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Reports on the work of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, its divisions, working groups and task teams since the Tenth Conference

Report of the Working Group on Country Names

Submitted by the Working Group on Country Names**

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Report of the Working Group on Country Names

The objective of the Working Group on Country Names is to develop and maintain a list of the names of all countries in the world in the language or languages used in an official capacity within each country, and to present an updated version of this document at each UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (UNCSGN).

Since the 10th UNCSGN in 2012 the Working Group (WG) has held two meetings, at the 28th UNGEGN Session in New York in 2014 and at the 20th UNGEGN Session in Bangkok in 2016. These meetings helped to prepare the updated version of the *UNGEGN List of Country Names* document, which is being presented here at the 11th UNCSGN.

In addition to some formatting and minor changes and updates, the new version contains the following major changes from the version submitted as E/CONF.101/25 at the 10th UNCSGN in New York:

Bolivia: addition of Aymará and Quechua National Official names.

Bulgaria: change in National Official Romanized names to reflect new Romanization system.

Cabo Verde: name change from Cape Verde.

Comoros: change of National Official Arabic names.

Czechia: Short name change from Czech Republic.

Iraq: addition of Kurdish National Official names.

Papua New Guinea: addition of Neo-Melanesian (Tok Pisin) National Official formal name.

Somalia: change in National Official formal names.

Tonga: change of Tongan National Official formal name.

The co-convenors wish to thank all the Working Group members for their contributions to the *List of country names* document.

The Working Group invites any interested experts to become a member of the group. Please contact the convenors (<u>dillonli@state.gov</u> and e-calvarin@wanadoo.fr) for any questions.