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**PCGN Meeting Minutes, Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2014**  
**RGS, London**

**Present**

██████████	Defence Geographic Centre (JFIG-DGC) (Chair)
██████████	Head PCGN
██████████	PCGN Senior Toponymist
██████████	PCGN Toponymist
██████████	Defence Geographic Centre (JFIG-DGC)
██████████	Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)
██████████	Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)
██████████	BBC Monitoring (BBCM)
██████████	Hydrographic Office (UKHO)
██████████	Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)

1. ██████████ (JFIG-DGC) opened the meeting. Apologies for absence had been received from ██████████ (JFIG-DGC); ██████████ (UKHO); ██████████ (JFIG-DGC); ██████████ (JFIG-DGC); ██████████ (Royal Scottish Geographical Society), ██████████ (OS) and ██████████ (BBC Monitoring). It was reported that ██████████ had suffered a bicycle accident, and the Committee wished to convey warm wishes for her recovery. ██████████, standing in for ██████████, and ██████████ were welcomed to the Committee.
2. The Minutes of the 190<sup>th</sup> Meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2014 were considered and approved and the action items arising were discussed. BBCM reported that that organisation was using the state title Republic of Cabo Verde and the country name Cape Verde, which reflected PCGN advice. It was noted that PCGN had not yet made programmed updates to its website, but that the site's transition to the government domain [www.gov.uk/pcgn](http://www.gov.uk/pcgn) would be made shortly, at which time all required updates would be made. Efforts to obtain Palestinian mapping remained ongoing.

3. [REDACTED] reported on recent work completed by the PCGN staff, and a report detailing this had been circulated to the Committee. The usual product support and review of briefing maps continued. [REDACTED] highlighted operational work on Syria, which DGC had shared with the UN under a new data-sharing agreement and had received very positive feedback. PCGN had also continued discussion with DGC and Dstl on a project to assess the feasibility of creating a UK geographical names database. There had been a particular emphasis on briefing map production, due to a number of factors including the Civil Contingencies Committee's demand for such products and the incorporation of the former Amey mapping section into the DGC. [REDACTED] also described the training being undertaken by PCGN staff. [REDACTED] undertook to prepare a final policy paper describing the recommended approach to the nomenclature of Israeli settlements.

Action:  
PCGN

4. A number of information papers had also been disseminated, and the Committee discussed the process of PCGN information paper writing; [REDACTED] reported that such papers were written on a proactive basis in response to strategic and geopolitical events. The recent papers on Ukraine, Crimea and Transnistria had all been prepared in order to cover potential toponymic questions that might have arisen in government departments in light of political events in those regions. PCGN reiterated that if Committee members required any such information that PCGN would always endeavour to provide appropriate toponymic and linguistic guidance. It was suggested that a list of up-to-date policy information might be a useful reference document. PCGN agreed to consider the creation and maintenance of such a list.

Action:  
PCGN

5. PCGN had participated in a number of international meetings. [REDACTED] described the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) session which she and [REDACTED] had attended. This session and its multiple associated working group meetings had afforded the opportunity to discuss with some 53 participant countries matters of their domestic toponymic interest. During the week [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] had also visited the UN Cartographic Section and delivered a briefing on PCGN to the UK Mission, a session which had received good feedback from the Mission's staff.
6. The relation between UNGEGN and the UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) was discussed, and it was noted that UN-GGIM appeared to be engaged with the work of UNGEGN. PCGN and UNGEGN would continue to keep track of the GGIM's development, as this group's work was in its inception.
7. [REDACTED] described the series of meetings that she had attended with [REDACTED] in Washington DC. These had included 3 days spent at the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency and had focussed on briefings and technical discussions with NGA Names staff on a number of topics including Arabic and Hebrew. The week had also included liaison visits with BGN members at the State

Department and the Library of Congress and participation in the ISO Technical Committee 46 annual meeting. TC46 included 2 working groups with which PCGN was particularly involved: WG2 on country codes and WG3 on transliteration and PCGN's participation in the meetings of the working groups had been most valuable.

8. [REDACTED] reported that the ISO Maintenance Agency would be hosting a follow-up meeting for the 3166 Standard (on country and sub-division codes, in which PCGN played a pivotal role as an expert member). [REDACTED] would be attending this meeting in June in Geneva. [REDACTED] also reported that the International Congress of Onomastic Sciences was to take place in August in Glasgow, and that she hoped to attend.
9. [REDACTED] reported on recent toponymic issues dealt with by his department. He thanked PCGN for their help ensuring geographical names were correct for the Human Rights and Democracy report 2013. He also thanked PCGN for their efforts to answer a parliamentary question about a definition of Europe, and for assistance with addressing press use of 'Malvinas'.
10. BBCM had nothing to report.
11. [REDACTED] reported that DGC names has been working closely with PCGN on numerous briefing maps and Syria names for C-GIS.
12. [REDACTED] reported on recent toponymic issues for UKHO, which had included consideration of issues in Crimea, the Sea of Japan and the British Indian Ocean Territory.
13. [REDACTED] outlined DGC's transformative work, which involved a move from product-focussed to data-centric working. The way names were worked was under review in an attempt to reduce the amount of time spent names checking. He also described Defence Geospatial Services (DGS), a project designed to deliver DGC, UKHO, Met Office and aeronautical data in a new way. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]
14. PCGN briefed the Committee on changes to several countries' administrative structures. [REDACTED] reported that Telangana, a new state in India, had been created on 2 June 2014, with its capital at Hyderabad, which also remained the capital of Andhra Pradesh. [REDACTED] Survey of India had yet to produce a map showing the new state. [REDACTED] reported that the ISO 3166-2 code was likely to be IN-TE, but this was not yet confirmed. She also explained that, although the name Seemandhra had been seen being used for the remainder of Andhra Pradesh, PCGN believed that this was a colloquial name and that the official name of the state remained Andhra Pradesh.
15. [REDACTED] reported on potential changes to the administrative structure of Libya, Yemen and France. PCGN had received reports of changes in Libya,

increasing the number of administrative divisions from 22 to 31. PCGN had been unable to confirm these reports and would investigate further. [REDACTED] asked the Committee to pass on any information they might come across.

16. [REDACTED] reported that in January 2014 the Yemeni National Dialogue Council had agreed on a new federal structure for Yemen, consisting of six regions and the capital Sanaa. The names, boundaries and administrative centres of these regions had been published and the new structure would be implemented in the new constitution, which is in the process of being drafted.
17. [REDACTED] reported on administrative changes announced by President Hollande of France, which [REDACTED] had brought to PCGN's attention. The intention was to merge France's 22 regions into 14 "super-regions", a change that, subject to parliamentary approval, would come into effect in late 2015. PCGN noted that such changes had been proposed in the past and that many regions did not wish to merge with their neighbours.
18. A scheduled PCGN meeting with the organisation now termed JGS, formerly Amey, and a proposed visit to UKHO were discussed.
19. [REDACTED] reported that [REDACTED] would be going on maternity leave on 4<sup>th</sup> July and that [REDACTED] would be standing in as Acting Head of PCGN, while she was away. The Committee wished [REDACTED] well.
20. [REDACTED] reported that as a result of the 'Malvinas' issue mentioned earlier by [REDACTED], FCO has offered [*alteration from 'was to brief' requested by Carole Edwards*] to brief the Home Office and she invited PCGN to participate. She also reported on a new cross-Whitehall geographical information group, which representatives of FCO and DGC would attend.

## **Actions**

1. [REDACTED] would prepare a final policy paper describing the recommended approach to the nomenclature of Israeli settlements.
2. PCGN would consider the creation and maintenance of a list of up-to-date policy information.
3. PCGN and the Committee would keep their eyes open for information on potential changes to the administrative structure of Libya.