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**United Nations Group of Experts on
Geographical Names****2019 session**

New York, 29 April–3 May 2019

Item 16 of the provisional agenda*

**Writing systems and pronunciation (Working
Group on Romanization Systems)****Report of the Working Group on Romanization Systems:
current status of United Nations romanization systems for
geographical names****Summary****

The Working Group on Romanization Systems was established under the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names. The full report of the Working Group provides an outline of the main developments in respect of the status of various romanization and writing systems, including for Arabic, Georgian, Kazakh, Kurdish, Lao, Montenegrin, Sinhala and Tamazight.

A new system for the romanization of Arabic was adopted in 2017, at the Eleventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names ([E/CONF.105/165](#), resolution XI/3) and, accordingly, the Working Group's report on Arabic has been updated to reflect the agreement (see www.eki.ee/wgrs/rom1_ar.pdf).

Since the Eleventh Conference, the Working Group has met once, at the Institut géographique national in Paris on 20 March 2018. Full details on romanization systems are available on the website of the Working Group (www.eki.ee/wgrs).

* [GEGN.2/2019/1](#).

** The full report was prepared by Catherine Cheetham and Peeter Päll, Convenors, Working Group on Romanization Systems. The report is available at unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEKN/1st_session_UNGEKN.html, in the language of submission only, as document [GEGN.2/2019/11/CRP.11](#).

