Economic and Social Council

**Tenth United Nations Conference on the
Standardization of Geographical Names**
New York, 31 July-9 August 2012
Item 14 of the provisional agenda*
Country names

United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names list of country names

Submitted by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names Working Group on Country Names**

Summary*

During its sixteenth session, held in New York in 1992, the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names reconvened its working group to establish the official forms of country names. The new working group was given the task of updating a list of country names drawn up in 1986.

The report is the successor to that first effort and has been compiled using Unicode-compliant fonts throughout. It contains entries for the 194 countries generally recognized by the international community to be independent States. It is current as of May 2012. All of the countries listed in the document are States Members of the United Nations, with the exception of the Holy See, which has permanent observer status.

The principal aim of the report is to present country names in the language or languages used in an official capacity within each country in the world. These names, presented in the national official name section, are provided in two forms: the short names, which may or may not be official, are the ones in common use, while the formal names are those used in an official diplomatic context. The form of the article is provided where necessary to indicate gender.

The authority for country names used officially in the United Nations is the United Nations Terminology Section, which maintains the United Nations

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Multilingual Terminology Database (UNTERM), available on the Internet at http://unterm.un.org. The database contains records for each country that list, among other things, the short and formal country names in the six official languages of the United Nations. This information has been extracted from the UNTERM database and, with some minor modifications, is presented in the United Nations official names section of the report.

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