



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General

2 July 2007

Original: English

**Ninth United Nations Conference on the
Standardization of Geographical Names**

New York, 21 - 30 August 2007

Item 10 of the provisional agenda*

Exonyms

World place names: Exonyms and endonyms in Finnish publications

Submitted by Finland **

* E/CONF.98/1.

** Prepared by Pirjo Mikkonen and Sirkka Paikkala, Research Institute for the Languages of Finland, Finland.

World place names: Exonyms and endonyms in Finnish publications

During the period 2002 – 2007, several books have been published indicating Finnish exonyms.

The Research Institute for the Languages of Finland published an updated version of the handbook *Maiden nimet suomeksi, ruotsiksi, saameksi, englanniksi, ranskaksi ja saksaksi* [Country names in Finnish, Swedish, Saami, English, French, and German] in 2003. Besides the short and full-length names of the independent states, the book also includes names of noteworthy non-independent countries (E.g. *Netherlands (the), the Kingdom of the Netherlands; Netherlands Antilles; Cayman Islands.*) If there is a Finnish exonym for the name, it is mentioned in the book. ISBN: 952-5446-00-X.

In 2005 the Research Institute for the Languages of Finland checked 145,000 place names for *The Reader's Digest World Atlas, Finnish edition*, which was published in 2006. Of the names, ca. five percent were exonyms. Since the atlas was intended for the general public, special attention was paid to the Finnish exonyms and the Romanization of the names written in the Cyrillic alphabet according to the Finnish national pattern of transliteration. This covered the nomenclatures of Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Bulgaria, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia, together with the nomenclature of Greece. ISBN: 951-584-697-8.

In 2006 the Research Institute for the Languages of Finland published a work titled *Venäjän federaation paikannimiä. Oikeinkirjoitus- ja painotusopas*. [Place names in the Federation of Russia. Handbook of spelling and stress]. It includes 8,057 place names in the area of the Federation of Russia; the towns and the largest villages, the most noteworthy rivers and other waterways; the artificial lakes, the mountains, the steppes, and the natural conservation areas. Moreover, it includes 436 place names from the areas of Ukraine and Belarus. The names are written in both Roman and Cyrillic letters and they are alphabetized according to their spelling according to the Roman alphabet. The transliteration was carried out by using the Finnish national Romanization pattern (Standard SFS 4900, 1998), which guides the speakers of Finnish to pronounce the names correctly and is thus useful in general prose written in Finnish. The handbook gives the Finnish exonym of the name in all instances where there is one. ISBN: 952-5446-18-2.

Mr. Kerkko Hakulinen edited a Finnish-language book *Paikannimet* [Place Names] in 2006. It includes 6,200 entries of the world's place names: the list in alphabetical order covers the continents, the countries, the important towns, and the most noteworthy natural sites. The names of the first-level administrative regions, the generic terms, the official languages together with explanations, and the country codes of cars are included. The entries are in a form that is in compliance with the Finnish language, i.e. many of

them are exonyms. The names and the generic terms (e.g. *meri* 'sea' or *sea*) are also included in the official languages of the countries and in English. ISBN: 951-0-27676-6.

In the spring of 2007, by request, the Research Institute sent a list of exonym forms (states, the most important towns, large waterways and mountains) used in Finland to the exonym working group acting in connection with the EuroGeoNames-project.