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**EIGHTH UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES**

Organizational measures taken by the host country for preparing the
Eighth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names,
Berlin, Germany, 27 August – 5 September 2002.

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**Organizational measures taken by the host country for preparing the
Eighth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names
Berlin, Germany, 27 August - 5 September 2002,**

At its Substantive Session of 1999 the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations decided on 23 July 1999 that the Eighth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names will take place in Germany from 27 August to 5 September 2002. At the invitation of the German Government, the venue will be the Conference Centre of the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Berlin. The following authorities will cooperate with the United Nations to organize this conference:

- the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- the German Ministry of Internal Affairs;
- the Bundesamt für Kartographie und Geodäsie (BKG, Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy), Frankfurt am Main;
- the Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Vermessungsverwaltungen der Länder der Bundesrepublik Deutschland (AdV, association of survey administrations of the German states);
- the Ständiger Ausschuss für geographische Namen (StAGN, permanent committee on geographical names).

In conjunction with the 8th UN Conference the following events will be organized:

- the 22nd Session of the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names on 26 August and 6 September;
- a Technical Exhibition from 27 to 29 August;
- a Toponymic Training Course for executive officers in toponymy from developing countries;
- and technical excursions.

The Technical Exhibition will be organized under the leitmotif "*GIS, Cartography and Geographical Names*". The aim will be "*to demonstrate the importance of geographical names in a digital environment*" ("*Digital Earth*"). We hope to achieve this by

- Presenting cartographic and GIS products related to geographical names;
- Cooperating with official, scientific and commercial suppliers from national and international institutions;
- Organizing the exhibition simultaneously with the 8th UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names and in the vicinity of the convention room;
- Providing modern exhibition infrastructure on the Conference premises.

A Toponymic Training Course will be organized by the host country. The aim will be:

"To achieve standardization of geographical names in countries where this is still lacking by implementing resolutions of UN Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names and fulfilling Statutes of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN)". We hope to accomplish this as follows:

- Organizing a two-week toponymic training course at institutions renowned for cartography and GIS, to be held before the 8th UN Conference;

- Inviting executive officers in toponymy from developing countries to participate in the training course;
- Enabling the training course-graduates to attend the 8th UN Conference.

Technical excursions will be organized at the weekend between the two session weeks to visit the multilingual Sorbian region southeast of Berlin one day and the cultural hot spot of Potsdam another day.