

1. A SOLUTION

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For each name written in a non-roman alphabet there should be only one internationally accepted way of writing in roman letters.

A solution that has been offered and is advocated by the United Nations is contained in the resolution of the first United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (1967, res. 9): one of the aims of international Standardization is

"to arrive at an agreement on a single romanization system, based on scientific principles, from each non-Roman alphabet or script, for international application".

This is known as the **single romanization principle**. In other words, for each name written in a non-Roman alphabet there should be only one internationally accepted way of writing in Roman letters. In the case of the Russian example above, this accepted spelling would be Šahty, according to a recommendation* adopted in 1987. In the case of the Arab example above, the UN prefers the system it approved itself, that is the amended Beirut system**.

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***) Resolution V/18 Romanization of the Russian alphabet for geographical names**

The conference, noting that the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics has officially adopted a system for romanizing geographical names of that country written in the Russian Cyrillic alphabet, noting also that this system has been applied on maps produced in the Soviet Union for international use, recommends that the GOST 1983 system of the Main Administration of Geodesy and Cartography, set out in the annex to the

present resolution, be adopted as the international system for the romanization of geographical names in the Cyrillic alphabet.

R.C.	R.	E x a m p l e s		R.C.	R.	E x a m p l e s	
а	a	Анапа	Anapa	с	s	Сасово	Sasovo
б	b	Бабушкин	Babuškin	т	t	Татта	Tatta
в	v	Вавилово	Vavilovo	у	u	Уржум	Uržum
г	g	Гагарин	Gagarin	ф	f	Фофаново	Fofanovo
д	d	Дудинка	Dudinka	х	h	Хохлома	Hohloma
е	e	Елисеевка	Eliseevka	ц	c	Цветково	Cvetkovo
ё	e	Ёлкино	Ėlkino	ч	č	Чечельник	Čečel'nik
		Псёл	Psěl	ш	š	Шишкино	Šiš'kino
ж	ž	Жужа	Žuža	щ	šč	Щукино	Ščukino
з	z	Звёздный	Zvězdnýj	ъ	"	Подъячево	Pod"jačevo
и	i	Идрица	Idrica	ы	y	Ыныкчанский	Ynykčanskij
й	j	Зарайск	Zarajsk	ь	'	Параньга	Paran'ga
к	k	Коканд	Kokand			Казань	Kazan'
л	l	Лалвар	Lalvar			Щучье	Ščuč'e
м	m	Маймак	Majmak	э	è	Элиста	Èlista
н	n	Нежин	Nežin	ю	ju	Юрино	Jurino
о	o	Ободовка	Obodovka			Юхнов	Juhnov
п	p	Пап	Pap			Юрюзань	Jurjuzan'
р	r	Ребриха	Rebriha	я	ja	Ямал	Jamal
						Язъяван	Jaz"javan
						Яя	Jaja
						Вязьма	Vjaz'ma

UNGEGN-accepted official GOST 1983 conversion system Cyrillic-Roman alphabet

**) The Conference,

Considering resolutions 11 and 12 of the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names,

Noting the system adopted by the Arabic experts at the conference held at Beirut in 1971, which is reproduced in the annex to document E/CONF.61/L.77,²⁵⁾

Further noting the practical amendments carried out and agreed upon by the representatives of the Arabic-speaking countries at their conference,

Recommends the adoption of the amended Beirut system, as shown in the annex to E/CONF.61/L.77, for the romanization of the geographical names within those Arabic-speaking countries where this system is officially acknowledged.

Conversion of Arab consonants into the Roman alphabet according to the Amended Beirut system

1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
ء				' ⁽¹⁾	ر			ر	r	ف	ف	غ	ف	f
ا			ا	- ²	ز			ز	z	ق	ق	ق	ق	q
ب	ب	ب	ب	b	س	س	س	س	s	ك	ك	ك	ك	k
ت	ت	ت	ت	t	ش	ش	ش	ش	sh	ل	ل	ل	ل	l
ث	ث	ث	ث	th	ص	ص	ص	ص	ṣ	م	م	م	م	m
ج	ج	ج	ج	j	ض	ض	ض	ض	ḍ	ن	ن	ن	ن	n
ح	ح	ح	ح	ḥ	ط	ط	ط	ط	ṭ	ه	ه	ه	ه	h
خ	خ	خ	خ	kh	ظ	ظ	ظ	ظ	ẓ	و			و	w
د			د	d	ع	ع	ع	ع	'	ي	ي	ي	ي	y
ذ			ذ	dh	غ	غ	غ	غ	gh					

Conversion of vowels according to the Amended Beirut system (see below)

Vowels, diphthongs and diacritical marks (• stands for any consonant)

•	a	•	(¹)	آ	á
•	aw	اَ (•)	ā	•	a ⁿ
•	ay	إ	ā	•	i ⁿ
•	i	ي	ī	•	u ⁿ
•	u	و	ū	•	(²)

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