

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

Minutes (for Part 1 and Part 2) **Draft: 28.08.2017**

09:00 – 09:45 hrs, Friday, 11 August 2017 and  
09:00 – 09:45 hrs, Thursday, 17 August 2017

at the  
UN Head Quarter in New York on the occasion of the 11<sup>th</sup> UNCSGN & 30<sup>th</sup> UNGEGN,  
Room: CR-B

<b>Time</b>	<b>TOP#</b>	<b>TOP</b>
09:00 – 09:45 (at two days)	<b>1</b>	<p><b>Opening</b></p> <p>The Convenor, <i>Mr. Zaccheddu (DE)</i>, opened the meeting and welcomed the members. He informs the members that the meeting has to be split into two parts, Part 1 took place on 11 August for 45 minutes and Part 2 on 17 August for 45 minutes as well. These minutes provide information about both meetings.</p> <p>Concerning the Decisions of the 29th UNGEGN relating to the Working Group <i>Mr. Zaccheddu</i> informed that the Working Group tackled both activities. The hyperlinks published on the website had been revised and updated. The Working Group encouraged Member States to submit data for the world geographical names database of the Group of Experts through toponymic training courses and at conferences.</p>
	<b>2</b>	<p><b>Liaison with international standardization bodies (ISO, OGC, Unicode)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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. Most documents were addressed to general geographic information issues. In March 2017 ISO/CD 19112:2017(E) - Geographic information – Spatial referencing by geographic identifiers has been updated. Although it is assumed that the updated ISO/CD 19112:2017(E) won't have a huge impact on the geographical names data provision – reflecting the complexity of the named place concept – it will be assessed by the Working Group. <i>Mr. Dyer (NZ)</i> suggested that WG members could get in touch with national representatives in ISO, OGC to make aware of GN issues and be informed about drafts.</li> <li>• UNICODE <i>Ms. Dollimore (UK)</i> reported that the Working Group reviews character encodings required for geographical names and informs about gaps in the Unicode standard. The latest version 9.0 was published on 21 June 2016. Version 10.0.0 is currently in beta version with a planned publication in mid-2017; this version adds a further 8518 characters for a total of 136,690 characters, including 4 additional scripts (Masaram Gondi, Nushu, Soyombo and Zanabazar Square) and 56 emoji.</li> </ul> <p><u>Task 1:</u> <i>WG members agreed to get in touch with national representatives in ISO and OGC to make aware of GN issues and be informed about drafts</i></p>

3	<p><b>Liaison with the UN Geographic Information Working Group (UNGIWG) and UN-GGIM</b></p> <p>Concerning the UN Geographic Information Working Group (UNGIWG) no activity for the last 2 years could be reported. Thus, the WG agreed to remove the liaison task from the current work plan and focus the relationship to UN-GGIM.</p> <p>In order to foster the relationship between UNGEGN and UN-GGIM the <i>Convenor</i> and <i>Ms. Cheetham (UK)</i> contributed to the document “Relationship of UNGEGN with UN-GGIM – “Building bridges” proposing a cooperation model. Furthermore, UN-GGIM: Europe was given a mandate by the UN-GGIM Committee of Experts to lead a global work in collaboration with other Regional Committees, Member States and observers to develop an agreed minimum set of global fundamental geospatial data themes. The <i>Convenor</i> and <i>Ms. Cheetham (UK)</i> were nominated in May 2017 to contribute to the UN-GGIM WG on Fundamental Data Themes (UN-GGIM WG FDT) on behalf of UNGEGN.</p> <p><u>Task 2:</u>  <i>The Convenor and Ms. Cheetham will involve the WG in the global and regional assessments, particularly for the UN-GGIM WG FDT, likely by the end of 2017.</i></p>
4	<p><b>Items &amp; issues according to the 11<sup>th</sup> UNCSGN and 30<sup>th</sup> UNGEGN</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training Courses in Toponymy  The <i>Convenor</i> informs the WG about the plans for the Training Courses in Toponymy. The next one is going to be arranged in the Philippines in spring 2018. The WG was requested to consider a participation and contribution to the Training Courses in order to share the responsibilities and time.</li> <li>• Relationship UNGEGN-UN-GGIM &amp; SDGs  Concerning the UNGEGN/UN-GGIM relation the <i>Convenor</i> referred to the Presentation of E-CONF-105-158 Relationship UNGEGN-UN-GGIM at the 11<sup>th</sup> UNCSGN and highlighted the importance of the relation for this WG and for UNGEGN as a whole. He recalled the discussion about the UN Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) and its indicators and provided information about the activities of the Inter Agency and Expert Group on the Sustainable Development Goals and its new Working Group on Geospatial Information (IAEG SDG WG GI, established in August 2016). He announced the Panel discussion “Support of geographical names data files and gazetteers to UN-GGIM activities like the SDG’s and 2030 Agenda” on Wednesday, 16 August, in the afternoon and emphasized that the contribution of geographical names data to the SDGs might become a major objective for this WG.  A reference to the report of the Working Group on Geospatial Information established by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG SDG WG GI) emphasizing which SDGs are analysed under a “geospatial lens” was given and can be downloaded through: <a href="http://ggim.un.org/docs/meetings/GGIM7/E-C20-2017-11%20Geospatial%20Information%20for%20Sustainable%20Development%20Report.pdf">http://ggim.un.org/docs/meetings/GGIM7/E-C20-2017-11%20Geospatial%20Information%20for%20Sustainable%20Development%20Report.pdf</a></li> </ul> <p><u>Task 3:</u>  <i>The WG agreed to update its work plan and actions 2017 – 2019 with regard to the discussions about the relationship with UN-GGIM and SDGs, likely by the end of 2017.</i></p> <p><u>Task 4:</u>  <i>The Convenor accepted the request by the UNGEGN chair to write an article in the UNGEGN Bulletin about the geospatial dimension in the SDGs.</i></p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support of regional activities</li> </ul> <p>The <i>Convenor</i> explained that the European UNGEGN experts provided expertise for commenting and discussing a draft recommendation for content of the theme 'Geographical Names' provided by UN-GGIM: Europe Work Group A on Core Data. The draft proposes core recommendations and good practices in addition to the (technical) INSPIRE Data Specification on Geographical Names. The activity is still ongoing and the recommendation has not yet been adopted by UN-GGIM: Europe. The updated version of Aug' 2017 shall be circulated to the UNGEGN experts.</p> <p>Furthermore, he referred to E_CONF.105_39 'Status Report on the GeoLocator Service developments under European Location Services' providing information about the new project European Location Services (ELS) led by EuroGeographics as well as about the EU gazetteer initiative (of the European Commission).</p> <p><u>Task 5: (accomplished)</u>  <i>The Convenor circulates the updated version of Aug' 2017 to the European UNGEGN experts and requests comments or amendments.</i></p> <p>The <i>Convenor</i> informed that the Working Group promoted the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) initiative at meetings, conferences and toponymic training courses and outlined the provision of a free tool to create names databases, particularly within the context of an African spatial data infrastructure. Unfortunately, no activity has been identified at UNECA to evolve the software in order to make implementations sustainable. <i>Ms. Kerfoot (CA)</i> suggested to re-establish the contact with UNECA as soon as possible and to use the Task Team for Africa.</p> <p><u>Task 6:</u>  <i>The WG agreed that the Convenor shall approach UNECA regarding Gazetteer application through the Task Team for Africa, likely by the end of 2017.</i></p>
5		<p><b>Discussion forum within the WG website / Online discussion forum</b></p> <p>The <i>Convenor</i> provided information about the Online Discussion Forum<sup>1</sup> and presented its current content and some functionalities.</p> <p>Amongst others, input for the linkage UNGEGN and UN-GGIM – Relationship document as well as for updates on the current work plan had been requested. Only few input to the current work plan / update of the work plan by email could be registered, but none through the Online Discussion Forum.</p> <p>However, the WG agreed to re-vitalize the activities through the Online Discussion Forum and to integrate the two panel discussion contents into the forum as well. The <i>Convenor</i> proposed to make a first update of the forum comprising new content and invite the nominated moderators and the WG members who volunteered to check and validate the content of the forum.</p> <p><u>Task 7:</u>  <i>The Convenor will integrate the two panel discussion contents into the online discussion forum and ask the moderators and some WG members to check and validate the content of the forum before it shall be re-launched, likely by the end of 2017.</i></p>
6		<p><b>Presentation of national activities</b></p>

<sup>1</sup> <https://wiki.gdi-de.org/display/wgtdfg/Working+Group+on+Toponymic+Data+Files+and+Gazetteers+of+UNGEGN>

		<p>Unfortunately, the demonstrations of NZ's enhanced online Gazetteer, of the Latvian Geographical names database as well as of Indonesia's new islands Gazetteer could not be arranged due to time constraints for both meeting days. The <i>Convenor</i> apologized and agreed to upload the PDF versions of the demonstrations to the WG website.</p> <p><u>Task 8:</u>  <i>The Convenor will upload the PDF versions of the demonstrations to the WG website.</i></p>
7		<p><b>Next meeting of WG TDFG</b></p> <p>The <i>Convenor</i> informed the WG about informal talks with experts from the Norden Division and its common support of organizing a joint Division meeting in early 2018. The DGSD supports this and the additional idea to consider a joint meeting of the Working Group on Cultural Heritage with the Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers in conjunction with the joint Division meeting in 2018.</p> <p>The <i>Convenor</i> will inform the WG about this possibility as soon as the date and timeframe will be determined.</p>
8		<p><b>AOB &amp; Closing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WG TDFG website</li> </ul> <p>The <i>Convenor</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 9:</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"> <li>• Support from the WG TDFG</li> </ul> <p>The <i>Convenor</i> expressed thanks to all WG members for the very active participation and for all the contributions within the 11<sup>th</sup> UNCSGN. However, he kindly requested the WG members to be more active between official UNGEGN events.</p> <p>The <i>Convenor</i> closed the meetings at 09:45 hrs.</p>