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Item 10 of the provisional agenda\*

**Exonyms****Donor-recommended exonyms — or a method for not  
treading on your neighbour's toes****Submitted by Israel\*\*****Summary\*\*\***

The present paper elaborates on two previous papers, namely, "Donor-recommended exonyms: a different approach to traditional names" (1992) and "Donor-recommended exonyms for historical topographic features in Israel" (1998). Since the Working Group on Exonyms of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names had been established only in 2002, the subject is now being presented in a somewhat modified form. In 2006, the Working Group on Toponymic Terminology accepted a new and wider definition of the term exonym, which had been proposed by the Working Group on Exonyms.

There are cases (elaborated in this paper) where the definition may, figuratively speaking, tread on some countries' toes, as was mentioned at the twenty-third session of the Group of Experts. One way out of this historically or politically based predicament is through the proposed method of donor-recommended exonyms described in the paper. It is being followed in Israel, where a great number of biblical place names exist, chiefly in their Hebrew endonymic form. Many of these names have traditional exonymic forms in the languages and literature of the receiver countries, and particularly in the Bible. The method is intended to simplify map use and road navigation by persons who do not read Hebrew, and in particular foreign tourists visiting Israel. A revised list of donor-recommended exonyms in Israel is appended. All other toponyms should be printed in foreign maps in their endonymic form. The application of the same principle could be of advantage to other countries, in particular those that have a background

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\*\* Prepared by Naftali Kadmon, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel.

\*\*\* The full text of the paper is being issued in English only as document E/CONF.98/3/Add.1



in biblical literature such as Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey and Greece, or to regions that have a residue of names from former occupations. This principle does not clash with the United Nations admonition to reduce the number of exonyms, and may even prevent an increased conversion of endonyms into exonyms.

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