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

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Item 16 (a) of the provisional agenda*

Writing systems: romanization

**Report on the current status of the United Nations
Romanization Systems for Geographical Names**

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

* E/CONF.94/1.

Summary

The aim of the report is to clarify the present status and the degree of implementation of the United Nations romanization systems used for converting geographical names from writing systems other than Roman. The introduction to the report lists the main aims of international standardization regarding romanization systems and discusses some of the requirements for the proposed romanization systems. The first part of the report lists all languages with non-Roman writing systems, the countries where these languages are official, and the respective systems of romanization recommended by the United Nations, as well as other romanization systems used. The second part presents an overview of romanization systems for each of the languages. A language section usually includes an introduction that gives the origin of the United Nations system, describes the implementation of the system both nationally and internationally, and briefly characterizes the system itself regarding the ease of applicability, reversibility, possible ambiguities and other problems. The romanization system is presented with notes on its application, if appropriate. Other systems of romanization are also listed and briefly compared with the main system.
