Fourth United Nations Conference on the
  Standardization of Geographical Names
Geneva, 24 August to 14 September 1982
Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

REPORTS BY DIVISIONS AND GOVERNMENTS ON THE SITUATION IN THEIR
REGIONS AND COUNTRIES AND ON THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE
STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES SINCE THE THIRD UNITED NATIONS
CONFERENCE ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

<u>Report by Sudan National Geographical Names Committee</u>

<u>Paper presented by Sudan</u>

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*   E/CONF.74/1.

In accordance with resolution 4 and recommendation A of the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, a National Committee for the Standardization of Geographical Names has been established according to Presidential Decree No. 231 of 1978. The aims, functions and powers of the Committee are laid down in the Presidential Decree. The Committee is responsible for every geographical name in the Sudan.

The Committee is located in the Sudan Survey Department. Correspondance addressed to this Department should be marked: Attention: Dr. Abbas Mohammad Kheir, Secretary-General of National Geographical Names Committee, P.O. Box 306, Khartoum-Sudan.

The following is a brief description of activities undertaken by our National Geographic Names Committee since the Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names held at Athens in August 1977.

In the examination of the problems connected with national standardization of geographical names, there are two main problems: the exact rendering of Sudanic languages' geographical names in Arabic letters and their appropriate rendering in Roman characters.

One of the accomplishments of the National Geographic Names Committee is the "Proposed Sudan Transliteration System of Arabic Alphabet". This new writing system is based mainly on the Beirut writing system as amended (1972). The characteristics of this new system are as follows:

(a) it is based on the Beirut writing system, which has been adopted by most of the Arabic Division;

(b) by the addition of five letters, i.e., P,V, CH, NG and NY, it solves the problem of multilingual areas and unwritten languages in the Sudan;

(c) it most economically displays its graphic with simplicity in which the phonetic value of individual Roman letters is the most common and widespread;

(d) it can be easily utilized in communication fields other than geographical names.

According to this new system the quota of geographical names in the map series of 1:25,000, 1:100,000 and 1:250,000 have been corrected and a list of names has recently been published. In addition, all the geographical names in the maps of our new national atlas have been written according to this new writing system.

The Sudan is now ready to begin the process of standardizing all geographical names, hoping to start production of the new gazetteer of the country. Sudan has also maintained its interest in the objectives established at the First International Conference. It hopes that this Fourth Conference will make significant progress towards their attainment. They can only be realized by the full and free exchange of information, by mutual helpfulness and by goodwill. To these ideals Sudan pledges its full support.

PROPOSED SUDAN TRANSLITERATION SYSTEM
OF ARABIC ALPHABET

Table I

Transliteration of Arabic consonants

Arabic letter	Name of letter	Transliteration		Examples & Remarks	
	Hamza	Omit (Initial)		Abu Sara	ابو ساره
		'(medial)		Bi'r	بــئر
		'(Final)		San'a'	نعاء
١	alif	a	A	Abu Adam	ابو آدم
ب	ba	b	B	Bännga	بانتــا
ت	ta	t	T	Talödi	تاودی
ث	tha	th	TH	Tharthār	ثرثار
ج	jim	j	J	Juba	جوبا
ح	ha	ḥ	Ḥ	Halfā	حلفــا
خ	kha	kh	KH	Khor	خــور
د	dal	d	D	Dungula	دنقــلا
ذ	dhal	dh	DH	Dhahban	ذهبان
ر	ra	r	R	Raja	راجـا
ز	zay	z	Z	Zalingi	زالنجى
س	sin	s	S	Sawākin	سـواكن
ش	shin	sh	SH	Shandi	شندى
ص	ṣād	ṣ	Ṣ	Ṣāy	صـاى
ض	ḍād	ḍ	Ḍ	Di'ayn	ضعين
ط	ta	ṭ	Ṭ	Ṭokar	طوكر
ظ	za	ẓ	Ẓ	Zalat	ظالــط
ع	ayn	'		'Abri	عبرى
غ	ghayn	gh	GH	Ghazala	غزالا
ف	fa	f	F	Fadasi	فداسر
ق	gaf	g(classicalq)		Galābāt	قلابات

Table I (cont'd)

Name of letter	Name of letter	Transliteration		Examples & Remarks	
ك	kaf	k	K	Korti	كورتى
ل	lam	l	L	Lagāwa	لاگاوه
م	mim	m	M	Malakāl	ملكال
ن	num	n	N	Nimuli	نيمولى
ه	ha	ḥ	H	Hashabu	هشابه
و	waw	w	W	Wāw	واو
ي	ya	y	Y	Yambiyu	يامبيو
تش	cha	ch	CH	Chad	تشاد
نڠ	ng	ng	NG	Nguri	نڠرى
نى	ny	ny	NY	Nyala	نيالا
پ	p	p	P	Pipor	بيبور
ڤ	v	v	V	Volta	ڤولتا

TRANSLITERATION OF ARABIC VOWELS DIPHTHONGS AND DACRITIAL MARKS

Table II

Arabic letter	Name of letter	Transliteration	Examples & Remarks	
◌َ	Fatha	a	ar-Rahad	الرهد
◌ِ	kasra	i	ar-Rimta	الرنه
◌ُ	damma	u	Burri	برّ
◌	damma tawila	$\bar{u}$(uu)	Kuurki	كوركى
◌	damma qasira	o	Obbo	وبو
◌	sukun	Omit	Atbra	اتبره
١	alif fatha	$\bar{a}$(aa)	Babanusa	بابنوسه
آ	alif madda	$\bar{a}$	Qur'an	قرآن
ى	alif maqsura	a	Marssa	مرسى
ة	ta marbuta	a	Rabwa	ربوه
◌ّ	shadda	doubling consonant.	Abbasiya	عباسيه
ي	ya kasra	$\bar{i}$(ii)	al-Hafiir	الحفير
ال (شمسيه)	al(shamsiya)	doubling	ash-shajara	الشجره
ال (قمريه)	al(qumariya)	at	al-wādi	الوادى
	Tanwin fatha	a^n	Beyta^n	بيتاً
	" kasra	i^n	Beyti^n	بيتٍ
	" damma	u^n	Beytu^n	بيتٌ

PROPOSED DIPHTHONGS

ow	as	in	habowba
aw	as	in	law
oo	as	in	boat
uu	as	in	boot
ii	as	in	seen
ey	as	in	beyt
ai	as	in	kaif
e	as	in	get