Economic and Social Council

**Tenth United Nations Conference on the
Standardization of Geographical Names**
New York, 31 July-9 August 2012
Item 8 (b) of the provisional agenda*
National standardization: office treatment of names

Address names of islands with identical names

Submitted by Finland**

Summary*

There are over 100,000 lakes or ponds and nearly 60,000 islands in Finland. Currently there are more people living on the islands than ever before. In 2011, according to the Ministry of Employment and the Economy, a total of nearly 20,000 islands without fixed road connections had either a permanent or a part-time settlement. The islands with regular settlements were inhabited by nearly 9,000 permanent and 60,000 part-time inhabitants. When vacation residences were included, the total number of people using island-based residences on a regular basis was 300,000.

Residential buildings on islands and other locations beyond the road network also need to be given an address. Island names can be used as address names simply by adding an address number. However, one municipality may comprise several islands with the same name. In 2006 and 2011, respectively, the Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities and the Institute for the Languages of Finland issued instructions on how address names should be formed in such cases.

It is essential that the traditional standardized basic map names are not changed. If there are several different locations with the same name, then the most central location is preserved as an address name and the other address names are distinguished from each other by adding, for example, the name of a nearby village, lake or a wider area.

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