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

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Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

**Reports by Governments on the situation in their countries
and on the progress made in the standardization of
geographical names since the Eighth Conference****Report of Latvia****Submitted by Latvia******Summary*****

The legislation of the Republic of Latvia lays down the general principles of treatment of geographical names and responsibilities of different bodies in establishing official names. However, the lack of a national standardization programme and poor coordination of the efforts between different authorities hampers progress. Cases of erroneous officially approved place names and discrepancy between the official names and those in local usage are serious problems. The preservation of a national heritage of geographical names, local peculiarities and the traditional spelling of names in different regions of Latvia is also a most important task.

The main achievements during the reporting period in Latvia included the following:

(a) Constant and successful collaboration between cartographers and geographical names specialists in the framework of all State mapping programmes, both civilian and military;

(b) The completion and publication of a topographic map of Latvia with a scale of 1:50,000 (the toponymy of the map was compiled by geographical names specialists);

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** Prepared by Vita Strautniece (Latvia), Geospatial Information Agency.

*** The full text of the report is being issued in English only as document E/CONF.98/134/Add.1.



(c) The development and maintenance of a geographical names database of Latvia, containing 115,700 names of 97,600 objects;

(d) Participation in the European geographical names infrastructure project, EuroGeoNames;

(e) Continuous work on compiling national and local gazetteers and geographical name dictionaries, serving as sources of information, aid for place name standardization and popularizing place names as a national cultural heritage. The most significant work was the Latvian village names dictionary, published in 2007, comprising 14,012 names of 8,879 villages.
