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Fourth United Nations Conference on the  
Standardization of Geographical Names  
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Item 13 (a)(i) of the provisional agenda\*

WRITING SYSTEMS:

CONVERSION OF NAMES FROM ONE WRITING SYSTEM INTO ANOTHER:

ROMANIZATION

Situation in the Romanization\*\*

Paper presented by the Working Group on a Single Romanization  
System for each Non-Roman Writing System

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Developments between the Third and Fourth Conference based on the results of a circular and the two sessions of the UNGEGN are described here together with suggestions in some cases for possible next steps to be taken.

#### Amharic

Resolution 7 of the Second Conference /1972/ is valid. There is some evidence /in publications of the Central Statistical Office, Addis Abeba/ that in domestic romanization the apostrophe /e.g. k', ch', etc./ as well as underlinings /e, i/ are not used. If this proves to be a change in the system mentioned in the 1972 Resolution, an amendment might be necessary.

#### Arabic

Arabic was discussed in detail on both sessions, including those between representatives of Arabic countries. As a result, it was agreed that there is no need to change Resolution 8 of the Second Conference /1972/, i.e. the so called amended Beirut System is valid.

#### Bulgarian

Resolution 10 of the Third Conference /1977/ is valid. Though the COMECON Standard /see Russian Cyrillic/ contains also Bulgarian /slightly differing from the UN recommendation/, there is no need for a change as the Bulgarian cartography will

use the UN system even in these circumstances.

Burmese

No further information is available on this script. It is one of the scripts for which there is no UN recommendation.

Chinese

Several informations were given at the Eighth Session of the UNGEGN that the recommendation given in Resolution 8 of the Third Conference /1977/ is gaining ground.

Greek

The Greek Organization for Standardization worked out a draft romanization system in 1980 /see Annex I/. The draft was discussed by a number of experts at the Ninth Session in 1981. After eliminating the alternatives of the letters No. 2 and 27, this system may serve as a basis for adoption by the Fourth Conference.

Hebrew

Resolution 13 of the Third Conference /1977/ is valid. No further information has been received.

Indian Division

Resolution 11 of the Second Conference /1972/ and Resolution 12 of the Third Conference /1977/ are valid, the second giving minor modifications to the first one. No information has been received on the cartographic use of these systems.

Japanese

As no further information has been received, the situation is unchanged. Another language without a UN resolution.

Khmer

Resolution 10 of the Second Conference /1972/ is valid. No further information has been received.

Korean

The only detailed information is available from the People's Democratic Republic of Korea; the romanization system submitted by the Linguistic Institute /see Annex II/ is used on maps.

Laotian

No information has been received. Another language with no prospect for UN resolution.

Maldivian

The situation is unchanged, i.e. the Maldives may be considered to be a Roman-alphabet country. Roman transcription had been used for printing since 1977.

Mongolian

No informations are available on romanizations used in Mongolia. Another language with no UN recommendation. The COMECON Standard /see Russian Cyrillic/ contains also Mongolian Cyrillic, given in Annex III for information.

Pashto-Dari

At the Third Conference /1977/ a romanization key has been submitted /E/CONF.69/L.111/Add.1/ which is unfortunately not contained in Volume II, Technical papers. The same system is used on the map: Afghanistan 1 : 1,000,000, Afghan Cartographic and Cadastral Survey, Kabul, First Edition 1977. In view of the practical usage of this system it is given in Annex IV.

Persian

Resolution 13 of the First Conference /1967/ is valid. No further information has been received.

Russian Cyrillic

A COMECON Standard had been adopted in 1978 containing among others the Russian Cyrillic. As Soviet Cartography is going to use this system in the future, the adoption for international purposes seems logical. It is given in Annex V for information.

Serbocroatian and Macedonian Cyrillic in Yugoslavia

Resolution 11 of the Third Conference /1977/ is valid. No further information has been received.

Thai

Resolution 14 of the First Conference /1967/ is valid. No further information has been received.

# Romanization of the Greek Alphabet

Annex I

	Greek Letter		Romanized Form	
1	A α		A a	
2	AI αι		{AI ai E e	still under discussion
3	AY αυ	a/	AV av	before the consonants β, τ, δ, ζ, λ, μ, ν, ρ and all vowels
		b/	AF af	before the consonants ϝ, κ, ξ, π, ϔ, τ, φ, χ, ψ and at the end of a word
4	B β		V v	
5	Γ γ		G g	
6	ΓΓ γγ		NG ng	
7	ΓΚ γκ	a/	G g	in the beginning of a word
		b/	NG ng	in the middle of a word
8	ΓΧ γχ		NCH nch	
9	Δ δ		D d	
10	E ε		E e	
11	EI ει		I i	
12	EY ευ	a/	EV ev	before the consonants β, τ, δ, ζ, λ, μ, ν, ρ and all the vowels
		b/	EF ef	before the consonants ϝ, κ, ξ, π, ϔ, τ, φ, χ, ψ and at the end of a word
13	Z ζ		Z z	
14	H η		I i	
15	HY ηυ	a/	IV iv	before the consonants β, τ, δ, ζ, λ, μ, ν, ρ and all the vowels
		b/	IF if	before the consonants ϝ, κ, ξ, π, ϔ, τ, φ, χ, ψ and at the end of a word
16	Θ θ		TH th	
17	I ι		I i	
18	K κ		K k	
19	Λ λ		L l	
20	M μ		M m	
21	ΜΠ μπ	a/	B b	in the beginning or at the end of a word
		b/	MP mp	in the middle of a word
22	N ν		N n	
23	NT ντ	a/	D d	in the beginning of a word
		b/	NT nt	in the middle or at the end of a word
24	NTZ ντζ		NTZ ntz	
25	Ξ ξ		X x	
26	O ο		O o	
27	OI οι		{OI oi I i	still under discussion
		or		
28	OY ου		OU ou	
29	Π π		P p	
30	Ρ ρ		PR pr	
31	Σ σ, ς		S s	
32	Τ τ		TPY t	
33	Υ υ		Y y	
34	ΥΙ υι		YF yf	
35	Φ φ		F f	
36	Χ χ		CH ch	
37	Ψ ψ		PS ps	
38	Ω ω		O o	

Transcription table of Korean geographical names based on the system used in the People's Democratic Republic of Korea

	Korean character	Roman character	No. of remark	E x a m p l e s	
1	ㄱ	k	1,2,3	고구려	Koguryo
				박천	Pakchon
				국어	Kugo
		g	4	박연	Pagyon
				평양	Pyongyang
				북로강	Tongno-gang
2	ㄴ	-	6	말다	Malda
		gg	1,2,3	까투리	Ggaturi
3	ㅋ	k	7	손골	Songgut
		k	8	밖으로	Pakuro
4	ㅍ	p	1,2,3	공나물	Kongnamul
				손칼	Sonkal
		b	4	백천	Paekchon
				갑산	Kapsan
5	ㅃ	bb	8	갑오	Kabo
				해방	Haebang
6	ㅍ	p	8	여덟	Yodol
				뽕죽산	Bbyojuk-san
7	ㄷ	t	1,2,3,9	판문점	Panmunjom
				남포	Nampo
				단천	Tanchon
		d	4	밭다	Patda
				알다	Alta
8	ㄸ	dd	8	문덕	Mundok
				받으니	Paduni
9	ㅊ	t	1,2,10	또아리	Ddoari
				태천	Taechon
		ch	11	까투리	Ggaturi
				밭머리	Patmori
				끝이	Gguchi

	Korean character	Roman character	No. of remark	E x a m p l e s	
10	ㄸ	ch	1	조선	Choson
		t	2	갓다	Katda
		j	4	해주	Haeju
				청진	Chongjin
				안아서	Anjaso
11	ㅈ	jj	8	짜르다	Jjaruda
12	ㅊ	ch	1,4	초산	Chosan
				꽃이	Ggochi
				보천보	Pochonbo
		t	2	뚝대	Totdae
13	ㅅ	s	1,4	사동	Sadong
				웃으니	Usuni
				값이	Kapsi
		ss	12	종소	Chosso
		t	2,3	삿갓	Satgat
		-	6	삿	Ssak
				툇	Tol
				값	Kap
14	ㅆ	ss	1	씨름	Ssirum
		t	2	하였다	Hayotda
		ts	4	있으니	Itsuni
15	ㄴ	n	13	녕원	Nyongwon
		nn	12	종네	Chonne
		l	5	신라	Silla
16	ㅁ	m	8	마산	Masan
				젊으니	Cholmuni
17	ㄹ	r	1,4	리진	Rajin
				가루개	Karugae
				석굴암	Sokguram
				얹으니	Aruni
		l	2,3	월미도	Wolmido
				울산	Ulsan
				호남벌	Honambol
				얹다	Alta



	Korean charac- ter	Roman charac- ter	No. of remark	E x a m p l e s	
	[ㄹ]			발피다	Palpida
				여덟	Yodol
		ll	14	빨래	Bballae
				신라	Silla
		n	15	동문강	Tongno-gang
				암록강	Amnok-gang
		-	16	탁	Tak
				팍다	Papda
				업다	Upda
				옴기다	Omgida
18	ㅎ	h	17	함흥	Hamhung
		-	18	찰타	Chota
				발피다	Palpida
19	ㅇ	ng	19	양시	Yangsi
		-		암록강	Amnok-gang
20	ㅏ	a		아침	Achim
21	ㅑ	ya		야수	Yasu
22	ㅓ	o		어부	Obu
23	ㅕ	yo		겨레	Kyore
24	ㅗ	o		오곡	Ogok
25	ㅛ	yo		교장	Kyoyang
26	ㅜ	u		우산	Usan
27	ㅠ	yu		유부도	Yubudo
28	ㅡ	u		금강	Kumgang
29	ㅣ	i		시헐	Sihom
30	ㅞ	ae		개	Kae
31	ㅝ	yae		야야!	Yae ya!
32	ㅞ	e		세상	Sesang
33	ㅟ	ye		혜산	Hyesan
34	ㅠ	œ		억곡	Oeguk
35	ㅢ	wi		위원	Wiwon
36	ㅣ	ui		신의주	Sinuiju
37	ㅤ	wa		광주	Kwangju
38	ㅦ	wo		원산	Wonsan
39	ㅧ	wae		쇄극	Swaeuk
40	ㅨ	we		궤도	Kwedo

Remarks

- 1 At the beginning of a word
- 2 In the middle of a syllable /below characters/
- 3 At the end of a word
- 4 In the middle of a syllable followed by vowels
- 5 In the middle of a syllable before ㄱ
- 6 At the end of a word before ㄱ, ㄷ, ㅂ
- 7 Below characters /at the end of syllables/
- 8 In all cases
- 9 In the middle of a syllable after mute ㅁ and before vowels
- 10 In the middle of a syllable before vowels, except | /i/
- 11 In the middle of a syllable before | /i/
- 12 After mute ㅁ
- 13 In all cases if not preceded by ㅁ or followed by ㄱ
- 14 In the middle of a syllable when two ㄱ meet
- 15 In the middle of a syllable when preceded by ㄷ, ㅂ, ㅅ
- 16 In the middle of a syllable when followed by ㄷ, ㅂ, ㅅ, ㅈ plus another consonant
- 17 At the beginning of a syllable
- 18 At the end of a syllable; at the beginning of a syllable when standing between a vowel and a consonant
- 19 At the end of a syllable

In case of the remarks "before vowels, followed by vowels" and "before consonants, followed by consonants", mute characters /e.g. ㅁ, ㅂ / should be disregarded. In case of the remark "after vowels, preceded by vowels", combinations of vowels with y /e.g. ya, ye etc./ or with w /e.g. wa, we, etc/ should be also included.

Spelling

In case of geographical names consisting of a specific and a generic element, where the latter changes the meaning of the name, this generic must be always hyphenized. In the transcription these generics should be regarded as independent words, e.g. 청산리 is correctly Chongsan-ri, and not Chongsalli or Chongsal-li.

Based on information given February 1973  
by the Linguistic Research Institute,  
Academy of Social Sciences, People's  
Democratic Republic of Korea

Romanization of Mongolian Cyrillic  
as given in the COMECON Standard 1362/1978, Table I,  
without the alternatives in brackets

Annex III

	Mongolian Cyrillic	Romani- zation	E x a m p l e s	
1	А а	a	Алтанбулаг	Altanbulag
2	Б б	b	Бөмбөгөр	Bembeger
3	В в	v	Мандалговь	Mandalgov'
4	Г г	g	Ширгэдэг	Širgèdèg nuur
5	Д д	d	Дархан	Darhan
6	Е е	e	Ерөө	Eree
7	Ё ё	ë	Ноён	Noën
8	Ж ж	ž	Жаргалант	Žargalant
9	З з	z	Зуунмод	Zuunmod
10	И и	i	Аригийн	Arigijn
11	Й й	j	Налайх	Nalajh
12	К к	k	*	*
13	Л л	l	Булнай	Bulnaj
14	М м	m	Матад	Matad
15	Н н	n	Баяндун	Baândun
16	О о	o	Цагаан-Овоо	Cagaan-Ovoo
17	Ө ө	ө	Төмөрбулаг	Temerbulag
18	П п	p	*	*
19	Р р	r	Орхон	Orhon
20	С с	s	Сагсай гол	Sagsaj gol
21	Т т	t	Түнэл	Tÿnel
22	У у	u	Их чулуут	Ih čuluut
23	Ү ү	ÿ	Хүнгүй гол	Hÿngÿj gol
24	Ф ф	f	*	*
25	Х х	h	Мөнххаан	Menhhaan
26	Ц ц	c	Цэцэрлэг	Cècèrlèg
27	Ч ч	č	Чойбалсан	Čojbalsan
28	Ш ш	š	Шишхид гол	Šišhid gol
29	Щ щ	š	*	*
30	Ъ ъ	“	*	*
31	Ы ы	y	Бархынгол	Barhyngol
32	Ь ь	'	Чандмань-Ондор	Čandman'-Ondor
33	Э э	è	Сэлэнгэ	Sèlèngè
34	Ю ю	u	*	*
35	Я я		Баянтэрэм	Baânterem

## Transcription table of Pashto-Dari geographical names

1	ب	b	بند	Band	ف	f	فج	Fath	29
2	پ	p	پستو	Pašto	ق	q	اق بولاق	Aqbalaq	30
3	ت	t	تل	Til	ك	k	كاكان	Kākān	31
4	ټ	ṭ	متاخ	Matāxan	گ	g	گته	Gata	32
5	ث	s	ثابت	Sābet	ل	l	حاه لیلی	Čahilayla	33
6	ج	j	جوزجان	Jawzjān	م	m	محرم	Muhtaram	34
7	چ	č	چگچرن	Čagčaran	ن	n	ناور	Nāwar	35
8	خ	c	خانگه	Cānga	ڼ	ṇ	مانی	Maṇay	36
9	ح	ĵ	حای	Ĵay	و	w	وردک	Wardak	37
10	ح	h	حمید	Hamid	ه-ه	h	هملم	Hamdam	38
11	خ	x	خلم	Xulm	ی	y	یاسین	Yasin	39
12	د	d	درزاب	Darzāb	مومن	-	مومن	Mumen	40
13	د	ḍ	دودی	Dūḍay	زیر	a	احمد	Ahmad	41
14	ذ	z	ذلیل	Zalil	زیر	i	استالف	İstalif	42
15	ر	r	رحمت	Rahmat	پیش	u	مقر	Muqur	43
16	ر	r	لمری	Lamray	الف معدوله	a	بالا	Bala	44
17	ز	z	زوزه	Zuza	واو معروف	u	چهل ستون	Čehel Sotūn	45
18	ژ	ž	ژاله	Žala	واو محمول	o	سلاّب	Sonlāb	46
19	ز	z	کزه	Kaza	واو معدوله	a	ازاو	Azāw	47
20	س	s	سلام	Salām	ی-معروف	i	ذلیل	Zalil	48
21	ش	š	شوراو	Šoraw	ی-محمول	e	کاریز	Kārez	49
22	س	s	سار	Sār	ی-کره	y	مانی	Maṇay	50
23	ص	s	صمد	Samad	زورکی	a	مانده	Māndəh	51
24	ض	z	فیض آباد	Fayzābād	کوه بابا	-1	کوه بابا	Kohi Bābā	52
25	ط	t	طالب	Tāleb	دریای	-y1	دریای	Daryayı	53
26	ظ	z	مظفر	Mozaffar	واخان	-y1	واخان	Wāxān	
27	ع	-	عالم	Ālem	final	o	-	-	54
28	غ	ğ	غلام	Ğolam		u	doubling		55

## Romanization of Russian Cyrillic

as given in the COMECON Standard 1362/1978, Table I,  
without the alternatives in brackets

	Russian Cyrillic	Romani- zation	E x a m p l e s	
1	А а	a	Алма-Ата	Alma-Ata
2	Б б	b	Бобруйск	Bobrujsk
3	В в	v	Владивосток	Vladivostok
4	Г г	g	Гигант	Gigant
5	Д д	d	Дедилово	Dedilovo
6	Е е	e	Тетерев	Teterev
7	Ё ё	ë	Орёл	Orël
8	Ж ж	ž	Жижгин	Žižgin
9	З з	z	Зазаево	Zazaevo
10	И и	i	Ильинка	Il'inka
11	Й й	j	Йошкар-Ола	Joskar-Ola
12	К к	k	Кировск	Kirovsk
13	Л л	l	Лальск	Lal'sk
14	М м	m	Москва	Moskva
15	Н н	n	Ненинка	Neninka
16	О о	o	Одесса	Odessa
17	П п	p	Перекоп	Perekop
18	Р р	r	Ребровка	Rebrovka
19	С с	s	Свердловск	Sverdlovsk
20	Т т	t	Тетюхе	Tetûhe
21	У у	u	Усть-Уса	Ust'-Usa
22	Ф ф	f	Фрунзе	Frunze
23	Х х	h	Хохловка	Hohlovka
24	Ц ц	c	Цивильск	Civil'sk
25	Ч ч	č	Чудское озеро	Čudskoe ozero
26	Ш ш	š	Шебаршино	Šebarsino
27	Щ щ	š	Щучье	Šuč'e
28	Ъ ъ	“	Объячево	Ob“ačevo
29	Ы ы	y	Сыктывкар	Syktyvkar
30	Ь ь	'	Ильинское	Il'in'skoe
31	Э э	è	Эмба	Èmba
32	Ю ю	û	Юрюзань	Ûrûzan'
33	Я я	â	Ярославл	Âroslavl'