UNITED NATIONS

COUNTRY NAMES

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"COUNTRY NAMES"

Helen Kerfoot, Canada

The attached list shows the differences between **Country Names** as shown in United Nations *Terminology* (Bulletin No. 342, 1991) and those used by Canada, based upon recommendations from the Department of External Affairs to the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names.

Four general comments are offered on aspects of names standardization.

(1)   In the names of some countries we favour capitalization of the definite article and its inclusion as an integral part of the name.

    (a)   In English, we use "The", rather than "the", in: The Bahamas, The Comoros, The Congo, The Gambia, The Ivory Coast, The Netherlands, The Niger, The Philippines, Saint Vincent and The Grenadines, and The Sudan.

    (b)   In French, we capitalize the definite article in the common form of the name for: Les Bahamas, Les Bermudes, Les Comores, Les Maldives, Les Pays-Bas, Les Philippines, Les Seychelles, and Les Tonga.

(2)   If full official names of countries exist, we urge their inclusion in the UN list, e.g. Commonwealth of Australia, Republic of Ireland, Dominion of Canada.

(3)   When translations are made from the original language of a country name, we encourage the retention of the concepts and structure of the original language(s).

For example:

    (a)   États-Unis mexicains rather than États-Unis du Mexique more faithfully follows the original Spanish form.

    (b)   Most Serene Republic of San Marino (and Sérénissime République du Saint-Marin) are closer to the original concept in Italian than Republic of San Marino (and République du Saint-Marin).

    (c)   Yugoslavia. Discrepancies between the English and French forms raise two questions:

        (i)   is the republic conceptually "federal" or "federative" ("fédérale" or "fédérative")?

        (ii)   the word order in English "Social Federal Republic" has a different sense from that in French "République socialiste fédérative" - which more closely reflects the original language(s) version?

(4)   For names without any long standing tradition in other languages, we encourage that the characteristics of the original language be retained, e.g. in English São-Tomé and Príncipe, or in French São Tomé-et-Príncipe.

UN#	Name	Source	English	French
7	Official	UN Cda	Commonwealth of Australia	Commonwealth d'Australie
20	Common	UN Cda	Brunei	Brunéi
27	Official	UN Cda	Dominion of Canada	Dominion du Canada
37	Common	UN Cda	Côte d'Ivoire Ivory Coast	
	Official	UN Cda	Republic of Côte d'Ivoire Republic of Ivory Coast	
51	Common	UN Cda		Fidji (f. pl.) Fidji (f. sing.)
	Official	UN Cda		République des Fidji République de Fidji
63	Common	UN Cda		Guyana (m. sing.) Guyane (f. sing.)
	Official	UN Cda		République du Guyana (m. sing.) République de Guyane (f. sing.)
65	Common	UN Cda	Holy See Vatican City [1]	Saint-Siège Cité du Vatican [2]
	Official	UN Cda	Vatican City State	État de la Cité du Vatican
73	Official	UN Cda	Republic of Ireland	République d'Irlande

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1   Holy See for specific purposes only
2   Saint-Siège seulement pour des cas spécifiques

UN#	Name	Source	English	French
82	Common	UN Cda	Laos	Laos
86	Common	UN Cda	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya Libya	Jamahiriya arabe libyenne Libye
88	Common	UN Cda	Luxembourg Luxemburg	
	Official	UN Cda	Grand Duchy of Luxembourg Grand Duchy of Luxemburg	
97	Official	UN Cda		États-Unis du Mexique États-Unis Mexicains
115	Official	UN Cda	Independent State of Papua New Guinea	État indépendant de la Papouasie - Nouvelle-Guinée
122	Common	UN Cda	Korea	Corée
129	Official	UN Cda	Republic of San Marino Most Serene Republic of San Marino	République de Saint-Marin Sérénissime République du Saint- Marin
130	Common	UN Cda	Sao Tome and Principe São Tomé and Príncipe	Sao Tomé-et-Principe São Tomé-et-Príncipe
	Official	UN	Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe	République démocratique de Sao Tomé-et-Principe
		Cda	Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe	République démocratique de São Tomé-et-Príncipe
146	Common	UN Cda	Syria	Syrie
159	Common	UN Cda	Tanzania	Tanzanie

UN#	Name	Source	English	French
164	Common	UN		Viet Nam
		Cda		Viet-Nam
166	Official	UN		République socialiste fédérative de Yougoslavie
		Cda		République fédérale socialiste de Yougoslavie