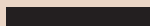


# Guidelines standards - country names and map of territories



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# Introduction

This document provides general guidance to all UN-Habitat personnel on how to follow the United Nations guidelines standards when it comes to country names and map of territories. It lists one of the main instances of known disputes between UN recognized sovereign states and for each of them identifies three features to be the main ones of concern: **(i)** Short background and legislative reference **(ii)** Footnote/reference **(iii)** Map.

It also provides guidance on how to refer to States non members of the United Nations and to the Permanent Observers to the General Assembly.

## General guidelines

- (i) The production and publication of maps within the United Nations is regulated by Administrative Instructions “Regulations for the Control and Limitation of Documentation – Guidelines for the Publication of Maps” of 20 January 1997 (ST/AI/189/Add.25/Rev.1).
- (ii) All UN-HABITAT maps should be consistent with UN maps as they appear on the UN Cartographic websites: <https://www.un.org/geospatial/mapsgeo/generalmaps>
- (iii) The maps should carry a disclaimer to the effect that:

“The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.”

## Guidelines

### Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

#### Short background

The Falkland Islands (Malvinas) has been on the United Nations list of Non-Self-Governing Territories since 1946. Under Chapter XI of the Charter of the United Nations, the Non-Self-Governing Territories are defined as "territories whose people have not yet attained a full measure of self-government". At the 25th meeting of the Fourth Committee in the 1st session of the General Assembly, held on 6 December 1946, the delegation of Argentina made a reservation to the effect that the Argentine government did not recognize British sovereignty in the Falkland Islands (Malvinas). The delegation of the United Kingdom made a parallel reservation, not recognizing Argentine sovereignty in these islands. The United Nations recognizes the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as the administering power of Falkland Islands.

#### Footnote

"A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)".

#### Map

<https://www.un.org/geospatial/content/non-self-governing-territories-en//www.un.org/geospatial/content/map-world>  
<https://www.un.org/Depts/Cartographic/map/profile/world00.pdf>

### Jammu and Kashmir

#### Short background

It is a region administered by India as a union territory and consists of the southern portion of the larger Kashmir region, which has been the subject of a dispute between India and Pakistan since 1947, and between India and China since 1962. The Security Council attempted to play a role in the mediation at the inception of the conflict. However, its recommendations and attempts at mediation failed to bring about permanent resolution. Security Council Resolution 47 dated April 1948 still remains the Security Council's outlined structure for a recommended permanent solution.

#### Footnote

"Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties."

#### Map

<https://www.un.org/geospatial/content/south-asia>

### Kosovo

## Short background

Security Council Resolution 1244 of 1999 provides a framework for the resolution of the conflict in Kosovo by authorizing the deployment of an international civilian and military presence that would provide an international transitional administration and security presence that would oversee the return of refugees and the withdrawal of military forces from Kosovo.

The resolution also states that the international civilian presence will facilitate a political process to determine the future status of Kosovo, and regards Kosovo as a territory.

## Footnote

"Any reference to Kosovo in United Nations documents and United Nations websites, whether to the territory, institutions or population, is to be understood in full compliance with Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo. Kosovo is therefore not listed as a country".

## Map

<https://www.un.org/geospatial/content/kosovo-region-0>

## Sudan and South Sudan

### Short background

Resolution 1999 (2011) adopted by the Security Council at its 6582nd meeting on 13 July 2011 recommended to the General Assembly that the Republic of South Sudan be admitted to membership in the United Nations. General Assembly Resolution A/RES/65/308 dated 14 July 2011 admitted the Republic of South Sudan to membership in the United Nations. Several border disputes with Sudan continue to strain ties. The main row is over border region of Abyei, where a referendum for the residents to decide whether to join south or north has been delayed over voter eligibility. Another border conflict zone is the Nuba Mountains region of Sudan's South Kordofan state, where violence continues.

## Footnote

"The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined. Final status of the Abyei area is not yet determined."

## Map

<https://www.un.org/Depts/Cartographic/map/profile/world00.pdf>  
<https://www.un.org/geospatial/content/sudan-0>

## Taiwan, Province of China

## Short background

The question of "Taiwan" in the United Nations is regulated by General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) of 25 October 1971 [ . . . ], entitled, "Restoration of the lawful rights of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations". By that resolution, the General Assembly decided to recognize "the representatives of the Government of the People's Republic of China [as] the only lawful representatives of China to the United Nations" and "to restore all its rights to the People's Republic of China and to recognize the representatives of its Government as the only legitimate representatives of China to the United Nations." Since the adoption of that resolution the United Nations considers "Taiwan" as a province of China with no separate status, and the Secretariat strictly abides by this decision in the exercise of its responsibilities.

## Reference / Footnote

Reference by the United Nations to "Taiwan" should read "Taiwan, Province of China and the following explanatory footnote can be added : "The designation employed do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory or area, or of its authorities"

## Map

<https://reliefweb.int/map/china/national-reference-map-china>

## Ukraine – Crimea

### Short background

Resolution A/RES/68/262 entitled "Territorial Integrity of Ukraine" was adopted by the General Assembly on 27 March 2014. The relevant operative paragraphs of the resolution with respect to the status of Crimea are as follows: OP 1 "The General Assembly... affirms its commitment to the sovereignty, political independence, unity and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders"; OP 5: "The General Assembly... underscores that the referendum held on 16 March 2014, having no validity, cannot form the basis for any alteration of the status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea or of the city of Sevastopol"; OP 6: "The General Assembly calls upon all States, international organizations and specialized agencies not to recognize any alteration of the status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol on the basis of the above-mentioned referendum and to refrain from any action or dealing that might be interpreted as recognizing any such altered status."

### Reference

The United Nations proceed on the basis that the "Autonomous Republic of Crimea" and the "city of Sevastopol" remain a part of Ukraine. Hence The correct term to be used in United Nations documents for this territory be "Crimea" or "the Autonomous Republic of Crimea".

### Map

<https://www.un.org/geospatial/content/ukraine>

## Western Sahara

### Short background

Western Sahara is a disputed territory claimed by both the Kingdom of Morocco and the Popular Front for the Liberation of the Saguia el Hamra and Rio de Oro (Polisario Front), which is an independence movement based in Algeria. It is listed by the United Nations as a non-decolonized territory and is thus included in the United Nations list of Non-Self-Governing Territories. Under Chapter XI of the Charter of the United Nations, the Non-Self-Governing Territories are defined as "territories whose people have not yet attained a full measure of self-government".

## Footnote

"The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations."

## Map

<https://www.un.org/dppa/decolonization/en/nsqt/western-sahara>

## States non members of the United Nations (Observer States)

Observers States are States non members of the United Nations but are recognized by the United Nations as countries a with a national government and as such have the capacity to participate in the sessions and work of the General Assembly and its subsidiary bodies and have the capacity to submit national reports.

## Holy See

### Short background

General Assembly Resolution A/58/314 dated 16 July 2004 acknowledged that the Holy See, in its capacity as an Observer State, shall be accorded the rights and privileges of participation in the sessions and work of the General Assembly and the international conferences convened under the auspices of the Assembly or other organs of the United Nations, as well as in United Nations conferences.

### Reference

Permanent Observer State

## Map

<https://www.un.org/Depts/Cartographic/map/profile/world.pdf>  
<https://www.un.org/geospatial/content/central-and-eastern-europe>

## State of Palestine

### Short background

On 29 November 2012, the General Assembly passed resolution 67/19. In operative paragraph 2 of that resolution, the General Assembly decided to: "...accord to Palestine non-member observer State status in the United Nations, without

prejudice to the acquired rights, privileges and role of the Palestine Liberation Organization in the United Nations as the representative of the Palestinian people, in accordance with the relevant resolutions and practice”.

Palestine has therefore been accorded the status of a non-Member observer State by the General Assembly.

## Reference

For United Nations purposes, Palestine may generally be referred to as a State or country; and its authorities may generally be identified as the Government of Palestine.

Palestine should be referred to as “State of Palestine” in all official documents of the United Nations and on nameplates to be used in all United Nations meetings.

This does not preclude the use of the term “Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem” since the General Assembly, after the adoption of resolution 67/19, has continued to use the term “Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem” to refer as a whole to the geographical area of the Palestinian territory occupied by Israel since 1967. The Secretariat should be guided by this practice and should not create its own new terminology, such as “Occupied State of Palestine” or “Occupied Palestinian State”.

## Map

In United Nations maps it is usually referred to as the West Bank and Gaza. Any depiction of the territory of the State of Palestine is very sensitive.

<https://www.un.org/geospatial/content/israel>

## Cook Islands and Niue

### Short background

Cook Islands and Niue are States recognized by the General Assembly as self-governing territories in free association with New Zealand. Under Chapter XI of the Charter of the United Nations, the Non-Self-Governing Territories are defined as “territories whose people have not yet attained a full measure of self-government”. Cooks Island and Niue are not members of the United Nations but are members of specialized agencies of the UN such as WHO and UNESCO and the Secretary-General, as depositary of multilateral treaties, recognized the full treaty-making capacity of the Cook Islands in 1992 and of Niue in 1994. They have since become parties to a number of international treaties, such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

## Reference

States not members of the United Nations

## Map

<https://www.un.org/Depts/Cartographic/map/profile/world.pdf>

## Observer Status with the General Assembly

### Sovereign Military Order of Malta

### Short background

The Sovereign Military Order of Malta is not recognized as a country by the United Nations and does not have a national government. It was recognized permanent observer status at the United Nations by General Assembly Resolution A/RES/48/265 dated 30 August 1994.

## Reference

Permanent observer.

## Map

Non-Applicable

## **Exhaustive list of non-member States, entities and organizations having received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly**

The present note contains a list, in alphabetical order, of the 114 non-member States, entities and organizations having received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly :  
<https://undocs.org/en/A/INF/75/3/Rev.1>