

## Geographical names standardization supporting national development”

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

[CARIGEO](#) and UNGEGN [Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy](#) invite geographers, geospatial professionals, cartographers, historians, names experts, academics and interested stakeholders to join them on **31 August 2021 beginning at 10:00 am EDT** to participate in a webinar entitled “**Geographical names standardization supporting national development”**.”

### BACKGROUND

CARIGEO is a collaborative effort of the Regional Committee of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas (UN-GGIM: Americas), the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN-ECLAC or CEPAL), the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN), public agencies of Member States and Territories within the Caribbean, geospatial private sector organizations, academic institutions and civil society representatives. This initiative seeks to empower the countries and territories of the Caribbean region to advance the greater use and sharing of geospatial, statistical and related information to support improved decision making for sustainable national and regional development.

As an expert body of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), UNGEGN is responsible for encouraging the standardization of geographical names and promoting the national and international benefits to be derived from standardization. The Group of Experts engages to strengthen communications with other United Nation bodies, providing advice on the use of standardized geographical names within their programmes; this in particular links to geospatial needs of UN-GGIM and the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, as well as to the cultural heritage value of names relevant to a range of objectives and activities of the United Nations.

UNGEGN’s national geographical names authorities’ records as at December 2019 indicated that, of the 30 Member States and territories in the Caribbean, only Cuba, Jamaica and Suriname have geographical names authorities. The CARIGEO and UNGEGN collaborative provides the opportunity to engage national mapping or other relevant organizations within the Caribbean countries and territories to consider pursuing geographical names standardization and encourage the creation of national names authorities, the definition of geographical names standardization procedures, and sharing the significant cultural and historical value of geographical names to a country’s peoples.

### OBJECTIVE

To support the national mapping/geospatial data management organizations in the Caribbean to build awareness on the importance of geographical names standardization and the creation of national names authorities. The webinar is designed to improve awareness, increase knowledge and understanding and



strengthen skills in the principles and techniques of geographical naming with a special focus on cultural heritage and practices and procedures in creating and managing a geographical names authority.

## POTENTIAL PARTICIPANTS

The target audience are: Geographers, geospatial professionals, linguists, cartographers, cultural historians. Representatives from University in the areas of history, culture and linguistics. Also, the government agencies responsible for culture and architecture and preservation of language.

## TENTATIVE AGENDA

10:00	1. Opening remarks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Paloma Merodio – President UN-GGIM Americas, (Mexico)</li><li>Trent Palmer – Rapporteur UNGEGN, (United States of America)</li></ul>	5 mins
10:05	2. Introductory statement and setting the scene <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Cecille Blake and Peder Gammeltoft</li></ul>	10 mins
10:15	3. The significance and benefits of geographical names – language, culture, history, tourism <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Johnny Jakobsen</li></ul>	20 mins
10:35	4. Framework for effective names standardization <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Peder Gammeltoft</li></ul>	20 mins
10:55	Short comfort break	
11:00	5. Legal and Administrative requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Peder Gammeltoft</li></ul>	20 mins
11:20	6. Effective communication and awareness raising strategies <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Peder Gammeltoft</li></ul>	20 mins
11:40	7. Wrap up and discussion	20 mins
12:00	8. Closing remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Rolando Ocampo –Director of Statistics Division, ECLAC</li></ul>	

For additional information please contact Peder Gammeltoft at [peder.gammeltoft@uib.no](mailto:peder.gammeltoft@uib.no) and or Cecille Blake at [blake1@un.org](mailto:blake1@un.org) and please do visit the session website [UNSD – United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names](https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/ungim/2021/08/08-09-2021-ungim-workshop-geographical-names-2021.html)

## REGISTRATION

The webinar will be hosted on the WebEx platform.

All interested parties are encouraged to register for the webinar using the following registration link

<https://arcg.is/0Snbjz>

Upon completion, registrants will be provided with the meeting link to facilitate access to the event on 31 August 2021, beginning at 10:00am NYC time.

