PROPOSAL FOR THE AMENDMENT OF GUIDELINE SUBMITTED TO THE UNITED NATIONS
GROUP OF EXPERTS ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

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The guideline and recommendations adopted by the First United Nations
Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (see United Nations Conference on Standardization of Geographical Names, VOL.1, Report of the Conference (United Nations Publication, sales No.E 68.1.9), chap. 111, Resolution 4), has been in use in the Asia South West, for over twenty-five years. In the regional meetings held by Iran with the participation of delegates from Pakistan and Afghanistan minor variations were discussed and finalized for application (see Urdu Alphabet and Differences in System of Transliteration in Iran and Pakistan, published by Pakistan Surveying Department). Nevertheless, in the course of repeated field application it was considered necessary to introduce certain modifications in the already approved system in order to make it more useful and completely free from ambiguities. Consequently, the matter was discussed at numerous meeting of expert geographers and linguists, held at the Institute of Geography - Tehran University. In conclusion the following amendment to the existing Transliteration System of Farsi Names was approved for submission to the UNGEGN at its coming session:

The sounds in the Farsi alphabet can be divided into two major groups as follows:
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Group I: the consonants:

b, p, t, d, s, z, c, g, k, j, q, r, s, x, z, v, f, h, m, n, l, y.

Note: Sounds of (like the English w)

When clearly observed in local names are shown as respectively.

Group II: the vowels:

a, e, o, a, u, i,

to which the two diphtongs of ey and ew should be added.

Note: In some local dialects two additional vowels, namely concealed "S" and "F" are also observed. These are not normally shown as ē and ū respectively.

Consequently, it should be noted that the Farsi Alphabet consists of 23 consonants, 6 vowels and 2 diphtongs.

Examples:

p: parde برده
b: bābol بابل

(t: taxt-e soleymān تخت سلیمان, tāmer طامر

d: dibā دیبا

s: sarāb سراب, sanābād سناباد, sabr سبر

z: zive زیوه, mozāb مزاب, zarif ظرفی

č: čerandāb چرداب

g: gugerd گوگرد, gušāb گوشاب

k: karaj کرج
پژوهشگران

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