

New York, 5-16 March 1973

REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON A SINGLE  
ROMANIZATION SYSTEM FOR EACH NON-ROMAN WRITING SYSTEM

Dr. Brou, convenor of the Working Group, gave an account of activities since the London Conference and at this present session (Working Papers 26 & 28).

With regard to the amended Bsirut system for the transliteration of Arabic recommended under Resolution 9 of the London Conference, the Working Group agreed a finalized text of the table to be annexed to the resolution in the printed Report of the London Conference.

The Working Group noted the terms of Resolution 8 of the London Conference concerning the conditions of adoption of the amended Bsirut system for the transliteration of Arabic, and noted also the appearance of four different systems for the transliteration of Arabic in Algeria, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia. While recognizing the ultimate desirability of having a single transliteration system applicable in all the countries of the Arab world, the Working Group recognized also the special character of the countries of the Maghreb and Mauritania. It recommended therefore that the system agreed under Resolution 8 of the London Conference be modified to accommodate a limited number of essential variants (see Annex A), if it should be impossible to agree on a single system. It recommended further that the Arab League arrange a regional meeting of the Arab countries for this purpose, preferably in the Maghreb, and also that representatives of the official cartographic agencies concerned be present at this meeting.

The Working Group considered the draft romanization system for the Greek alphabet (Annex B) prepared, in collaboration with Cyprus, by a special commission within the Greek Ministry of Culture, acceptable as an international system for the transliteration of Greek.