

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

Item 12 of the Provisional Agenda

Activities relating to the Working Group on Country Names

UNGEGN list of country names *

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* Prepared by the UNGEGN Working Group on Country Names

UNGEGN List of Country Names

Introduction

During its 16th Session (New York, 1992), the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) re-convened its working group to establish the official forms of country names. The new working group was given the task of updating a list of country names drawn up in 1986.

This document is the successor to that first effort and has been compiled using Unicode-compliant fonts throughout. It contains entries for the 193 countries generally recognized by the international community to be independent states. It is current as of October 2007. All of the countries listed in this document are United Nations member states, with the exception of the Holy See, which has permanent observer status in the UN.

The principal aim of this document is to present country names in the language or languages used in an official capacity within each country in the world. These names, presented in the **National Official** name section, are provided in two forms: the short names, which may or may not be official, are the ones in common use, while the formal names are those used in an official diplomatic context. The form of the article is provided where necessary to indicate gender.

The authority for country names used officially in the United Nations is the UN Terminology Section, which maintains the United Nations Multilingual Terminology Database (or UNTERM), available on the Internet at <http://unterm.un.org>. This database contains records for each country that list, among other things, the short and formal country names in the six official languages of the UN. This information has been extracted from the UNTERM database and, with some minor modifications, is presented in the **UN Official** names section of this document.

In this document, languages written in non-Roman scripts are presented in their native scripts whenever technically possible, and then these scripts are romanized according to systems approved by the United Nations (see the website of the UNGEGN Working Group on Romanization Systems at <http://www.eki.ee/wgrs/> for the latest *Report on the Current Status of United Nations Romanization Systems for Geographical Names*). These languages include Amharic, Arabic, Bengali, Bulgarian, Chinese, Greek, Hebrew, Hindi, Khmer, Macedonian Cyrillic, Nepali, Persian, Russian, Serbian, Tamil, Thai, and Urdu. For those languages without a UN-approved romanization system, the most widely used international system is applied and its name listed in the **Notes** section of the document.

Some country names used by national authorities are different from those used by the local authorities or by the UN. These differences are noted for information purposes in a section labeled **Names used by a national authority**. However, only those national authorities that have requested that a reference be included are represented in this section.

A question mark [?] denotes the absence of a known established name in a given language.

The UNGEGN Working Group on Country Names welcomes any comments to improve or update this document. Please forward these comments to the convenor by electronic mail at dillonli@state.gov or by post to Leo Dillon / INR/GGI Room 6741 HST / U.S. Department of State / Washington DC 20520-6510 / U.S.A.

Explanation of entries

1. Title section contains:

1.a: two-letter **country code** from the International Organization for Standardization (ISO 3166).

1.b: **country name**, as found in the English “Short Name” field of the UNTERM website;

2. National Official name section gives the name of the country in the language(s) used in official government business within that country.

2.a: **language code and name** from the International Organization for Standardization (ISO 639-1), with the name in English. Where codes are not available, language names are given in English from the best available sources;

2.b: **short name** of country (name used in colloquial or informal contexts);

2.c: **formal name** of country.

3. UN Official name section gives the names used officially within the United Nations in the six official UN languages: English, French, Spanish, Russian, Chinese and Arabic. Other than a few minor modifications, these names are the same as those found in the UNTERM website.

4. Names used by a national authority section provides an opportunity for countries whose national authorities use a country name different from the name used officially in the UN to make reference to a document or Internet website address where that information is available.

5. Notes section contains information relating to languages, transliteration systems used, reference works, and technical issues.

List of Abbreviations:

BGN United States **B**oard on **G**eographic **N**ames

PCGN **P**ermanent **C**ommittee on **G**eographical **N**ames for British Official Use

CZ CZECH REPUBLIC		
Language	Short name	Formal name
<u>National Official</u>		
cz: Czech	Česko	Česká republika
<u>UN Official</u>		
English	Czech Republic (the)	Czech Republic (the)
French	République tchèque (la)	République tchèque (la)
Spanish	República Checa (la)	República Checa (la)
Russian	Чешская Республика	Чешская Республика
Chinese	捷克共和国	捷克共和国
Arabic	الجمهورية التشيكية	الجمهورية التشيكية
Notes		

DK DENMARK		
Language	Short name	Formal name
<u>National Official</u>		
da: Danish	Danmark	Kongeriget Danmark
<u>UN Official</u>		
English	Denmark	Kingdom of Denmark (the)
French	Danemark (le)	Royaume du Danemark (le)
Spanish	Dinamarca	Reino de Dinamarca (el)
Russian	Дания	Королевство Дания
Chinese	丹麦	丹麦王国
Arabic	الدانمرك	مملكة الدانمرك
Notes		