

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL



Distr.
RESTRICTED
E/CONF.61/C.3/R.11
26 May 1972
Original: ENGLISH



SECOND UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE
STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
London, 10-31 May 1972

Draft resolution submitted by the Arabic group^{1/}

Romanization of Arabic geographical names

The Conference,

Considering resolutions 11 and 12 of the 1967 Conference,

Noting the system adopted by the Arabic experts at the 1971 Beirut Conference which is reproduced in the Appendix to document E/CONF.61/L.77,

Further noting the practical amendments carried out and agreed upon by the representatives of the Arabic-speaking countries at their conference,

Recommends the adoption of the amended Beirut system, as shown in the annex to this resolution, for the Romanization of the geographical names within those Arabic-speaking countries where this system is officially acknowledged.

^{1/} Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Saudi Arabia

Recommended amendments to the 1971 Beirut Transliteration System

submitted by the Arabic Group

Table I

Arabic letters	Name of letter	Beirut Transl. System	Recomm. Amendment	Examples	
ء	hamzah	—	omit (initial)	Abū Kamāl	أبو كمال
		—	' (medial)	Bi'r	بئر
		—	' (final)	Ṣan'ā'	صناعة
ا	alif	A	omit	Inshāṣ	إنشاء
ب	ba	B		Banhā	بنها
ت	ta	T		Tadmur	تدمر
ث	tha	<u>TH</u>	TH	Tharthār	ثارتار
ج	jīm	J		Jabal	جبل
ح	ha	<u>H</u>	H	Himṣ	حمص
خ	kha	<u>KH</u>	KH	Khaybar	خيبر
د	dāl	D		Dammām	دمام
ذ	dhāl	<u>DH</u>	DH	Dhabbān	ذبابان
ر	ra	R		Rafah	رفح
ز	zayn	Z		Zabīd	زبيد
س	sīn	S		Sīnā'	سیناء
ش	shīn	<u>SH</u>	SH	Shibīn	شيبين
ص	ṣād	<u>S</u>	S	Ṣafad	صفا
ض	dād	<u>D</u>	D	Dab'ah	ضبه
ط	ṭa	<u>T</u>	T	Tantā	طنطا
ظ	ẓa	<u>ZH</u>	Z	Zahrān	ظهران
ع	'ayn	e		'Akkā	عكا

Arabic letters	Name of letter	Beirut Transl. System	Recomm. Amendments	Examples	
ع	ghayn	<u>GH</u>	GH	Ghadīr	غدير
ف	fā	F		Fālūjah	فالوجه
ق	qāf	Q		Qatar	قطر
ك	kāf	K		kūt	كوت
ل	lām	L		Lībyā	ليبيا
م	mīm	M		Miṣr	مصر
ن	nūn	N		Najd	نجد
ه	ha	H		Hīt	هيت
و	wāw	W		Wahrān	وهران
ي	ya	Y		Yaman	يمن

Table II

Transliteration of the Arabic Vowels, Diphthongs,
and Diacritical marks

Letters	Name of letter	Beirut Transl. System	Recomm. Amendments	Examples
	Pathah	—	a	Al Baṣrah البصرة
	Kasrah	—	i	Ar Riyād الرياض
	dammah <i>ṭawīlah</i>	—	u	Al Burj البرج
	<i>u</i> <i>Qaṣīrah</i>	—	o	'Omān عمان
	sukūn	—	omit	Adhā أذى
	alif fathah	—	ā	Bāb باب
	alif maddah	—	ā	Qur'ān قرآن
	alif maqṣūrah	—	á	Marsá Matrūḥ مرسى مطروح
	yā kasrah	—	ī	Al Madīnah المدینه
	tanwīn fathah	—	an	Bābā بابا
	<i>u</i> kasrah	—	in	Bābī بابي
	<i>u</i> dammah	—	un	Bābū بابي
	shaddah	—	doubling	Abu Rommān أبو رومان
ال (ش)	al (Shamsiyah)	doubling		Ash Shariqah الشارقة
ال (قمر)	al (Qamariyah)	Al		Al Wādī الوادي