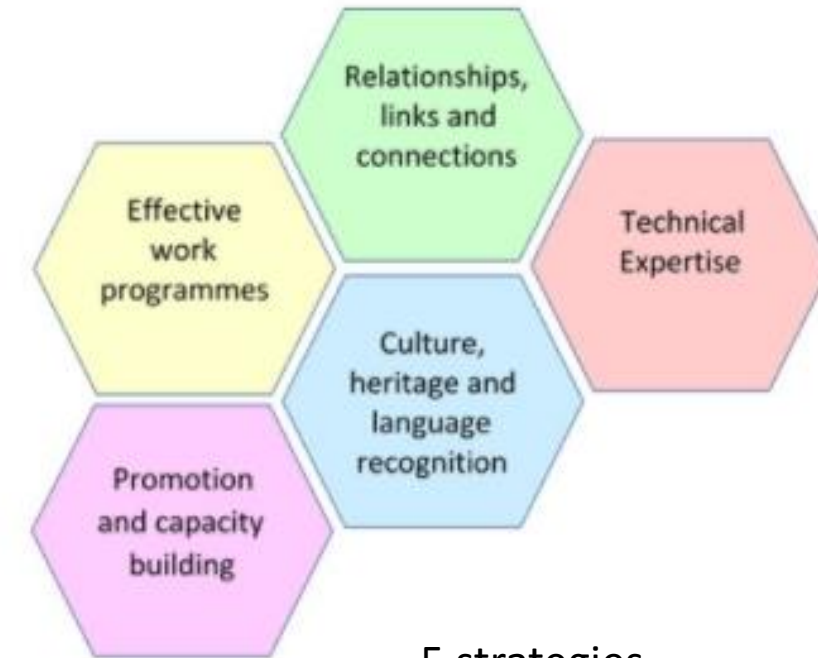
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# Evolution of UNGEGN – recent history

- **2017 – Reorganization to “new” UNGEGN**
  - To convene every 2 years starting in 2019
  - Reports to ECOSOC
- **2019 – Creating Strategic Plan**
  - Including Programme of Work
    - Document (CRP.94) for approval at this session (Agenda #7)
- **2021 – Strategic Plan Approved at 2021 session**
  - Inviting Member States to become involved in the implementation of the Programme of Work



5 strategies



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# Join in the standardization of geographical names

<b>Contribute</b>	Contribute to advancing the UNGEGN work programme
<b>Engage</b>	Actively engage with your Divisions:- activities
<b>Join in</b>	Participate in UNGEGN meetings and working groups
<b>Write</b>	Contribute your national experiences and articles to the Bulletin
<b>Monitor</b>	Monitor the UNGEGN website for latest geospatial activities <a href="https://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/default.html">https://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/default.html</a>
<b>Tweet</b>	Tweet, retweet and follow at <b>@UNSD_GEGN</b>



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**UNGEGN Secretariat  
United Nations  
New York**

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twitter: [@UNSD\\_GEGN](https://twitter.com/UNSD_GEGN)



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