

**Twenty-seventh session  
30 July and 10 August 2012, New York**

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**Item 3 of the Provisional Agenda**

**Reports of the working groups.**

## **Report of the Working Group on Country Names \***

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\* Prepared by: Leo Dillon, Convenor, Working Group on Country Names

## **Report of the Working Group on Country Names**

Provisional agenda item 3

27<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

Submitted by the Working Group on Country Names

Prepared by Leo Dillon

The objective of the Working Group on Country Names is to develop and maintain a list of the names of all countries in the world in the language or languages used in an official capacity within each country, and to present an updated version of this document at each UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (UNCSGN).

The Working Group (WG) held an informal meeting at the 27th UNGEGN Session in Vienna in 2011. This meeting focused on the structure and content of the *List of country names* document to be provided to the 10<sup>th</sup> UNCSGN in New York in August 2012. After receiving and processing comments from WG members, an updated “working version” of the document was made available to the WG members in November 2011. This version served as a final draft of the document, with changes requested by the end of the year. Once again recommendations were received and debated, and where appropriate, were incorporated into the document. After a final check in May 2012 the official document was submitted for the 10<sup>th</sup> Conference.

In addition to numerous formatting and minor technical changes and updates, the new version contains the following changes from the “working version” submitted as Working Paper No. 54 at the 27<sup>th</sup> UNGEGN Session in 2011:

Minor modifications to some **Arabic** UN Official Names, on the recommendation of Arabic experts in the WG.

**Eritrea:** change in the UN Official formal names, to reflect forms found in the UNTERM database.

**Fiji:** change in the formal name.

**Georgia:** altered description of the Romanization system for Georgian.

**Honduras:** change in the Arabic formal name.

**Hungary:** change in the formal name.

**Republic of Korea:** addition of national Romanization system names in the "Notes" section.

**Libya:** change in the formal name.

**Luxembourg:** addition of Luxembourgish formal name and removal of variant names in the "Notes" section.

**Federated States of Micronesia:** update in the Russian short name.

**Sao Tome and Principe:** modification of French formal name.

**South Sudan:** addition of new entry.

A major change to the structure of the *List of country names* document was the removal of the section titled “Names used by a national authority.” In its place, the WG submitted Working Paper No. 26 to the 10<sup>th</sup> UNCSGN, titled *Lists of country names by national and other authorities*. This document, submitted for informational purposes, contains Internet links to lists of names of countries and other geo-political entities that were provided by national authorities or other non-governmental organizations.

The WG has been actively involved providing country names and advice on city names to the UNGEGN World Geographical Names database. The Group has an ongoing collaborative relationship with the Terminology Team in the UN Terminology and Reference Section, one of whom is a WG member.

The UNGEGN Working Group on Country Names is composed of the following members:

Ahmet Sarac (Turkey)  
Abduvahit Torun (Turkey)  
Alexandros Stavropoulous (Greece)  
André Lapierre (Canada)  
Bahran Amirahmadian (Islamic Republic of Iran)  
Caroline Burgess (United Kingdom)  
Catherine Cheetham (United Kingdom)  
Danielle Henripin (UN Terminology Team)  
Eman Orieby (Egypt)  
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Peter Jordan (Austria)  
Pierre Jaillard (France)  
Sirikka Paikkala (Finland)  
Sungjae Choo (Republic of Korea)  
Trent Palmer (United States)

The convenor wishes to thank all the Working Group members for their efforts to make the Group a success, and would particularly like to thank Catherine Cheetham, Hubert Bergmann, Eman Orieby,

Marie-Ève Bisson, Sirkka Paikkala, and Caroline Burgess for their contributions to the *List of country names* document.

The Working Group invites any interested experts to become a member of the group. Please contact the convenor (dillonli@state.gov) for any questions.