
**UNITED NATIONS
GROUP OF EXPERTS ON
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES**

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Report of the working groups

Report of the Working Group on Country Names

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The objective of the Working Group on Country Names is to develop and maintain a list of the names of all countries in the world in the language or languages used in an official capacity within each country, and to present an updated version of this document at each UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (UNCSGN).

Since its last informal meetings held at the 23rd UNGEGN Session in Vienna in 2006, the Working Group has not met. However, the Group has been active, and two important things have been accomplished. First, in January 2007 the Working Group submitted to the UNGEGN chair a fully Unicode-compliant version of the abridged country names document for inclusion into the UN *Technical reference manual for the standardization of geographical names*.

Second, based on recommendations from the Vienna meetings and subsequent information, the Working Group completed the update of the document entitled “List of country names,” which is being submitted to the Ninth UNCSGN in New York. This version incorporates all of the suggestions agreed to at the previous meetings, and is completely Unicode-compliant, with all scripts properly displayed.

The next major planned achievement is the establishment of a website for the Working Group, in which the country names document and other relevant information could be placed for reference and updated.

The Working Group invites any interested experts to become a member of the group. Please contact the convenor (dillonli@state.gov) for any questions.