

WIPO



SCIT/SDWG/10/4

ORIGINAL: English

DATE: October 16, 2008

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
GENEVA

STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES STANDARDS AND DOCUMENTATION WORKING GROUP

Tenth Session
Geneva, November 17 to 21, 2008

REVISION OF WIPO STANDARD ST.3 (TASK No. 33)

Document prepared by the Secretariat

Introduction: short country name of the Republic of Moldova

1. On April 8, 2008, the Maintenance Agency for International Standard ISO 3166 (ISO 3166/MA) announced, in ISO 3166-1 Newsletter No.VI-2, the replacement of the short country name "Republic of Moldova" with "Moldova", keeping the same two-letter code "MD" to represent the name of the country.
2. Subsequently, the International Bureau issued Circular SCIT 2653, dated May 13, 2008, requesting the members of the Standing Committee on Information Technologies (SCIT) to express their views, by correspondence, as to whether they agreed to change the current entry for the "Republic of Moldova" to "Moldova" in WIPO Standard ST.3, in accordance with the announcement by the ISO 3166/MA referred to in the previous paragraph.
3. It was not possible, however, to reach a consensus by correspondence since the State Agency on Intellectual Property of the Republic of Moldova and the State Office for Inventions and Trademarks of Romania did not agree with the proposed revision of WIPO Standard ST.3. Circular SCIT 2653 and the replies thereto are available on WIPO's website at: <http://www.wipo.int/scit/en/mailbox/>.

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4. In order to inform SCIT Members of the results of the proposal given in Circular SCIT 2653, the IB issued Circular SCIT 2657, dated July 11, 2008, in which it was also announced that an item on this matter would be included in the draft agenda of the tenth session of the SDWG.

5. It should be noted that WIPO Standard ST.3 is aligned with International Standard ISO 3166-1:2006, “Codes for the Representation of Names of Countries and their Subdivisions - Part 1: Country Codes”, and with the announcements published in ISO 3166-1 Newsletters. The list of country names in International Standard ISO 3166-1 is based on the list in the “Standard Country or Area Codes for Statistical Use” established by the United Nations Statistics Division. The names in the United Nations Statistics Division list are based on the *Terminology Bulletin No. 347/Rev.1: Country Names*, prepared by the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services of the United Nations Secretariat.

New information from UNTERM

6. The following information is available in the Updates on Country Names area of the United Nations Multilingual Terminology Database (UNTERM) website:

“On 10 September 2008 the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Moldova informed the United Nations that his Government decided to replace ‘Moldova’ in all cases with ‘Republic of Moldova’. This superseded [the] announcement of 6 October 2006: to replace ‘Republic of Moldova’ in all alphabetical listings with ‘Moldova’.”

(See: <http://unterm.un.org/dgaacs/unterm.nsf/WebView/2A419926123EEB2185256DC700440A69?OpenDocument>).

7. With regard to the said information, the UNTERM website also provides copies of a United Nations Interoffice Memorandum from the Chief of Protocol and a *note verbale* from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Moldova that are reproduced in the Annex to this working document.

Proposal by the International Bureau

8. Taking into account the information from the UNTERM referred to in paragraphs 6 and 7, above, the IB considers it unnecessary to revise the short country name “Republic of Moldova” in WIPO Standard ST.3.

9. At the moment of preparing this working document, the ISO 3166/MA has not yet announced any action regarding the new short country name of the Republic of Moldova. It is expected, however, that, after completing the corresponding approval procedure, the ISO 3166/MA will issue a newsletter announcing the new short name of the Republic of Moldova. The IB is therefore of the opinion that there no longer exists a need to revise the short country name of the Republic of Moldova in WIPO Standard ST.3.

10. The SDWG is invited to:

*(a) note the information provided above;
and*

(b) suspend the revision of WIPO Standard ST.3, keeping the short country name of the Republic of Moldova in WIPO Standard ST.3 as is at present, i.e., “Republic of Moldova”.

[Annex follows]

ANNEX



TO: Mr. Shaaban M. Shaaban
A: Under-Secretary-General
DGACM

DATE: 10 September 2008

THROUGH:
S/C DE:

REFERENCE:

FROM: Alice Hecht
DE: Chief of Protocol

SUBJECT: Republic of Moldova
OBJET:

This is to inform you that the Government of the Republic of Moldova has decided to replace "Moldova" with:

1. Short form: Republic of Moldova
2. Formal name: Republic of Moldova

A copy of the note verbale from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Moldova addressed to the Protocol and Liaison Service dated 9 September 2008 is attached.

Best regards.



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND EUROPEAN INTEGRATION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

No. DM-06/4- 15671

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova presents its compliments to the United Nations Protocol and Liaison Service and with reference to the letters No. 073, 074 of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Moldova to the United Nations dated 4 and 6 October 2006 addressed to Ms. Alice HECHT, Chief of Protocol of the United Nations, has the honor to inform that the Government of the Republic of Moldova reconfirms the official name of the country as used within the United Nations before 6 October 2006. In this regard, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration has the honor to request the assistance of the United Nations Protocol and Liaison Service in order to ensure that from now on the official name of the country – “**Republic of Moldova**” be used for all the UN alphabetical listing purposes (e.g. in paperwork, in the directory “Permanent Missions to the United Nations” (Blue Book), on the plates in Conference rooms, including the General Assembly Hall, other UN listings).

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova expresses its confidence that all requested relevant changes will be operated timely and properly.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United Nations Protocol and Liaison Service the assurances of its highest consideration.



Chişinău, 09 September, 2008

UNITED NATIONS PROTOCOL
AND LIAISON SERVICE
New York

[End of Annex and of document]