

**Twenty-sixth session  
Vienna, 2-6 May 2011**

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**Item 12 of the Provisional Agenda**

**Activities relating to the Working Group on Country Names**

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

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## Report of the Working Group on Country Names

Agenda item 12

26<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

Submitted by the Working Group on Country Names

Prepared by Leo Dillon

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).

The Working Group presented the updated document titled “List of Country Names” (E/CONF.98/89/Add.1) to the Ninth UNCSGN in New York in August 2007. That document, which is the current official version approved by the Working Group, is available from the Working Group on Country Names page in the UNGEGN website (<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEgn/wg1.html>), as document [E/CONF.98/89 Add.1](#).

The Working Group has since been updating a “working version” of the document. This version has not been officially approved by the Working Group; it is intended for informational purposes and to stimulate discussion within the Working Group and UNGEGN. The most recent version of this document has been submitted as a working paper to this Session, and will soon be made available on the website page referenced above. The Group continues to update this document through informal exchanges between its members. The version presented to this Session includes the following changes, as well as a number of minor editorial corrections, made since the last working document was presented at the 25<sup>th</sup> Session of UNGEGN in Nairobi in 2009:

**Belarus:** minor corrections in the National Official short name in Byelorussian and formal name in Russian.

**Bolivia:** update of the short and formal names from Bolivia and Republic of Bolivia to Bolivia (Plurinational State of) and Plurinational State of Bolivia.

**Comoros:** change in the National Official short and formal names (from *Al Qamar* and *Ittihād al Qamar* to *Juzur al Qamar* and *Jumhūriyyat al Qamar al Muttaḥidah*).

**Eritrea:** change in the Romanization system used.

**Fiji:** change in the formal name from Republic of the Fiji Islands to Republic of Fiji.

**Georgia:** change in the National Official names to reflect Romanization in the 2002 Georgian National System.

**Myanmar:** change of the National Official formal name from *Pyidaungzu Myanma Naingngandaw* (Union of Myanmar) to *Pyidaungzu Thammada Myanma Naingngandaw* (Republic of the Union of Myanmar).

**South Africa:** updates to some of the National Official names.

**Sudan:** addition of English as a National Official language.

For names in Arabic throughout the document, a change has been made from the Romanized word ending “-iyah” to “-iyyah” which affects the following countries: **Algeria, Chad, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libyan Arab**

**Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.**

**Names used by a national authority.** This feature was added to the document to allow national authorities to alert users when their country name(s) were different than those appearing in the document. Two national authorities provided links to documents providing the different names, but the links currently found in the document are not functional. It is requested that these national authorities provide the Working Group with functioning links, or the existing links will be removed.

The Working Group has not held a formal meeting since the 25<sup>th</sup> UNGEGN Session in Nairobi in 2009. However members have since been updating the document through informal communications.

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