



## **Economic and Social Council**

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### **Ninth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names**

New York, 21-30 August 2007

Item 16 (a) of the provisional agenda\*

**Writing systems: Romanization**

### **Proposal for a resolution on the romanization of Hebrew**

**Submitted by Israel \*\***

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\* E/CONF.98/1.

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

**The Conference,**

**Considering** that the Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (1977) recommended the use of the Romanization system for Hebrew geographical names submitted by Israel in Resolution III/13;

**And aware** that over the past fifty years there have been some changes in the pronunciation of Hebrew in Israel, resulting partly from changes in the composition of the Israeli population;

**Further considering** that the official national authority on, among others, transliteration rules concerning Hebrew, namely the Academy of the Hebrew Language, has lately decided to introduce the following changes in the Romanization of Hebrew geographical names in maps and road signs which have been ratified by the Government of Israel, and which have already begun to be implemented in Israel;

**Recommends** the introduction of the following amendments to the previously approved romanization system for Hebrew which otherwise remains unchanged:

- (a) the letter ו as a consonant\* is romanized as V, v, instead of W, w;
- (b) the consonant letter צ is romanized as Ts, ts, instead of Z, z;
- (c) the consonant letter ק is romanized as K, k and not as Q, q;
- (d) the letters א and ע, both represented by ' , are represented only (and always) in the middle of a word, whereas in the past ע was represented also at the beginning and end of a word;
- (e) the shva-na (previously romanized sheva-na') is represented by e only where it is actually sounded. Example: בני-ברק > Bne-Brak (previously Bene-Beraq), but גאולים > Ge'ulim.

\* as a pointed vowel it remains unchanged as ו (O,o) or ו (U,u).