Eleventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names
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Item 14 a) of the provisional agenda*
Writing systems and pronunciation: Romanization

Romanization System from Arabic letters to Latinized letters 2007

Submitted by the Arabic Division **

* E/CONF.105/1
** Prepared by the Arabic Division
Standard Arabic System for
Transliteration of
Geographical Names

From Arabic Alphabet to Latin Alphabet
(Arabic Romanization System)

2007
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Romanization</th>
<th>Arabic Character</th>
<th>Romanization</th>
<th>Arabic Character</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>غ</td>
<td>غ</td>
<td>GH</td>
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<td>ف</td>
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<tr>
<td>وه والتاء المربوطة في نهاية الكلمة</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>KH</td>
<td>وه والتاء المربوطة في نهاية الكلمة</td>
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<tr>
<td>و</td>
<td>W, Й</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>و</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ي</td>
<td>Y, Ь</td>
<td>DH</td>
<td>ي</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short Opener</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Opener</td>
<td>ā</td>
<td>Z</td>
<td>ā</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maddah</td>
<td>ā</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alif Maqsourah</td>
<td>й</td>
<td>SH</td>
<td>й</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short Closer</td>
<td>ū</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>й</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Closer</td>
<td>ū</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>й</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short Breaker</td>
<td>й</td>
<td>І</td>
<td>й</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Breaker</td>
<td>й</td>
<td>DH</td>
<td>й</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doubling the letter</td>
<td>غ</td>
<td>ء</td>
<td>Doubling the letter</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

شدة
DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW ALPHABET

How to describe the transliteration Alphabet:

a. The new alphabet has neglected the following Latin letters: C, E, O, P, V, X in addition to the letter G unless it is coupled with the letter H to form a digraph GH (Ghayn) (أَلْعَن).

b. This Alphabet contains:
   1. Latin letters which have similar phonetic letters in Arabic: B, T, J, D, R, Z, S, Q, K, L, M, N, H, W, Y.
   2. Digraphs or Ligatures to represent Latin letters that have no similar phonetic letters in Arabic: GH, SH, DH, KH, TH corresponding to the Arabic letters: Thāʾ, Khāʾ, Dhāl, Shīn, Ghayn.
   3. One digraph underlined by a Diacritical Mark which is the letter Dhāʾ: ؤ DH, Dh, dh.
   4. Seven letters surmounted or underlined by Diacritical Marks to produce the phonetic convenient sound: Ā, Ū, Ċ, Ī, D, S, H corresponding to the Arabic letters: Ā long opener, Ū long closer, Ċ long breaker, Ī long opener, Dād (ض), Sād (ص), and Hāʾ (ح).
   5. Two diacritical letters, (١) and (٢) that appear on the vowel marks [A (opener), U (closer), and I (breaker)], vowel letters and long vowel marks [I (long breaker), Ī (long closer), Ā (long opener)], or as an independent mark as follows:
      a. Hamzah (١):

      ḫ  ḫA  ḫU  ḫI  ḫĀ  ḫŪ  ḫĪ

      ١  ١a  ١u  ١i  ١ā  ١ū  ١ī

      b. Āyn (٢):

      ٢  ٢A  ٢U  ٢I  ٢Ā  ٢Ū  ٢Ī

      ٢a  ٢u  ٢i  ٢ā  ٢ū  ٢ī

   6. Diacritical Marks that surmount or underline some Arabic letter in order to intensify their pronunciation (١ and ٢): Ā, Ī, Ū, H, ḫ, D, and S.
   7. Vowel letters that follow stretching letters (أ، و، ي) transliterated as Ā Ī Ī.
c. Vowel marks or lightened vowels: the opener, the closer and the breaker (ٌُِ َ) transcribed as A, U, and I. In addition to the silent Soukoun beared by consonant letters.

**ROMANIZATION RULES**

**First:** Names in Arabic are composed of one definite or indefinite word, or several words. Each word is composed of letters.

**Examples:**

Бلاد - البلد - جبل المكـل - الدار البيضاء - مـكـه المكرمة

Balad, Al Balad, Jabal Al Makmil, Ad Dār Al Baydā’, Makkah Al Mukarramah

**Second:** There are twenty eight letters in Arabic, starting with the (Hamza) ٰ, and ending with (yā ـ): (Alif (Hamzah) ٰ, Bā ـ, Tā ـ, Thā ـ, Jīm, Hā ـ, Khā ـ, Dāl, Dhāl, Rā ـ, Zayn, Sin, Shin, Sād, Dād, Tā ـ, Dhā ـ, ‘Ayn, Ghayn, Fā ـ, Qāf, Kāf, Lām, Mīm, Nūn, Hā ـ, Wāw, Yā ـ).

We recognize this alphabet that contains basic letters, Digraphs, letters with diactrical marks, diactrical letters, vowels and vowel marks as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transliteration Alphabet</th>
<th>Arabic Alphabet</th>
<th>Arabic Alphabet</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beginning</td>
<td>Middle</td>
<td>End</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'A, U, I, Ā, Ū, Ī, Ā'</td>
<td>ء</td>
<td>أ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B,b</td>
<td>ب</td>
<td>ب</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T,t</td>
<td>ت</td>
<td>ش</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TH,Th,th</td>
<td>ث</td>
<td>ث</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J,j</td>
<td>ج</td>
<td>ج</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H,h</td>
<td>ح</td>
<td>ح</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KH,Kh,kh</td>
<td>خ</td>
<td>خ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D,d</td>
<td>د</td>
<td>د</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DH,Dh,dh</td>
<td>ذ</td>
<td>ذ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R,r</td>
<td>ر</td>
<td>ر</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transliteration Letters</td>
<td>Arabic Letters</td>
<td>Examples</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Z.z</td>
<td>ز ز ز ز</td>
<td>ع ع ع ع</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S,s</td>
<td>س س س س</td>
<td>ع ع ع ع</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SH,Sh,sh</td>
<td>ش ش ش ش</td>
<td>ع ع ع ع</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S,s</td>
<td>ص ص ص ص</td>
<td>ع ع ع ع</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D,d</td>
<td>ض ض ض ض</td>
<td>ع ع ع ع</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T,t</td>
<td>ط ط ط ط</td>
<td>ع ع ع ع</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DH,Dh,dh</td>
<td>دد دد دد</td>
<td>ع ع ع ع</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>, ','. , a , 'U' , 'u' , 'I' , 'i'</td>
<td>ع ع ع ع</td>
<td>ع ع ع ع</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GH,Gh,gh</td>
<td>ع ع ع ع</td>
<td>ع ع ع ع</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F,f</td>
<td>ف ف ف ف</td>
<td>ع ع ع ع</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q,q</td>
<td>ق ق ق ق</td>
<td>ع ع ع ع</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K,k</td>
<td>ك ك ك ك</td>
<td>ع ع ع ع</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L,l</td>
<td>ل ل ل ل</td>
<td>ع ع ع ع</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M,m</td>
<td>م م م م</td>
<td>ع ع ع ع</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N,n</td>
<td>ن ن ن ن</td>
<td>ع ع ع ع</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H,h</td>
<td>ه ه ه ه</td>
<td>ع ع ع ع</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W,w,Ü,ü</td>
<td>و و و و</td>
<td>ع ع ع ع</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y,y,I,i</td>
<td>ي ي ي ي</td>
<td>ع ع ع ع</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fathah</td>
<td>الفتحة (قصيرة (ن طويلة</td>
<td>ع ع ع ع</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A,a (Short)</td>
<td>أ أ أ أ</td>
<td>ع ع ع ع</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ä,ä (Long)</td>
<td>أ أ أ أ</td>
<td>ع ع ع ع</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dammah</td>
<td>الضممة (قصيرة (ن طويلة</td>
<td>ع ع ع ع</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ù,ü (Short)</td>
<td>س س س س</td>
<td>ع ع ع ع</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ü,ü (Long)</td>
<td>س س س س</td>
<td>ع ع ع ع</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kasrah</td>
<td>الكسرة (قصيرة (ن طويلة</td>
<td>ع ع ع ع</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I,i (Short)</td>
<td>س س س س</td>
<td>ع ع ع ع</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ï,ï (Long)</td>
<td>س س س س</td>
<td>ع ع ع ع</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Third:** Arabic letters that have similar basic phonetic Latin letters are transliterated as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transliteration Letters</th>
<th>Arabic Letters</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beginning</td>
<td>Middle</td>
<td>End</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B b</td>
<td>جب جب جب</td>
<td>ب</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T t</td>
<td>جت جت جت</td>
<td>ت</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J j</td>
<td>جج جج جج</td>
<td>ج</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D d</td>
<td>دد دد دد</td>
<td>د</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>Romanized</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>--------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>تأ</td>
<td>TH</td>
<td>ثُلث</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>خٔ</td>
<td>KH</td>
<td>خربية</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ذٔ</td>
<td>DH</td>
<td>ذهاب</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Fourth:** Arabic letters حاء, سد, داد, and تاء (ح، ص، ض، ط) have no similar Latin phonetic letters. They are all transliterated as letters underlined with diacritical marks as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transliteration Letters</th>
<th>Arabic Letters</th>
<th>Examples</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ح</td>
<td>ح</td>
<td>حوران</td>
<td>H Guttural</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ص</td>
<td>ص</td>
<td>صور</td>
<td>S Guttural</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ض</td>
<td>ض</td>
<td>ضبعة</td>
<td>D Guttural</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ط</td>
<td>ط</td>
<td>طرابلس</td>
<td>T Guttural</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Fifth:** The Arabic letters ثاء, خاء, ذاء, شء, غ (ث، خ، ذ، ش، غ) are transliterated as digraphs composed by two letters giving the suitable sounds:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transliteration Letters</th>
<th>Arabic Letters</th>
<th>Examples</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ثث</td>
<td>ثث</td>
<td>ثاث</td>
<td>Pronounced TH as in English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>خخ</td>
<td>خخ</td>
<td>خربه</td>
<td>Pronounced as CH in Dutch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ذذ</td>
<td>ذذ</td>
<td>ذهب</td>
<td>Pronounced as THE in English</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sixth: The letter دحاء (ظ) is written as a digraph underlined by a diacritical mark as follows:

\[
\text{DH, Dh, dh (ظ) . Example: Dhahrān ظهران}
\]

\[
\text{Dh is pronounced as a guttural “the” in English.}
\]

Seventh: ‘Ayn and Hamzah are written as diacritical letters (‘ / ‘) and are transliterated as follows:

a. Hamzah: At the beginning of the word:

It is transliterated by the suitable vowel mark it bears:
- If the vowel mark is an opener (fatḥah), (hamzah) should be transliterated as an \( A \).
  Example: Abū Kamāl أبو كمال .
- If the vowel mark is a closer (Dammah), (hamzah) should be transliterated as a \( U \).
  Example: Umm Qasīr أم قصر .
- If the vowel mark is a breaker (Kasrah), (hamzah) should be transliterated as an \( I \).
  Example: ‘Ayn Ibīl عين إبل .

b. Hamzat al qatī‘:

Anywhere situated in a composite name, it is always pronounced and transliterated as an (opened hamzah) \( A \) (hamzah maftūḥa).

Examples:

\[
\text{Ayyūb} \quad \text{أيوب}
\]

\[
\text{Wādī Ayyūb} \quad \text{وادي أيوب}
\]
c. **Hamzat al wasl:**

Pronounced in the first word of a composite name and omitted in the rest.

**Examples:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arabic</th>
<th>Arabic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Al Mandib</td>
<td>المندب</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Babul Mandib</td>
<td>بابل المندب</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In transliteration it should be considered always as (hamzat qati‘). Example:

Bab Al Mandib  

*instead of*  

Babul Mandib

d. **Hamzah at the middle of the word:**

It is written independently; **Example:** lu‘lu‘ah  

اللؤلؤة

e. **Hamzah at the end of the word:**

It is written independently; **Example:** Al Batrā’a  

البتراء

f. **‘Ayn anywhere situated in the word:**

1. When it bears a vowel sign, it should be transliterated before the suitable letter as follows:

   (a) With the opener ِ‘A َ‘a.  
   Example: ِ‘Akāa  
   A (Guttural).

   (b) With the closer ِ‘U َ‘u  
   Example: ِ‘Umān  
   U (Guttural).

   (c) With the breaker ِ‘I َ‘i  
   Example: ِ‘Raq  
   I (Guttural).

   (d) With the long opener ِ‘Ā َ‘ā  
   Example: ِ‘Arayyā.  

   (e) With the long closer ِ‘Ū َ‘ū  
   Example: Masِ‘diyyah.

   (f) With the long breaker ِ‘Ī َ‘ī  
   Example: Shnanِ‘īr.

2. When ِ‘ is silent (Soukoun on it) it is transliterated independently.

**Example:**  

Baِ‘labak  

بعلبك

Bi‘r As Sabiِ‘  

بئر السنعُ
Eighth: Vowel letters are transliterated as follows:

a. **The Alif: Ā ā á**
   1. At the beginning of the word:
      
      It follows the same rule as the Hamzah at the beginning of the word
   2. In the middle of the word: ā
      
      Example: Kamāl كمال
   3. At the end of the word: ā
      
      Example: Thurayyā ثريا
   4. Alif Maqsoura: á
      
      Example: Salwá سلّى

b. **The wāw: W w, Ū ū**
   1. At the beginning of the word:
      
      Always transliterated as W w  waw .
      
      Example: Wādi وادي
   2. In the middle of the word: ū w  ـو
      
      (a) Following a stretching letter, it should be transliterated as ū.
      
      Example: Damanhūr دمنهور
      
      (b) Following a soft letter, it is transliterated as w
      
      Example: Flāwī فلاوي
   3. At the end of the word: ū, wāw
      
      (a) Following a stretching letter, it is transliterated as ū
      
      Example: Wādi Jilū وادي جيلو
      
      (b) Following a soft letter, it is represented as w, waw
      
      Example: Bayt ʿIlāw بيت علو
4. At any position when it is silent: w, waw
   Example: Sawdā’ سوداء

c. The letter yā’ ياء
   1. At the beginning of the word:
      The letter yā’ is always represented by Y
      Example: Yātar ياطر

   2. In the middle of the word: ی ی
      (a) Following a stretching letter it is transliterated as: ی ای
          Example: Abū Qīr أبو قير

      (b) Following a soft letter it is transliterated as: ی ی yā’
          Example: Mayādīn ميادين

   3. At the end of the word: ی ی
      (a) Following a stretching letter it is transliterated as: ی
          Example: Al wādī الوادي

      (b) Following a soft letter it is transliterated as: ی ی yā’
          Example: Btikhnāy بتخناي

   4. Anywhere situated in the word, when silent, it is transliterated as: ی ی yā’
      Example: یً Aydamūn عيدمون

A letter is called “stretching” if its vowel mark is compatible with the following vowel letter.
Example:
Abū Qīr ʿAmīr Maydūn ميدون
Here Q, ʿ and d are stretching letters.

A letter is called “soft” if its vowel mark is not compatible with the following vowel letter.

Example: Maydūn ميدون Here M is a soft letter.

d. The vowel letters (و) w, and (ي) y

They are treated as consonants after soft letters, for that reason they are transliterated in their original form: W Y

Examples:

Mayādīn ميدين Mawāsim مواسم

And not as vowel letters: Ī Ī

Examples:

Shādī شادي Hūrān حوران

Ninth: The vowel marks (opener, closer, breaker and silent) A U I are transliterated in the form of their compatible vowel letters as follows:

a. The “Opener” is compatible with Alif and transliterated as A a

Example: Bayrūt بيروت

b. The “Closer” is compatible with Wāw and transliterated as U u

Example: Rub Tlāīn رُب ثلاثين

c. The “Breaker” is compatible with Yaʿ and transliterated as I i

Example: Jīsr Al Bāshā جسر البasha

d. The “Silent” (Soukoun) is beared by consonant letters or vowels after soft letter and has no corresponding in the transliteration alphabet.

Tenth: The markers (Ash Shaddah, Al Maddah) (doubling and stretching) are transliterated as follows:

a. Doubling (ّْ ُّْ), the letter is doubled.

Examples: Al Ghaddārah الغداة
b. The Maddah or the stretched Alif is the combination of the Hamzah with the Alif. It is transliterated as follows:

1. at the beginning of word Ā أ
   Example: Ārām أم آرم
2. in the middle of word ā أ
   Example: Mir’ āمرآب

Eleventh: Definite article: Al

a. Preceding all 14 letters called lunar letters:
   أ، ب، ج، ح، خ، ه، خ، ف، ق، ك، ل، م، ه، و، ي
   A, B, J, H, Kh, ‘, Gh, F, Q, L, M, H, W, Y
   "Al" is transliterated as it is pronounced originally and lunar letters keep their original pronunciation.
   Examples: Al wādī الوادي
   Al Bāb الباب

b. Preceding all 14 letters called solar letters:
   ت، ث، د، ذ، ر، ز، س، ش، ص، ض، ط، ظ، ل، ن
   T, Th, D, DH, R, Z, S, Sh, S, D, T, Dh, L, N
   The definite article Al is assimilated to the first silent part of the doubled sun letter preceded by the Hamzah “A” as follows:

   At, Ath, Ad, Adh, Ar, Az, As, Ash, As, Ad, At, Adh, Al, An

The definite noun is pronounced as it is originally:

Examples:
   Ash shams الشمس
   Ar Riyād الرياض
   Kafr Az Zayyāt كفر الزيات
c. The first letter of the article (Al) and the first letter of the name should be capitalized. No signs should be used to form parts of names:

Examples:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Arabic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Az Zaytūn</td>
<td>الزيتون</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al Balad</td>
<td>البلد</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Twelfth:**  
Tā’ marbūtah ( taraf), Alif maqṣūrah (ṣ) and Tanwīn (nunation) at the end of the name:

a. Tā’ (marbūtah) at the end of the name is pronounced tā’; in transliteration, it should be lightened to h.

Example: Al Qinnābah

But when followed by another word in a composite name, it should be transliterated as t (tā’).

Example: Qinnāb at Brummānā

b. Alif maqṣūrah should be transliterated as “ʾA’, aʾ” in order to distinguish it from the stretched Alif (Ā, ā), or the Alif followed by Hamzah (Ā’, ā’).

Example: Marsaʾ Matrūn

مرسي مطروح

c. The nunation is neglected and the last letter keeps silent.

Example: Jabal  جبل = جبل not Jabalun, and Balad  بلد = بلد not Baladun.

**Thirteenth:**

a. The simple exonyms:

Simple Exonyms composed of one word are transliterated and pronounced according to their original international transliteration system (Weygan, Gouraud, Francophone Foch), and are written in Arabic according to their pronunciation.
Re-transliteration is not allowed under all circumstances.

b. The complex exonyms:
Exonyms composed of several words are transliterated according to their original transliteration system; Embedded endonyms follow the Arabic Romanization rules.

Example: **Emile Lahhūd** إميل لحود **Hālāt Sur Mer** حالات سور مير

The Arabized exonyms or these exonyms that have been used for quite enough period of time should be considered as endonyms.

Example: **‘Ayn Ibīl** عين إبل

*Ibīl* in Aramaic language means irrigation.

Fourteenth: Composite names:

a. Every word should be written separately. First letter is capitalized others linked letters are written in small Latin letters.

b. No signs or marks are used to link the different parts of a composite name.

Examples:

- Minyah *Ag Diniiyyah* not Minyah-*Ad-Dinniiyyah* منية الضنائييّة
- Jiwār *Al Hawz* not Jiwār-*Al Hawz* جوار الحوز

c. The first letter of the digraph is written capital at the beginning of the word, the second is written small.

Examples:

- Muṭill Ash Shams مطل الشمس
- ‘Ayn *Al Kharrūbī* عين الخروبي
- Jal *Ath Thurayyā* جل الثريا

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d. The conjunct names should be written in transliteration, with independent conjunction Wa or joined to the definite article Al.

Examples:

Al Miyyah Wa Miyyah المية و مية
Mizhir Wal Majdhub مزهر والمجنوب

Fifteenth: Double names:

Locations and cities may support more than one name such as historical and world wide known names. For this reason, two names should be written; one of which between brackets.

Examples:

Ba‘labak (Heliopolis) بغلبك
Jubayl (Byblos) جبيل
Al Batrah (Petra) البتراء
Ad Dar Al Bayda (Casa Blanca) الدار البيضاء

Sixteenth: Remarks:

a. Distinction between Hamzah (‘), ‘Ayn (‘), and Alif maqṣūrah (Ā):

The diacritic letters may create some ambiguity between Hamzah (‘), ‘Ayn (‘), or the diacritic mark of Alif maqṣūrah (Ā). They should be carefully distinguished.

Examples:

Ma‘ād معاد
Sadd Ma‘rib سد مأرب
Ma‘rūb معروبة
Salwa‘ سلوى
b. The use of digraphs: Sh Th Kh Dh Gh may create some confusion. A slash (/) that separates between the confusing letters should resolve the problem.

Examples:

S/haylah  شيلة might be confused with  Shaylah  شيلة
D/hayb  ديب might be confused with  Dhayb  ديب

Else, it could be transliterated as formal Arabic (Fuṣḥa’) language. Therefore, the first letter should be accentuated with the relative vowel sign (Fatḥah, Dammah, and Kasrah).

Examples:

Suhaylah  سهيلة
Duhayb  دهيب

But, if the Digraph falls in the middle of the word, then a slash must be used

Examples:

Ad/ham  أدهم not Adham  أدم
As/hum  أسهم not Ashum  أشم

However the form of national or local normalization of geographical names containing the word Ibn or Abū should be taken into consideration when transliterated.

Abu and Ibn may appear under several forms Abū, Abī, Abā, bū, Bin, Banū, Banī, etc ….

They should be transliterated as officially normalized.
d. The word “Abd” (عبد) should be written separately from succeeding words.

**Examples:**

*Abd Ar Rahman* not *Abdul Rahman*  
*Abd Al Muttalib* not *‘Abdul Muttalib*

The approval on this System has been granted by the general committee of the conference, after voting on it and amended by a sub-committee created for this purpose and it was signed by all the members of the general committee and authenticated by the representative of Arab League’s general secretary according to procedures.

**Beirut in 31 may 2007**

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