

**Twentieth Session
New York, 17 – 28 January 2000**

**Item 15
of the Provisional Agenda**

EXONYMS

A New List of Donor-Recommended Exonyms in Israel

A New List of Donor-Proposed Exonyms in Israel

One of the basic toponymic recommendations of the United Nations, limiting the use of exonyms in international communications, is anchored already in Resolution No. 29 (I) of the Second UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names. However, it is a well-established fact that the use of exonyms cannot be completely abolished. Exonyms are usually based on the receiver principle and disregard the United Nations-recommended donor principle. At the same time, some distinction must be made between "simple" exonyms and traditional names (see "*Glossary of Toponymic Terminology*", Version 4, [1]).

At the Sixth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, Israel proposed the principle of donor-recommended exonyms, and appended a first list of English exonyms based on this principle [2]. In the meantime this list has been twice revised and enlarged, once as reported at the Seventh UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names [3], and as indicated in the present paper. The following toponyms are now included (see table below). Whereas in official romanized maps the endonyms of these geographical items still predominate, and their English exonyms are added as allonyms in parentheses or in smaller print (albeit in the same typeface), road signs erected by the official agency, the Public Works Department, which must be limited in the number of letters, carry in their romanized version only the generally well-known English traditional names as exonyms.

Table 1
List of donor-recommended exonyms in Israel

| English exonym | Hebrew endonym, romanized |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Banias | Panyas |
| Beth Saida | Bet-Zayda |
| Caesarea* | Horbat Qesari |
| Cana | Kafr Kanna |
| Capernaum | Kefar-Nahum |
| Coral Beach | Hof Almog |
| Dead Sea | Yam haMelah |
| Eilat | Elat |
| Haifa | Hefa |
| Jerusalem | Yerushalayim |
| Jordan River | Nehar Yarden |
| Judean Desert | Midbar Yehuda |
| Magdala* | Migdal |
| Masada | Mezada |
| Mount of Beatitudes | Har haOsher |
| Mount Carmel | Har Karmel |
| Mount Herzl | Har Herzl |
| Mount Moriah | Har haMoriyya |
| Mount of Olives | Har haZetim |
| Mount Scopus | Har haZofim |
| Mount Tabor | Har Tavor |
| Mount Zion | Har Ziyyon |
| Nazareth | * Nazerat |
| Old Jaffa | Yafo |
| Samaria | Shomeron |
| Sea of Galilee | Yam Kinneret |
| Tabigha | 'En Sheva' |
| Tiberias | Teverya |

*) Antiquity site only, not the town.

All other toponyms in Israel should be printed in romanized maps, whether local or foreign, in their endonymic form -- transliterated or transcribed (as the case may be) into the other languages or scripts, but not exonymized. Thus, Netanya and not Nathania, Ashdod and not Asdod, Be'r-Sheva' and not Beersheba, etc.

Notes

- [1] *Glossary of Toponymic Terminology*, Seventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, 1998, document E/CONF.91/L.13, terms Nos 081 and 230).
- [2] *Donor-recommended exonyms: a different approach to traditional names*. Sixth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, 1992, vol. II, Technical Papers, pp. 365-366.
- [3] *Donor-recommended exonyms for historical topographic features in Israel*. Seventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, New York, 1998, document E/CONF.91/L.10.