

UNGEEN - **Working Group on Exonyms 25th Meeting** – business meeting
1 May 2023 13:15-15:00 (New York time)

Meeting was attended by about 30 participants, and was chaired by the convenor (Kohei Watanabe).

Meeting Agenda:

1. Opening (obituary Herman Bell)
2. Approval of agenda / Acknowledgement of minutes of previous meeting
3. Introduction of the report on Exonyms WG
(Report on 24th meeting in Ljubljana, Aug-Sep 2022)
4. Brief introduction of other papers presented at item 13 (exonyms) in the current session.
CRP40 (Peter Jordan), 62(Jasper Hogerwerf), 69(Maciej Zych), 89(Pierre Jaillard)
5. Report on members' activities on Exonyms since May 2021
6. Introduction and discussion on the draft recommendation.
7. Suggestions for progressing the activities of the Working Group.
a: ad. recommendation b: other aspects
c: 26th meeting (main topic?) probably in Spring 2024? venue - any offers?
8. Announcements of external meetings etc. with relevance to Exonyms
9. Any other business
10. Closing

Ad. 1

Chair welcomed the attendees, he said a few words about Mr Herman Bell, who passed away this year and was a respected expert for many years.

Ad. 2

The expert of Finland proposed that the agenda be amended and agenda item No. 6 be placed before agenda item No. 4, in order to secure enough time for discussion of item 6.
The agenda as amended was adopted.

Ad. 3

Chair presented the summary of the report on the activities of the WG, focusing on the development of the draft recommendation that was to be presented in item 13 in the main meeting of the 2023 UNGEEN session – for details, please see GEGN.2/2023/106/CRP.106. and CRP107

Ad. 6

Peter Jordan first introduced the outcome of the Ljubljana meeting regarding the draft resolution, with some historical facts as to why such a resolution should be necessary.

Concerns were raised from some participants. It should be understood that an agreement of the WG was achieved in Ljubljana and it should not be taken lightly. However, after the Ljubljana meeting, when the resolution was forwarded to the UNGEEN community, some experts sent feedback with some disagreements.

Some of the participants objected to inviting the plenary in item 13 to discuss and adopt the draft recommendation at this stage. Some participants commented that some basic facts are not clear. What is an exonym, what is the main agenda of the WG, etc. It was also pointed out that the draft resolution is too wordy with unnecessary statements and could be simplified. They felt that the draft needs reworking and that there was no point in sharing the "Ljubljana Resolution".

In the end, it was agreed that in item 13, the Convenor should report on the work of the WGE so far, including the draft resolution as an outcome of the WG's meeting. Discussion continued whether to present the draft as a proposal for a resolution to be adopted in the current session. As time was running out before reaching a conclusion, it was suggested that WG members with concerns on this issue have another meeting before item 13 of the 2023 UNGEEN session that was to be discussed on Thursday 4 May.

Ad. 4

Item postponed due to lack of time

Ad. 5

Item postponed due to lack of time

Ad. 7

Chair suggested holding the next meeting either in spring or late summer 2024, and solicited for a venue /host for the meeting.

Ad. 8.

Item omitted due to lack of time

Ad. 9

No other business was raised

Ad. 10

Chair thanked the participants, and closed the business meeting.