

2 July 2002
English
Original: Spanish

**Eighth United Nations Conference on the
Standardization of Geographical Names**
Berlin, 27 August-5 September 2002
Item 9 (d) of the provisional agenda*
**National standardization: administrative structure
of national names authorities**

National authorities for geographical names in Spain

Document submitted by Spain**

* E/CONF.94/1.

** Prepared by Adela Alcázan and Margarita Azcárate of the National Geographical Institute.

Summary

This document indicates the national names authorities in Spain, bearing in mind its special territorial and administrative organization into autonomous communities.

The introduction refers to the basic administrative division in Spain, which may be summarized as: autonomous communities, provinces, islands and municipalities, the latter being Spain's basic territorial unit.

Determination of the names of these local entities falls within the competence of the autonomous communities. For these names to be official for all purposes in Spain, they have to be entered in the State Administration's Register of Local Entities.

With regards to the other geographical names not included in the Register of Local Entities, the bilingual autonomous communities, which are assigned by law powers with respect to the standardization of their toponymy, have to be distinguished from the rest, which have no specific attribution of powers with regard to geographical names.

Within the State Administration, the National Geographical Institute performs toponymy-related functions not assumed by the autonomous communities and provides official advice with respect to geographical names. In addition, the Geographical Names Commission of the Supreme Geographical Council, which comes under the Ministry of Development, acts as a coordinating body and prepares studies and proposals regarding geographical names.

Lastly, the basic data on the State and autonomous authorities responsible for geographical names in Spain are given.
