

White House, Casablanca or ad-Dar al-Baydā
UN work on place-names

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Summary

Several factors complicate the global use of place-names, such as differences in language and writing systems, use of exonyms and more besides. The United Nations has therefore been engaged since the 1960s in an effort to achieve international standardization of place-names, mainly through its expert group, the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN). This group comprises experts from the current twenty-two linguistic/geographical divisions to which the different countries belong. UN conferences on the subject of geographical names have in principle been held at five-yearly intervals. In addition, working groups have been formed to address specific issues, including exonyms, romanization systems, country names, terminology, and training courses in toponymy. Sweden has been involved in this UN work since the first conference, held in Geneva in 1967.

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