

United States Board on Geographic Names
Foreign Names Committee
Statement Regarding the Name of Burma and the Designation of its Capital¹

In 1989, the State Law and Order Restoration Council of the Union of Burma changed the name of the country to Myanmar. The United States Government does not acknowledge the name change.

The BGN Conventional short-form and long-form names are Burma and Union of Burma, respectively. The BGN Approved short-form and long-form names for this country are Myanma Naingngandaw and Pyidaungzu Thammada Myanma Naingngandaw, respectively.

More information on bilateral relations with Burma may be found at the website of the Department of State's Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs².

The largest city in Burma, Yangon, has a BGN Conventional name of Rangoon. This city is listed as a capital of an independent state (PPLC) in the GEOnet Names Server (GNS), and is treated as the primary capital city for purposes of the Department of State.

The capital city as declared by the Burmese Government is rendered in Roman script by that Government as Nay Pyi Taw, the BGN Approved name. A common spelling for this city in English language sources is Naypyidaw, or sometimes Naypyitaw. In the GNS, Naypyidaw is listed as a Variant name, designed to guide the user to the BGN Approved name of Nay Pyi Taw.

Congress established the BGN in its present form in 1947 with the express mandate to standardize geographic nomenclature for official U.S. Government use.

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¹ APPROVED 9 March 2021

² <https://www.state.gov/u-s-relations-with-burma/>