Economic and Social Council

**Tenth United Nations Conference on the
Standardization of Geographical Names**
New York, 31 July-9 August 2012
Item 13 (a) of the provisional agenda*
Writing systems and pronunciation: romanization

Reversibility of romanization systems

Submitted by Estonia**

Summary*

The report relates to the problems of reversibility of romanization systems. A proposal is made to measure the reversibility of romanization systems by counting the graphemes of the source script and calculating the percentage of graphemes romanized unambiguously. Individual romanization systems are assessed on the basis of that methodology. No systems are found to be fully reversible, meaning that any rate of reversibility over 90 per cent must be considered to be very good. Consequently, the reversibility of romanization systems can be only recommended and not made mandatory.

————————————

Please recycle