

22nd SCUFN MEETING
Brest, France, 22-26 September 2009

Report on UNGEGN-25

The 25th Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) was held 5-12 May 2009 at the United Nations headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya. The reports and documents of the meeting are available at the web site of the United Nations Statistics Division (<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/default.htm>). The Session reports are available in the six official languages of the United Nations.

The International Hydrographic Organization report (see attached) was presented during the session. The report was given by Mr. Trent Palmer for IHO Liaison Mr. Randall Flynn, who was unable to attend. The status of IHO Publication S-23 was the item of greatest interest in the report. There was also a question asked about the availability of the current edition of Publication B-6 on the website.

The topic of the standardization of undersea feature names was not addressed during the course of the session. However, some fact-finding efforts related to undersea feature toponymy were made. Representatives from Indonesia, Iran, and Turkey were consulted concerning their undersea feature names standardization programs with no conclusive results. A representative from Norway was interested in discussing the topic of naming rights and naming standards in international waters. Apparently this topic is getting a lot of attention within Norway in regards to the Arctic.

The 26th Session of UNGEGN is tentatively planned to be held in Geneva, Switzerland in 2011. Vienna, Austria is being considered as an alternate site.