

3. UN-APPROVED SYSTEMS

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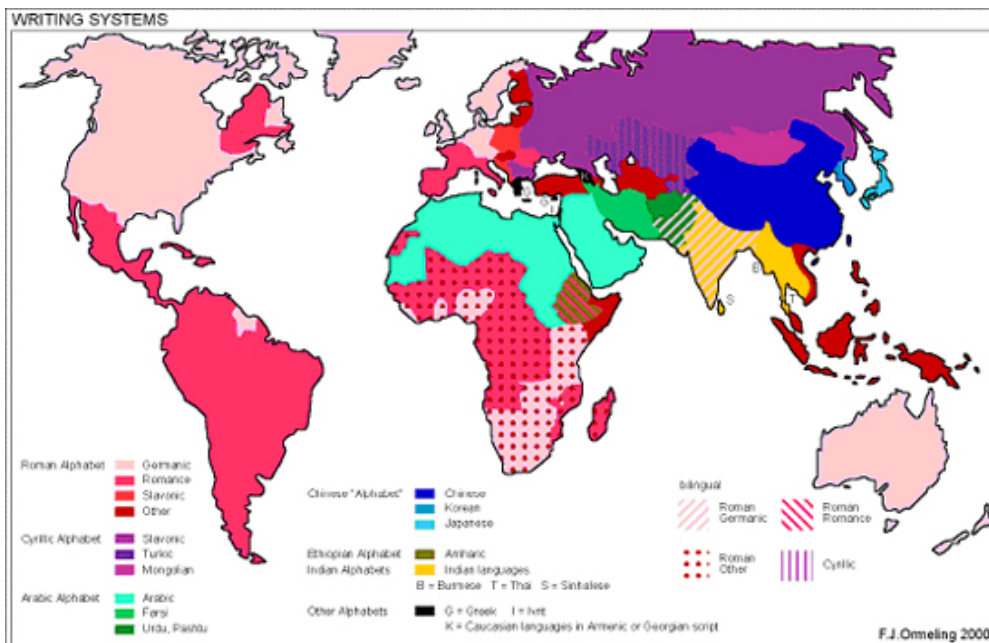
In contrast to ISO systems the ones recommended by the United Nations favour practical aspects and prefer systems that yield "pronounceable" names. As a comparison here are some names converted using a United Nations-recommended system and ISO transliteration:

	ORIGINAL	UN SYSTEM	ISO
Arabic	طَرَابُلُوس	Ṭarābulus	ṭara'bulus
Bulgarian	Търново	Tǎrnovo	T'rnovo
Greek	Νάυπλιο	Náfplio	Naúplio
Hebrew	תֵּל־אָבִיב	Tel-Aviv	tel-'ābiyb
Russian	Щельяюр	Ščel'jajur	Ŝel'âûr
Thai	ประเทศไทย	Prathet Thai	praethšīthy

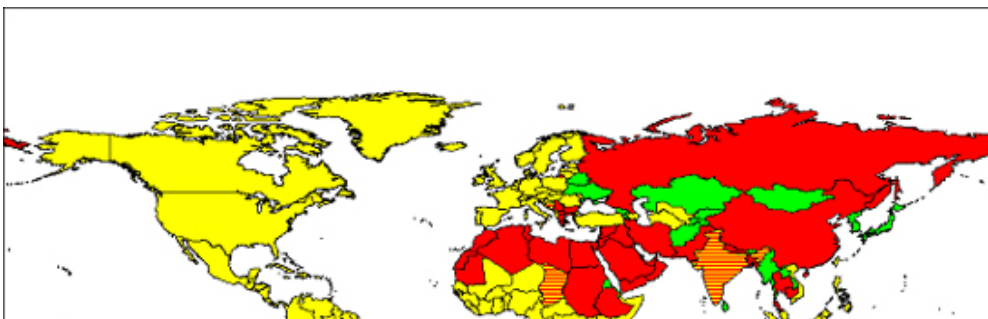
- ISO systems aim at representation of the exact original spelling
- UN systems are practical systems that aim at pronounceable names

UN-accepted single romanization systems exist for Amharic, Arabic, Bengali, Bulgarian, Chinese, Greek, Gujarati, Hebrew, Hindi, Kannada, Khmer, Macedonian, Malayalam, Marathi, Mongolian, Nepali, Oriya, Persian, Punjabi, Russian, Serbian, Tamil, Telugu, Thai, Tibetan, Uigur and Urdu (see [UNGEGN romanization](#) website).

In principle, Romanization is only necessary for non-Roman writing systems. Their distribution can be seen here:



The pink and red colours denote Roman alphabet. For which languages with a non-Roman writing system do UNGEGN-accepted conversion systems exist?



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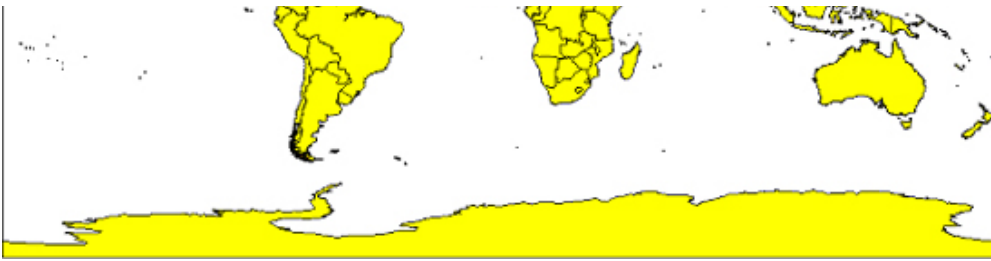
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Source: Päll, Tainach 2010

Yellow: Roman alphabet area; Red: languages with officially, UNEGN endorsed conversion systems to the Roman alphabet; Green: language areas without officially, UNEGN-endorsed conversion systems to the Roman alphabet. Striped areas: both colours apply.

Not all countries where UNEGN-endorsed systems apply have also converted their toponyms according to this system. In the map below this is shown (situation 2010). National implementation of the system now is a requirement in order to be recognized and accepted as an UNEGN-endorsed system. This means, it not only has to be used in maps, but also on road signs, in official information, etc. The more widely the system is used, the better. It has been stated that new romanization systems for international use are considered only on condition that the sponsoring nations implement such systems on their cartographic products (maps and charts)(Res. IV/15).*

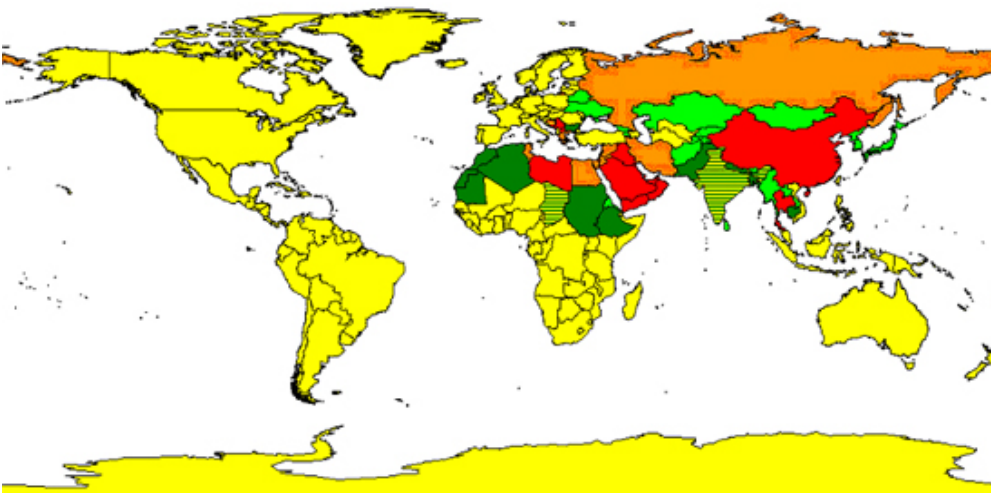
The Conference,

Recognizing the need to ensure maximum stability of romanization systems,

Noting that guidelines governing the consideration of romanization systems are desirable,

Further noting the principle that international standardization should be based on national standardization,

1. Recommends that new romanization systems for international use should be considered only on condition that the sponsoring nations implement such systems on their cartographic products (maps and charts);
2. Further recommends that States should refrain from revising systems previously adopted for international use.



source: Päll, Tainach 2010

In the red countries the officially UNEGN-endorsed romanization systems have been implemented. In orange-coloured countries these systems have been implemented only partly.

In dark green areas the officially UNGEGN-endorsed romanization systems have not been implemented; in light green areas no UNGEGN-endorsed romanization systems exist.

Other languages/scripts that still have to be provided with an UNGEGN-endorsed romanization system are: Armenian, Burmese, Byelorussian, Dzongkha, Georgian, Japanese, Kazakh, Kirghiz, Korean, Lao, Maldivian, Mongolian (Cyrillic), Pashto, Sinhalese, Tajik, Tigrinya, Ukrainian.

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