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**Eighth United Nations Conference on the
Standardization of Geographical Names**

Berlin, 27 August-5 September 2002

Item 16 (a) of the provisional agenda*

Writing systems: romanization

**Report of the Working Group on Romanization Systems:
activities from January 1998 to May 2002**

**Submitted by the United Nations Group of Experts on
Geographical Names****

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Summary

The report outlines the main activities of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) Working Group on Romanization Systems from January 1998 to May 2002. The Working Group met during the twentieth session of UNGEGN in 2000, and had a two-day meeting in London in May 2001. During the last meeting there was sufficient time to discuss all matters relating to the current status of romanization systems, and to outline a plan of action regarding individual languages.

One of the main results of the activities of the Working Group has been the compilation of a comprehensive document on romanization systems, entitled *United Nations Romanization Systems for Geographical Names: Report on Their Current Status*. This was first presented to UNGEGN at its twentieth session. An improved version was published at the Working Group's web site (<http://www.eki.ee/wgrs/>).

During the period between the Seventh and Eighth United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names there were new developments regarding the romanization of Byelorussian, Khmer, Georgian and Korean. Turkmen and Uzbek now fall outside the scope of consideration of the Working Group because these languages have adopted Roman alphabets.
