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Provisional Agenda Item 11

ROMANIZATION SYSTEMS AND ROMAN-SCRIPT SPELLING
CONVENTIONS--A New Publication of the
U.S. Board on Geographic Names

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Romanization Systems and Roman-script Spelling Conventions--a new publication of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names

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In March 1994, the U.S. Board on Geographic Names (BGN) issued a new compilation of the romanization systems and Roman-script spelling conventions that are currently approved by the BGN and its British counterpart, the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names for British Official Use (PCGN). The new publication, which is titled *Romanization Systems and Roman-script Spelling Conventions*, supersedes the *Romanization Guide*, which was last issued in 1972.

The new publication contains romanization systems for eight alphabets that were not provided for in the last edition of the *Romanization Guide*: Armenian, Azerbaijani Cyrillic, Byelorussian, Georgian, Kazakh Cyrillic, Kirghiz Cyrillic, Turkmen, and Uzbek. In addition, the Macedonian Cyrillic characters and their Roman-letter equivalents, which were previously included in the table for Serbocroatian, are now shown in a separate table. Roman-script spelling conventions for German and North Lappish, which were jointly agreed upon by the BGN and PCGN in 1986 and 1984, respectively, are shown together, along with the spelling conventions for Faroese and Icelandic, at the end of the new publication.

Revised tables for Arabic, Pashto, and Persian now show the positional variants of the consonant characters, and the tables for all of the Cyrillic-script alphabets and Greek now show both the regular and italic forms of the characters and character combinations. Unlike the previous *Romanization Guide*, in which many characters were hand-drawn, the new publication has typeset characters in all tables with the exception of the table for Maldivian.