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

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Item 12 (a) of the provisional agenda\*

**Toponymic data files: data collection procedures**

**Processing and maintenance of toponymic information for the  
maps at scale 1:50,000, Geographical Names Database of Latvia**

**Submitted by Latvia\*\***

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## Summary

The Laboratory of Toponymy was founded in 1994 at the State Land Service of Republic of Latvia for the purpose of processing and maintaining toponymic information for maps at scale 1:50,000. Since the official information on geographical names in Latvia was inadequate, extensive fieldwork was undertaken to collect and verify the names of natural features, farms, villages and the like. In addition, maps and card files were reviewed.

The Laboratory of Toponymy developed the theory and methodology for the electronic Geographical Names Database of Latvia in 1998. The first entries were made soon afterwards. The digital Satellite Map of Latvia (*Arc Info*, scale 1:50,000) now serves as the source of the basic toponymic information for the Database. Certain fields of information, containing approximately 60,000 names, have already been imported into the Database from that map. Checking and advanced processing of that data is ongoing. The Database is expected to become the main source of toponymic information for maps at scale 1:50,000.

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