Eighth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names
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Reports on programmes to assist with pronunciation of names

Proposal for the establishment of a working group on the pronunciation of geographical names

Submitted by Israel**

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Summary

Transliteration can present the written form of the endonymic form of a toponym to readers who are unacquainted with its source script and language, but cannot convey the actual pronunciation of a name. Pronunciation tables are of importance to editors of maps, atlases and other documents involving geographical names, as well as to the general public. Including them in map legends, for example, enables drivers to pronounce foreign names correctly and ask for directions. Pronunciation tables can vary as to the number of scripts and languages involved. The present paper proposes establishing a working group on the pronunciation of geographical names within the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.