

**Twenty-second Session  
New York, 20-29 April 2004**

---

**Item 7 of the Provisional Agenda**

**SUMMARY REPORTS OF THE WORKING GROUPS**

**Summary Report of the Working Group on Country Names\***

---

**\* Submitted by the Working Group on Country Names, prepared by Leo I. Dillon**

## **Summary Report of the Working Group on Country Names**

Submitted by the Working Group on Country Names

The Working Group on Country Names has not met since the Eighth UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in August and September of 2002. However, there has been activity within the Working Group since then.

### **Change in Convenorship.**

In October 2003, Mme. Sylvie Lejeune stepped down as the Convenor of the Working Group. After having his nomination approved by five members of the Working Group, Mr. Leo Dillon, of the United States Department of State and the United States Board on Geographic Names, has agreed to serve as the new Convenor.

The Group would like to express its highest appreciation to Mme. Lejeune for her long and distinguished period of service and her critical contributions to the Working Group's success.

### **Country Names Document.**

The Working Group's List of Country Names was presented as a document to the Eighth Conference. Since then, a newer version has been submitted to UNGEGN for inclusion into the upcoming Technical Reference Manual for the Standardization of Geographic Names. The new version of the List contains the following changes:

- 1) An entry added for the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste;
- 2) A change in the entry for Yugoslavia to its new name, Serbia and Montenegro;
- 3) Some minor changes in the names of languages to conform to UN standards, and;
- 4) Some minor changes to the language codes to conform to ISO standards.

The next anticipated stage for the document will be inclusion of the Russian Cyrillic forms for each entry.

### **Other activities.**

The Working Group has made some preliminary contact with the UN Terminology Section for the purpose of collaborating on any differences between them and UNGEGN on the treatment of country names.

Of current concern to the Working Group is the ability to electronically transfer the many language scripts contained in the Country Names document to other users within UNGEGN and the UN Publication Department. The current Country Names document is very difficult to render correctly in standard computer software. The Convenor is studying the possibility of rendering the document in Unicode format.

