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**United Nations Group of Experts on
Geographical Names****2021 session**

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Item 14 of the provisional agenda*

Toponymic data files and gazeteers**Harmonization of the Canadian Geographical
Names Database****Summary****

A primary objective of the 2020–2025 strategic plan for the Geographical Names Board of Canada is to improve the content and the management of the Canadian Geographical Names Database.

An accurate, comprehensive and accessible national database of geographical names is fundamental to supporting the role of the Board. Natural Resources Canada maintains the Database on behalf of the Board's naming authorities: each province and territory, Parks Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Indigenous Services Canada and the Department of National Defence.

The fundamental obstacle to having a consistent national database is the lack of standardization between the 13 provincial and territorial databases. There are discrepancies in the use of generic codes by the naming jurisdictions, as well as inconsistencies in the types of features that each jurisdiction is responsible for naming.

The Board has commenced work on reviewing the content of the Database with the objective of identifying inconsistencies between information collected from various jurisdictions, and developing a standardized, consistent and up-to-date national database.

* [GEGN.2/2021/1](#).

** The full report was prepared by Kristina Kwiatkowski, Geographical Names Board of Canada secretariat, Natural Resources Canada. It will be available under document symbol GEGN.2/2021/57/CRP.57, in the language of submission only, at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/2nd_session_2021/.

