

Decision number **2023/337**

Decision title **World Geographical Names Database**

Agenda item **18 (i)**

Date of adoption **25 Jul 2023** Plenary meeting **43rd plenary meeting**

Originating body **United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names**

Decision text At its 43rd plenary meeting, on 25 July 2023, the Economic and Social Council decided that the appropriate working groups of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, namely, the Working Groups on Geographical Names Data Management, on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage and on Romanization Systems, should work to populate the World Geographical Names Database in order to ensure that toponyms are accurately reflected across all languages, including those with non-Roman alphabets or scripts, to strengthen relationships, links and connections in geographical names standardization, and in this regard requested:

(a) The mobilization of resources to support the integration of other toponymic datasets in the Database, including those pertaining to culture, heritage and identity;

(b) A report that explores the role of semantic web technologies in the context of the World Geographical Names Database and provides recommendations, where appropriate, to the Group of Experts at its 2025 session for consideration;

(c) The Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Geospatial Information Section of the Office of Information and Communications Technology to work with the Group of Experts through its Bureau and working groups to review existing data within the World Geographical Names Database and work with Member States to resolve linguistic, geographical and other data quality issues.

Ref: E/2023/84 and Corr.1, chapter 1, section A, recommendation 2

The final edited text of this decision will be contained in the official records of the Council for 2023 (E/2023/99 (Supplement No. 1)) after editorial review.