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SEVENTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
GROUP OF EXPERTS ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

A GLOSSARY OF TECHNICAL TERMINOLOGY FOR EMPLOYMENT
IN THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

Proposed list of standardized terms as prepared by the
Terminology Service of the Translation Division, Department
of Conference Services of the United Nations Office at Geneva

FOREWORD

The enclosed proposed list includes:

- terms already included and defined in the glossary of the Working Group on Definitions
- terms to be added with regard to the already existing terms and presented in square brackets []
- reference sources to ISO/TC 46/SC 3 "Information and Documentation" and ISO/TC 46/SC 2 "Conversion of written languages" documents.

1. While aware of the fact that the Working Group on Definitions has been working for many years on the Glossary of technical terminology for employment in the standardization of geographical names (E/CONF.69/L.1 and Add.1), the Terminology Service, considering that some terms and definitions have yet to be finalized, submits herewith a proposed list of standardized terms (in English, French and Spanish versions) which the Group of Experts might wish to refer to the Working Group on Definitions as a contribution for discussion in its further work on the Glossary of technical terminology.

2. As has been stated before Committee V by the Chief of the Terminology and Technical Documentation Section of the United Nations Office at Geneva, the Terminology Service is willing to co-operate with the Group of Experts on the above subject as well as in the matter of country names.

3. Co-ordination between the Group of Experts and the Terminology Service could help to avoid possible discrepancies and duplication of work in the field of country names and related entities and to promote the use of standardized transliteration systems within the United Nations.

List of terms relating to geographic names already defined or in process of adoption by ISO/TC 46/SC 3 "Vocabulary of Information and Documentation" and ISO/TC 46/SC 2 "Conversion of written languages".

1. [ACRONYM] [MOT EN FORME DE SIGLE] [SIGLA]

A logogram which is pronouncable as a word in the language of the complete name for which purpose euphonic letters may have been added.

ISO/TC 46/SC 3/N 75 E.

2. ALPHABET ALPHABET ALFABETO

A finite ordered set of signs used to represent the sounds of a spoken language in written or other forms.

ISO/DIS 5127/I.

3. [ABBREVIATION] [ABBREVIATION] [ABBREVIATURA]

Excision of letters in a word leaving only those essential for comprehension.

ISO/TC 46/SC 3/N 75 E.

12. IDEOGRAM
IDEOGRAPH

IDEOGRAMME

IDEOGRAMA

Sign, representation of an idea which may depict an object, a sound and represents the word designating the object.

ISO/TC 46/SC 3/N 75 E.

13. INDEX

INDEX

INDICE

List of names and subjects in a document, with a reference added to enable them to be located in the document.

Note 1: The order of classification may be alphabetical, systematic or chronological.

Note 2: An index may either form part of the publication it supplements, or may be published separately.

ISO/TC 46/SC 3/49 E.

14. [LANGUAGE]

[LANGAGE]

[LENGUA, IDIOMA]

A system of signs for communication, usually consisting of a vocabulary and rules

ISO/DIS 5127/I.

15. [LANGUAGE, NATUREL]

[LANGAGE NATUREL]

[LENGUA NATURAL]

A language which has evolved and whose rules reflect current usage without necessarily being explicitly prescribed.

ISO/DIS 5127/I.

16. [LANGUAGE, ARTIFICIAL]

[LANGAGE ARTIFICIEL]

[LENGUA ARTIFICIAL]

A constructed language based on a set of prescribed rules that are established prior to its use.

ISO/DIS 5127/I.

17. [LANGUAGE, SPECIALIZED]

[LANGAGE SPECIALISE]

[LENGUA JE ESPECIALIZADO]

A language used for specific purposes by a particular social group.

ISO/DIS 5127/I.

18. [LANGUAGE, TECHNICAL]

[LANGAGE TECHNIQUE]

[LENGUAJE TECNICO]

A language based on a natural language, but designed to reduce ambiguities for the purpose of assisting communication in a specific field of knowledge.

ISO/DIS 5127/I.

19. [LEXEME]

[LEXEME]

[LEXEMA]

Lexical morpheme.

ISO/TC 46/SC 3/73 E.

35. TRANSCRIPTION (2) TRANSCRIPTION TRANSCRIPCION
- The process of representing the characters of a language, whatever the original system of writing, by the phonetic system of letters or signs of the conversion language.
- ISO/TC 46/SC 2/92 E.
36. TRANSLITERATION (1) TRANSLITTERATION TRANSLITERACION
- The process of representing the characters of an entirely alphabetical system of writing by the characters of the conversion alphabet.
- ISO/TC 46/SC 2/92 E.
37. TRANSLITERATION (2) TRANSLITTERATION TRANSLITERACION
- Representation of the signs (letters) in any alphabet by those of another.
- ISO/TC 46/SC 3/N 75 E.
38. VOCABULARY VOCABULAIRE VOCABULARIO
- The set of terms used in a language.
- ISO/DIS 5127/I.
39. WORD MOT PALABRA
- The smallest entity in a language which can convey a specific meaning by itself, and which is capable of existing as a separate unit in a sentence.
- ISO/DIS 5127/I.
40. WRITING ECRITURE ESCRITURA
- Representation of a language by graphic signs.
- ISO/TC 46/SC 3/N 75 E.