



Economic and Social Council

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Tenth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names

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Item 7 of the provisional agenda*

Measures taken and proposed to implement United Nations resolutions on the standardization of geographical names, including the economic and social benefits

Initiative for the preparation of an act on place names

Submitted by Finland**

Summary***

The Institute for the Languages of Finland and the National Land Survey of Finland made a joint proposal on 19 December 2011 through the Ministry of Education and Culture and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, respectively. The proposal included the suggestion that the Government of Finland should take action on the preparation of an act on place names and the creation of an official body in charge of place names.

The justifications for the proposal included a detailed account of (a) the need for such an act in Finland; (b) the role of place names in societal activities; (c) the situation in Finland from the perspective of planned names, including administrative areas, traffic operating points such as ports, airports, railway stations, planned areas and sparsely populated areas, area names, street names, and road names; (d) the situation in Finland from the perspective of traditional place names, memorial names, the media and private institutes of cartography; and (e) previous measures to prepare legislation on place names.

Reference was also made to (a) the official handling of place names beyond the borders of Finland, especially in the Nordic countries; (b) United Nations resolutions on the creation of national authorities on place names; and (c) the number of national authorities on place names in the States Members of the United Nations.

* E/CONF.101/1.

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*** The full report is available in the language of submission only from <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/ungegnConf10.html>.

