

**United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names
Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers (WG TDFG)**

Minutes

12:15 – 13:45 hrs, Wednesday, 27 April 2016

at the
UN Head Quarter in Bangkok on the occasion of the 29th UNGEGN, Room: MR-F, 1st floor

Time	item#	TOP
12:15 – 12:20	1	<p>Opening The Convenor, <i>Mr. Zaccheddu</i>, opened the meeting and welcomed the members.</p>
12:20 – 12:30	2	<p>Liaison with international standardization bodies (ISO, OGC, Unicode)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ISO <i>Mr. Zaccheddu</i> explained that ballot event notifications of the International Organization for Standardization's Technical Committee 211 Geographic information/Geomatics (ISO/TC 211) had been disseminated regularly, but that all documents were addressed to general geographic information issues. • OGC It was noted that in January 2012 the Working Group contributed to the comments on the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) Best Practices Document: Gazetteer Service -Application Profile of the Web Feature Service Candidate Implementation Standard (OGC 11 122r1). No further activity could be reported since 2012. The OGC Gazetteer Best Practice is available at: http://www.opengeospatial.org/standards/requests/83 • Unicode It was noted that Unicode released version 8.0 in 2015. This latest version of the standard added a further 7,716 characters (http://blog.unicode.org/2015/08/unicode-version-80-complete-text-of.html). <i>Ms. Catherine Cheetham</i> confirmed to be the Liaison officer for UNGEGN (for this Working Group) to Unicode.
12:30 – 13:00	3	<p>Liaison with the UN Geographic Information Working Group (UNGIWG) / CoE4UNSDI initiative / UN-GGIM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mr. Zaccheddu</i> has not participated at the UNGIWG Plenary Meeting in 2015 and no other activity of the Working Group can be reported. • It was noted that CoE4UNSDI initiative can be considered to be discontinued. • In a broader UN context the Working Group recognized the importance of co-operating with the UN-GGIM. • It was noted that UN-GGIM established regional committees of experts as an efficient way to make progress and provide useful input to the global UN-GGIM process. Amongst others, activities of UN-GGIM: Europe, UN-GGIM Arab States and UN-GGIM Africa were presented. • In this regard the UNGEGN Bureau and the Convenors were invited to contribute to the discussion about the linkage of UNGEGN and UN-GGIM. UNGEGN topics / domains are currently not tackled by UN-GGIM. How

		<p>UNGEEN could be integrated in a future / envisaged “geospatial” UN structure will be discussed between the Bureaus carefully.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerning the question how national UNGEEN experts could contribute to and shape the UN-GGIM topics it was suggested to get in touch with the national representative of ECOSOC and UN-GGIM (global and regional committee).
<p>13:00 – 13:15</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>Items & issues according to the 11th UNCSGN</p> <p>Potentially use the WG TDFG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to promote GeoNyms - UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) <i>Mr. Zaccheddu</i> explained that the current support of the GeoNyms software by UNECA seems to be weak. It was noted that some countries did not continue to work with the GeoNyms software for several years. <p><u>Task 1:</u> <i>The Task Team for Africa as well as the UNGEEN Bureau will check the circumstances at UNECA and contact Mr. Yoseph Mekasha in order to clarify the support of the GeoNyms software.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to contribute to UNGEEN database <p>The Experts requested the Working Group, in conjunction with the UNGEEN Secretariat, to validate and update, as necessary, the hyperlinks published at the UNGEEN web site.</p> <p><u>Task 2:</u> <i>Ms. Nivo Ratovoarison volunteered to assist the Convenor to validate and update the hyperlinks published at the UNGEEN web site.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to support Training Courses in Toponymy (e.g. Web-Course) <p>It was noted that through toponymic training courses 2014 in Oran, Algeria, the Working Group facilitated consultancy and gave technical advice for the establishment of multipurpose toponymic database solutions in the context of spatial data infrastructures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to contribute to the linkage UNGEEN and UN-GGIM <p><i>Mr. Zaccheddu</i> informed the Working Group about the strategic meeting of the UNGEEN Bureau with the Convenors on Tuesday, 26 April 2016. It was emphasized that UNGEEN is keen to work closely with UN-GGIM and, from the thematic point of view this Working Group has the closest relation to UN-GGIM issues dealing with geospatial management and infrastructures. However, for the time being no addition to the work plan of this Working Group will be made rather than decisions from the UNGEEN Bureau will be awaited. Until the next conference, the Working Group will continue to participate at and/or contribute, if required, to the GGIM fora, documents, discussions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to contribute to the discussion about the UN SDG and its indicators <p>The potential of geospatial data (including standardized geographical names) in supporting the geospatial dimension in the UN Sustainable Development Goals were noted.</p> <p><u>Task 3:</u> <i>The Working Group will contribute, if required, to the UN SDG discussions.</i></p>

<p>13:15 – 13:30</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>Discussion forum within the WG website / Online discussion forum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion about the forums 1 to 3 • Input & remarks for the discussion forum <p><i>Mr. Zaccheddu</i> recalled the presentation of the Online Discussion Forum within the Session under agenda item 9 and highlighted again its structure, content and functionalities. All WG members were kindly requested to evaluate the content and inform the moderators and the convenor about any other question to be integrated in the forum.</p> <p><u>Task 4:</u> <i>WG members and further UNGEGN experts are kindly requested to get registered and to contribute to it.</i></p> <p>The forum can be accessed through: https://wiki.gdi-de.org/display/wgtdfg/Discussion+forum</p>
<p>13:30 – 13:35</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>Next meeting of WG TDFG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other meetings in 2016-2017 to associate with <p>Currently no other meetings in 2016-2017 are determined. Possible occasions to associate with would be</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an envisaged joint meeting of the WG TDFG with the Working Group on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage in Europe in early 2017 • an envisaged meeting of the Asia East Division, very likely to be held in Malaysia in 2016/2017. <p><u>Task 5:</u> <i>WG members are kindly requested to inform the convenor about any events and locations. The convenor will check and evaluate opportunities for associating a WG meeting with another UNGEGN event (Division or other WG meeting), likely in early 2017.</i></p>
<p>13:35 – 13:45</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>AOB & Closing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WG TDFG website <p><i>Mr. Zaccheddu</i> motivated the WG members to provide updates for the website including more information about national and regional projects, papers/presentations at international meetings, technical workshops, etc.</p> <p><u>Task 6:</u> <i>The WG members are kindly requested to provide the convenor regularly with content for the WG TDFG website</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support from the WG TDFG <p><i>Mr. Zaccheddu</i> expressed thanks to all WG members for the very active participation and for all the contributions within the UNGEGN session and its preparation. However, he kindly requested the WG members to be more active between two UNGEGN sessions as well.</p> <p>The convenor closed the meeting.</p>