



**UNITED NATIONS GROUP OF EXPERTS ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
Romano-Hellenic Division**

International Scientific Symposium

“How toponymy can contribute to reach the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”

Roma [Rome] – Italia, 3 - 5 June 2026

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Romano-Hellenic Division (RHD) of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) announces its fifth International Scientific Symposium focused on

“How toponymy can contribute to reach the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”

The event will be held in Roma [Rome], Italia, at “Palazzetto Mattei in Villa Celimontana”, headquarters of Italian Geographical Society, from 3 to 5 June 2026, in partnership with the Joint ICA/IGU Commission on Toponymy, and in close cooperation with the Italian Geographic Military Institute and the Italian Geographical Society.

Members of UNGEGN, scholars (geographers, cartographers, historians, linguists etc.), administrators and planners are cordially invited to attend the symposium. Participation is free of charge. Language: English.

The symposium will focus on the contribution of toponyms – particularly historical placenames and the implementation of policies for the assignment of new toponyms – to the achievement of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Building on discussions launched in 2024 and 2025, the event will explore how geographical names can serve as instruments for fostering bio-cultural heritage preservation, gender equality and sustainable communities. Particular attention will be given to two strategic perspectives: enhancing gender balance in the naming of public spaces and urban features, and drawing lessons from historical toponymy to inspire more sustainable human-environment relationships. The symposium will provide an interdisciplinary platform for scholars (geographers, historians, linguists, cartographers...) policymakers, and practitioners to share research findings, methodologies and case studies.

Presentation proposals: proposals should be submitted through the specific form accessible through the following [LINK](#) and QR code



Deadlines

- 31 January 2026: abstracts submission (max. 400 words)
- 28 February 2026: authors of accepted abstracts are notified by the Scientific Committee
- 2 December 2026: submission of final papers, complete with images and captions

Scientific committee

- Andrea Cantile, Honorary Chair of the Romano-Hellenic Division, IGMI, and University of Florence (Italia)
- Gianluca Casagrande, Chair of the Romano-Hellenic Division, European University of Rome (Italia)
- Catherine Cheetam, Permanent Committee on Geographical Names (United Kingdom)
- Annalisa D'Ascenzo, Roma Tre University (Italia)
- José Miguel Delgado Barrado, Universidad de Jaén (España)
- Elena Dai Prà, Co-Chair of Joint ICA/IGU Commission on Toponymy University of Trento (Italia)
- Peder Gammeltoft, University of Bergen (Norge)
- Helen Kerfoot, Former Emeritus Scientist Natural Resources Canada, Honorary Chair of UNGEGN (Canada)
- Joan Tort i Donada, University of Barcelona (España)