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WRITING SYSTEMS

The national languages of the countries of the world, their scripts,
and the United Nations recommendations on their romanization

Second edition

Paper presented by Austria**

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Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names,
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publication, Sales No. E.F.S.31.I.7), pp. 386-389.

SUMMARY

The paper gives a survey of the national languages of the countries of the world, their scripts and the United Nations recommendations on their romanization. As regards the names of the countries, the official United Nations usage has been followed.

The term national language is understood in the sense of the definition given in Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (vol. II, Technical papers): "National language: A language which has official status throughout a nation, including any constituent state(s), republic(s) and/or other legally defined constituent part(s)". ^{1/}

The third column of the list shows the different scripts. It should be emphasized that also many non-Roman scripts are used for writing different languages, for example, the Arabic, Cyrillic and Devanagari scripts. In the fourth column, those recommendations of the United Nations are listed which are dealing with the romanization of the non-Roman writing systems of the respective national languages. As a rule, newer recommendations amend or supersede the older ones. It must be noted that the practical importance of the recommendations varies from country to country, and an entry in this column four does not necessarily imply, that the United Nations recommendation has been officially adopted by the country concerned.

In some cases where one language is spoken in different countries, the United Nations recommendation does not apply to all of them. Thus, for example, the recommendations on Chinese are not valid for Singapore.

The main purpose of this paper is to show at a glance what the United Nations has achieved in the field of romanization and what still has to be done.

^{1/} United Nations publication, Sales No. E.74.I.4, p. 50.

Country <u>a/</u>	National language(s) <u>b/</u>	Script(s)	United Nations recommendation(s) on romanization <u>c/</u>
Afghanistan	Pashto/Dari	Arabic/Arabic	
Albania	Albanian	Roman	
Algeria	Arabic	Arabic	1967/12, 1972/8, 1977/9
Andorra	Catalan	Roman	
Angola	Portuguese	Roman	
Antigua and Barbuda	English	Roman	
Argentina	Spanish	Roman	
Australia	English	Roman	
Austria	German	Roman	
Bahamas	English	Roman	
Bahrain	Arabic	Arabic	1967/12, 1972/8, 1977/9
Bangladesh	Bānglā	Bānglā	1972/11, 1977/12
Barbados	English	Roman	
Belgium	Dutch/French	Roman/Roman	
Belize	English	Roman	
Benin	French	Roman	
Bhutan	Dzongkha	Tibetan	

a/ This column follows in general United Nations terminology bulletin No. 324 and Add.1-2.

b/ As defined in Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, vol. II, Technical papers (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.74.I.4), p. 50.

c/ The recommendations are identified by the year of the United Nations Conference at which they were adopted (1967: United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, Geneva; 1972: Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, London; and 1977: Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, Athens) followed by the number of the resolution in which the recommendation is contained.

The annotation in this column does not necessarily imply that the United Nations recommendation has been adopted by the country concerned.

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Country <u>a/</u>	National language(s) <u>b/</u>	Script(s)	United Nations recommendation(s) on romanization <u>c/</u>
Bolivia	Spanish	Roman	
Botswana	Setswana	Roman	
Brazil	Portuguese	Roman	
Bulgaria	Bulgarian	Cyrillic	1972/5, 1977/10
Burma	Burmese	Burmese	
Burundi	Kirundi/French	Roman/Roman	
Cameroon (see United Republic of Cameroon)			
Canada	English/French	Roman/Roman	
Cape Verde	Portuguese	Roman	
Central African Republic	Sango/French	Roman/Roman	
Chad	French	Roman	
Chile	Spanish	Roman	
China	Chinese	Chinese	1967/15, 1977/8
Colombia	Spanish	Roman	
Comoros	French	Roman	
Congo	French	Roman	
Costa Rica	Spanish	Roman	
Cuba	Spanish	Roman	
Cyprus	Greek/Turkish	Greek/Roman	
Czechoslovakia	Czech/Slovak	Roman/Roman	
Democratic Kampuchea	Khmer	Khmer	1972/10
Democratic People's Repu- blic of Korea	Korean	Korean	
Democratic Yemen	Arabic	Arabic	1967/12, 1972/8, 1977/9
Denmark	Danish	Roman	
Djibouti	French	Roman	
Dominica	English	Roman	
Dominican Republic	Spanish	Roman	

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Country <u>a/</u>	National language(s) <u>b/</u>	Script(s)	United Nations recommendation(s) on romanization <u>c/</u>
Ecuador	Spanish	Roman	
Egypt	Arabic	Arabic	1967/12, 1972/8, 1977/9
El Salvador	Spanish	Roman	
Equatorial Guinea	Spanish	Roman	
Ethiopia	Amharic	Ethiopic	1967/17, 1972/7
Fiji	English/Fijian	Roman/Roman	
Finland	Finnish/Swedish	Roman/Roman	
France	French	Roman	
Gabon	French	Roman	
Gambia	English	Roman	
German Democratic Republic	German	Roman	
Germany, Federal Republic of	German	Roman	
Ghana	English	Roman	
Great Britain (see	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)		
Greece	Greek	Greek	
Grenada	English	Roman	
Guatemala	Spanish	Roman	
Guinea	French	Roman	
Guinea-Bissau	Portuguese	Roman	
Guyana	English	Roman	
Haiti	French	Roman	
Holy See	Latin/Italian	Roman/Roman	
Honduras	Spanish	Roman	
Hungary	Hungarian	Roman	
Iceland	Icelandic	Roman	
India	Hindi/English	Devanagari/Roman	1972/11, 1977/12
Indonesia	Indonesian	Roman	
Iran	Persian	Arabic	1967/13

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Country <u>a/</u>	National language(s) <u>b/</u>	Script(s)	United Nations recommendation(s) on romanization <u>c/</u>
Iraq	Arabic	Arabic	1967/12, 1972/8, 1977/9
Ireland	Irish/English	Roman/Roman	
Israel	Hebrew	Hebrew	1972/9, 1977/13
Italy	Italian	Roman	
Ivory Coast	French	Roman	
Jamaica	English	Roman	
Japan	Japanese	Japanese	
Jordan	Arabic	Arabic	1967/12, 1972/8, 1977/9
Kampuchea (see Democratic Kampuchea)			
Kenya	KiSwahili	Roman	
Kiribati	English/Gilbertese	Roman/Roman	
Korea (see Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Republic of Korea)			
Kuwait	Arabic	Arabic	1967/12, 1972/8, 1977/9
Lao People's Democratic Republic	Lao	Lao	
Lebanon	Arabic	Arabic	1967/12, 1972/8, 1977/9
Lesotho	SeSotho/English	Roman/Roman	
Liberia	English	Roman	
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Arabic	Arabic	1967/12, 1972/8, 1977/9
Liechtenstein	German	Roman	
Luxembourg	French	Roman	
Madagascar	Malagasy	Roman	
Malawi	English/ChiNyanja	Roman/Roman	
Malaysia	Malay	Roman and Arabic	
Maldives	Divehi	Divehi	
Mali	French	Roman	
Malta	Maltese/English	Roman/Roman	
Mauritania	Arabic/French	Arabic/Roman	1967/12, 1972/8, 1977/9
Mauritius	English	Roman	

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Country <u>a/</u>	National language(s) <u>b/</u>	Script(s)	United Nations recommendation(s) on romanization <u>c/</u>
Mexico	Spanish	Roman	
Monaco	French	Roman	
Mongolia	Mongolian	Cyrillic	
Morocco	Arabic	Arabic	1967/12, 1972/8, 1977/9
Mozambique	Portuguese	Roman	
Nauru	English/Nauru	Roman/Roman	
Nepal	Nepali	Devanagari	1972/11, 1977/12
Netherlands	Dutch	Roman	
New Zealand	English	Roman	
Nicaragua	Spanish	Roman	
Niger	French	Roman	
Nigeria	English	Roman	
Norway	Norwegian (Bokmål)/ Nynorsk)	Roman	
Oman	Arabic	Arabic	1967/12, 1972/8, 1977/9
Pakistan	Urdu/English	Arabic/Roman	1972/11, 1977/12
Panama	Spanish	Roman	
Papua New Guinea	English	Roman	
Paraguay	Spanish	Roman	
Peru	Spanish/Quechua	Roman/Roman	
Philippines	Pilipino	Roman	
Poland	Polish	Roman	
Portugal	Portuguese	Roman	
Qatar	Arabic	Arabic	1967/12, 1972/8, 1977/9
Republic of Korea	Korean	Korean	
Romania	Romanian	Roman	
Rwanda	French/Kinyarwanda	Roman/Roman	
Saint Lucia	English	Roman	
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	English	Roman	

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Country <u>a/</u>	National language(s) <u>b/</u>	Script(s)	United Nations recommendation(s) on romanization <u>c/</u>
Samoa	Samoaan/English	Roman/Roman	
San Marino	Italian	Roman	
Sao Tome and Principe	Portuguese	Roman	
Saudi Arabia	Arabic	Arabic	1967/12, 1972/8, 1977/9
Senegal	French/Wolof	Roman/Roman	
Seychelles	English/French	Roman/Roman	
Sierra Leone	English	Roman	
Singapore	Malay/English/ Chinese/Tamil	Roman/Roman/ Chinese/Tamil	
Solomon Islands	English	Roman	
Somalia	Somali	Roman	
South Africa	Afrikaans/English	Roman/Roman	
Spain	Spanish	Roman	
Sri Lanka	Sinhala	Sinhala	
Sudan	Arabic	Arabic	1967/12, 1972/8, 1977/9
Suriname	Dutch	Roman	
Swaziland	IsiSwazi	Roman	
Sweden	Swedish	Roman	
Switzerland	German/French/ Italian	Roman/Roman/ Roman	
Syrian Arab Republic	Arabic	Arabic	1967/12, 1972/8, 1977/9
Tanzania (see United Republic of Tanzania)			
Thailand	Thai	Thai	1967/14
Togo	French	Roman	
Tonga	Tongan/English	Roman/Roman	
Trinidad and Tobago	English	Roman	
Tunisia	Arabic	Arabic	1967/12, 1972/8, 1977/9
Turkey	Turkish	Roman	
Tuvalu	Tuvaluan/English	Roman/Roman	

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Country <u>a/</u>	National language(s) <u>b/</u>	Script(s)	United Nations recommendation(s) on romanization <u>c/</u>
Uganda	English/KiSwahili	Roman/Roman	
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	Russian	Cyrillic	
United Arab Emirates	Arabic	Arabic	1967/12, 1972/8, 1977/9
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	English	Roman	
United Republic of Cameroon	French/English	Roman/Roman	
United Republic of Tanzania	KiSwahili	Roman	
United States of America	English	Roman	
Upper Volta	French	Roman	
Uruguay	Spanish	Roman	
Vanuatu	English/French/ Bislama	Roman/Roman/ Roman	
Venezuela	Spanish	Roman	
Viet Nam	Vietnamese	Roman	
Yemen	Arabic	Arabic	1967/12, 1972/8, 1977/9
Yemen, Democratic (see Democratic Yemen)			
Yugoslavia	Serbo-Croatian/ Croato-Serbian/ Slovenian/ Macedonian	Cyrillic and Roman/Roman/ Roman/Cyrillic	1972/6, 1977/11
Zaire	French	Roman	
Zambia	English	Roman	
Zimbabwe	English	Roman	
