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Activities relating to the Working Group on Romanization Systems

**The Arabic Division of Experts on Geographical Names
(ADEGN)***

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ABSTRACT

A Stable and Unified Arabic Romanization System

1-Arab experts on geographical names have joined the United Nation Group of Experts on Geographical Names since its first meeting in New York 1960. They attended all the session and conferences of the UNGEGN.

Representatives of the Arabic Division and the state members were very active.

The Arabic Division chairman Mr. Abd Al Hadi At Tazi was elected vice-chair then Chairman of the United Nation Group of Experts on Geographical Names.

The task forces for Africa has a Very active president Mr. Brahim Atoui how hold also the position of the vice-chair of the Arabic Division.

Arabic experts contributed to all activities of the UNGEGN working groups, and in the administrative work.

The Arabic division is composed by 21 countries, members of the Arab Countries league (Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Palestine, Qatar, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Oman, United Arab Emirates, Yemen.). Their official language is the standard Arabic.

This paper aims to explain the need of the adoption of an Arabic Romanization system in the standardization of Arabic place names. It shows the determined Arabic will to implement only one system of transliteration, and the continuous efforts made in the Arabic countries to unify all used systems.

The paper shows through a historical apercu the modifications made to the Beirut system in order to make it suitable for both French and English systems that have been used in the Arab Countries.

The paper also shows that all the Arab Countries has agreed on the adoption of the Unified Arabic System Issued by the 3rd Conference of the Arab Experts held in Beirut May 2007 and approved by the Arab countries League how sponsored consequently the experts two conferences in Beirut 2007 and 2008.

The Arabic Division is aware that a stable Arabic system should be adopted in all the speaking Arabic Countries. For this invites the working group on Romanization System to be aware of the fact that all Arabic officials have already agreed to adopt the Beirut unified system and to publish it in order to be used by the other divisions and by all international organizations.

The paper concludes that the Arabic Division considers this system as a stable one. And asks the experts to implement it with the application rules annexed to it, and to refrain from revising it in the future.