

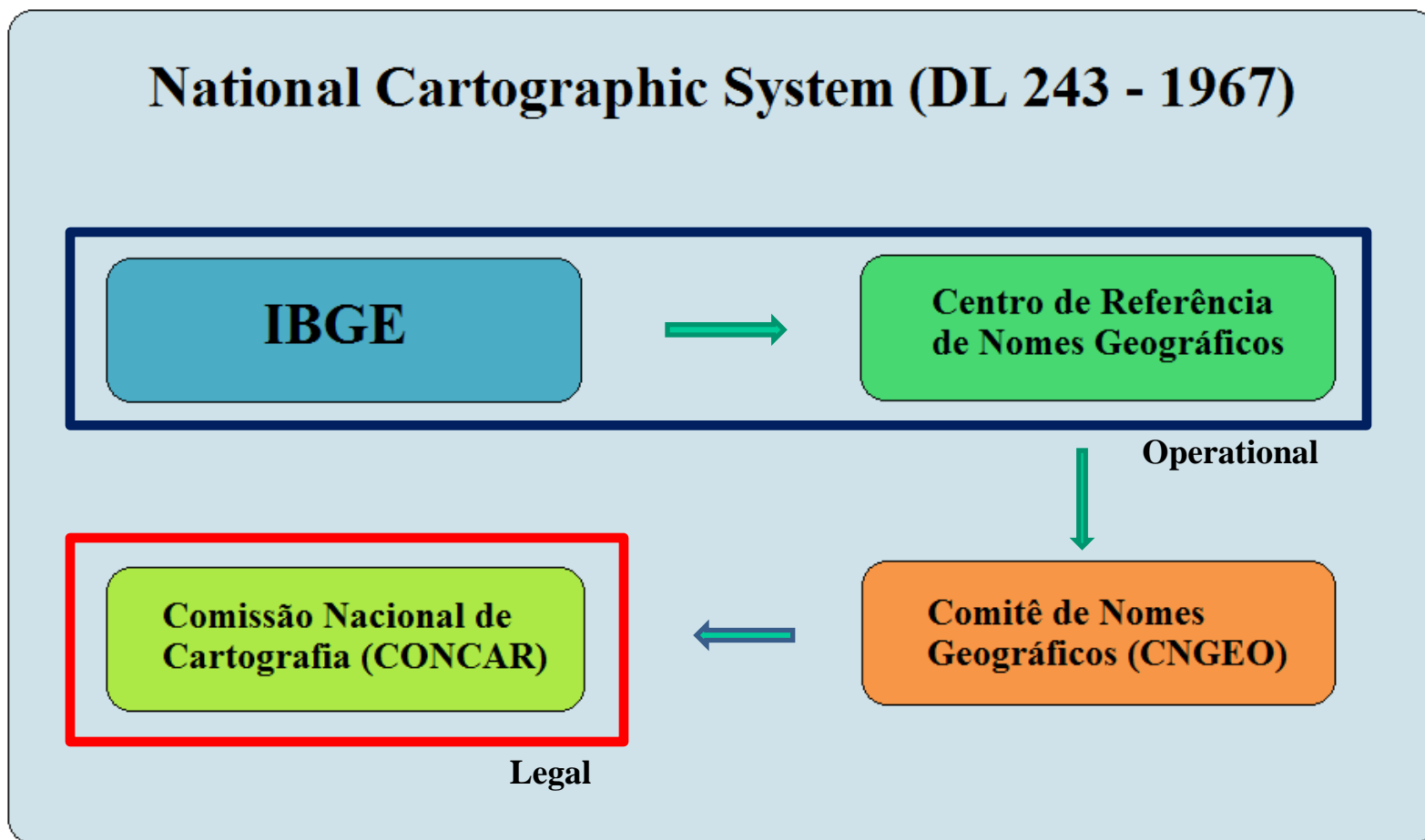


Exonyms and endonyms in country names used in Brazil

**Centro de Referência em Nomes Geográficos - IBGE**

**29<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Group of experts on Geographical Names  
Bangkok, 2016**

# Geographical Names - Brazil



# Brazilian List of Country Names (VI/10)

- First step of the List of Brazilian Exonyms (II/28, IV/20, V/13)
- Use:
  - Immediate use by the IBGE
  - After discussion within the CNGEO, by official institutions and society in general

The list contains names of:

- Countries
- Constituent Countries
- Countries not recognized by Brazil and the UN

Objectives:

- Standardization (one name for each feature)
- Reduction of Exonyms (II/29)

# Methodology

## Criteria EXONYM X ENDONYM:

- 1) requests of countries for the use of the endonym
- 2) political and/or ethnic conflicts > exonym
- 3) traditional use
- 4) semantic aspects
- 5) phonetic aspects
- 6) familiarity with Brazilian Portuguese spelling

# Methodology

## - Creation of a sheet containing:

- forms of the country names as used by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs - short and long forms;
- information on whether this form is an exonym or not;
- other forms used in “Brazilian Portuguese” by other institutions, media, forms recommended by grammarians and scholars;
- endonyms (romanized, when it is the case) in all the official languages of the country - short and long forms, as presented in the last version of the UNGEGN List of Country Names;
- form proposed for the country name on the new list;
- observations. Mainly:
  - country requests for the use of the endonyms in all references to them,
  - existence of internal ethnic and political conflicts in the country
  - other particularities which could indicate the most adequate form of a country name to use.

# Methodology

## -Division of exonyms into categories

- coherent decision making in cases belonging to a similar or equal context
- each name examined individually

~~traditional exonyms  
(name length and consistency of use)~~

~~toponyms described in resolutions III/19~~

## Some challenges for future adoption of endonyms

- suffixes - strong use (no phonetic or spelling difficulty)

"-land" > "-lândia" Finland > Finlândia (traditional) “Disneylândia”, “Crackollândia”  
 Ex: Swaziland > Suazilândia > Swazilândia (proximity in spelling, adaptation of suffix)

"-kistan/-kiston" > "-quistão" Pākistān > Paquistão (traditional)

Ex: O’zbekiston > Uzbequistão

- m/n in final position after vowel "a" - nasalization of the vowel, no difference in pronunciation: possible undesired spelling variations

Īrān > Irã (traditional)

(Oman > Oman/Omam/**Omã**; Viet Nam > Vietnam/Vietnan/**Vietnã**)

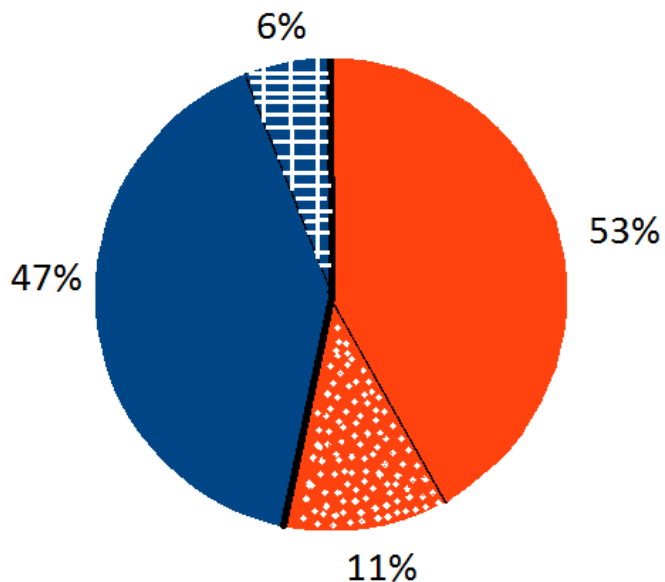
- spelling of the endonym not acceptable in Portuguese for diverse reasons

> pronunciation closer to the pronunciation of the endonym or to the name in other official UN languages: facilitation of international communication

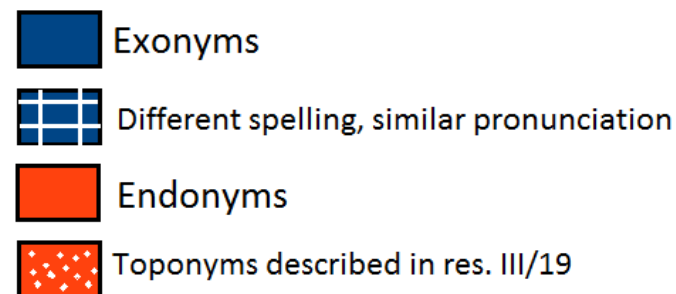
Ex: Azərbaycan > Azerbaijão > **Azerbaidjão**

Kâmpŭchéa > Camboja/Cambódia/Cambodja > **Cambodja**

# Some figures



Total: 203



**18 COUNTRY NAMES (15,5%) USED IN MULTIPLE FORMS WERE STANDARDIZED**

**REDUCTION OF 5,6% IN EXONYM USE**



# Thank you for your attention

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