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FIFTH UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE  
ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF  
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES  
Montreal, 18-31 August 1987  
Item 8 of the provisional agenda\*

MEASURES TAKEN AND PROPOSED TO IMPLEMENT UNITED NATIONS  
RESOLUTIONS ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

Review on the implementation of United Nations resolutions  
on the standardization of geographical names in Finland

Paper submitted by Finland

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\* E/CONF.79/1.

International co-operation in the standardization of geographical names

Recommendations II/31, II/33, IV/2. - An effort has been made to establish in Finnish the standardized local geographical names in different countries. In cases when the specific nature of Finnish or, alternatively, old established usage have made it necessary to use a Fennicized exonym in a text, a map or a register of names, it has now become more general practice to indicate alongside of it the form of the name as locally standardized in accordance with recommendations. This applies both to official publications as well as to those put out by the largest private publishers, the timetables put out by firms engaged in transportation, and other public use of names. Travel bureaus follow essentially the same practice, but the field of tourism shows more variety as concerns the use of names. - The acceleration in the standardization of geographical names and information about standardized local names of different countries are needed.

Toponymic guidelines for map editors and other editors

Recommendation IV/4. - Following this recommendation in its broad outlines has resulted in concrete benefit from the standpoint of the treatment of foreign names.

The toponymic guidelines for cartography: Finland was presented in Geneva in 1982 at the fourth conference (E/CONF.74/1.41). The following national guides pertaining to the standardization, orthography, and declension of Finnish names have been published:

- Terho Itkonen, Nimestäjän opas /Guidelines for the Name Collector/, Helsinki 1961, 67 pages.
- Viljo Nissilä, Paikannimistöemme huolto ja suojele /The Maintenance and Protection of our Geographical Names/ Helsinki 1965, 117 pages.
- Kielikello. Kielenhuollon tiedotuslehti /An informational journal for Language Maintenance/ 8/1976, 30 pages, and 2/1985, 24 pages.

National standardization

Recommendations I/4 A-E, III/16. - Those goals which the different clauses of the recommendation endeavour to implement have been approved in Finland and the recommendations have, in principle, been followed, with adaptations being made as the case may be to the requirements posed by administration, tradition, and the local language. This recommendation by the first conference has demonstrated itself to be of particular value in those cases when there has been a desire to hasten or improve work going on in national standardization, name collecting, publication and dissemination of instructions, and other related fields.

An extensive national gazetteer of names has not yet been compiled even though the usefulness of such a gazetteer is generally recognized. Plans to prepare a computerized gazetteer of the names appearing on the basic map (1:20,000) have been drawn up, but economic considerations have precluded their being implemented.

Gazetteer published in conjunction with the following atlases are suited also for international use:

- The Postal Map of Finland (1:800,000) and the gazetteer of 14,000 place names. 96 p. Helsinki 1974.
- Fennia. Suuri Suomi-kartasto. /The Atlas of Finland 1:250,000 and the gazetteer of 9,000 place names. /Helsinki 1979, 224 p. ISBN 951-35-1955-4.
- Uusi Suomen matkakartasto /The New Finnish Travel Atlas 1:250,000 and the gazetteer of 9,500 names/ 1st edition Helsinki 1983, 2nd revised edition Helsinki 1984, 3rd revised and updated edition Helsinki 1987, 305 p. ISBN 951-9079-42-4.

#### Regional meetings

Recommendations I/7, II/9. - The Norden Division has only had limited separate activity between the UNGEGN meetings. Since 1978 no meeting has been held. Otherwise, however, Nordic co-operation in the field of onomastic research and maintenance has always been intense. NORNA, the co-operative organ, arranges annual symposia and seminars devoted to specific issues. A more comprehensive Nordic onomastic conference is held every fifth year. NORNA also produces several publications.

#### Education and training in the treatment of geographical names

Recommendations II/18, III/15, IV/5. - Instruction in the field collection and standardization of names has been arranged. No university level instruction is available in cartographic toponymy.

#### Terminology

Recommendations I/19, II/14, II/16, IV/37, III/14, IV/8. - Glossary No. 330/Rev.1.

- Technical Terminology Employed in the Standardization of Geographical Names has earned the Documentation, Reference and Terminology Section of the United Nations Secretariat the praise on valid grounds.

A Finnish and Swedish glossary of professional terminology was published in 1974: Eero Kiviniemi - Ritva Liisa Pitkänen - Kurt Zilliacus, Nimistöntutkimuksen terminologia - Terminologin inom namnforskningen /The Terminology of Onomastic Research/. Helsinki 1974, 112 pages, ISBN 951-45-0304-X. The purpose of the work is to unify and normalize the use of toponymic terminology in Finland.

#### List of country names; names of countries

Recommendation III/17. - The recommendation has been followed in the use of the names of new countries. In order to avoid exonyms and normalize the use of the country names a list of country names was published as a guideline in 1976, with a revised version appearing in 1978. Additionally, a list has been compiled in

co-operation with the Nordic language boards: Maiden nimet ja kansallisuuksien nimitykset - Statsnavn og nasjonalitetsord, /The names of countries and words for nationalities/, 1st edition 1973, 2nd 1979, and 3rd 1987. The list contains the forms of the names used in Danish, Norwegian, Swedish, and Finnish. In order to guide Finnish use of names for countries and the most important geopolitical areas in both national and international contexts so that it would be free of errors a list has been compiled of the names of countries, giving them in their Finnish, Swedish, English, and French forms. The list, which is presently in press, is based primarily on the English and French material in Mr. Ramondou's valuable list Names of Countries, Geneva, 1986 which was corrected by UNGEGN.

#### Preparation of gazetteers; automated data processing

Recommendations I/4 (E), II/35, III/2, IV/18. - I/3, II/30, IV/18, IV/19. - An extensive national gazetteer of names in accordance with the recommendations has not yet been compiled. A computerized database of inhabited places with their names is producing simultaneously with the transfer of the real estate register to computerized form. When finished in 6-7 years it will comprise three million estates and sites with names.

A new and updated listing of the Swedish toponyms in Finland has been published: Svenska ortnamn i Finland. Helsingfors 1984, 112 pages, 4,250 names. Sources suitable for international use containing Finnish toponyms have been listed above in section "National Standardization". The gazetteer published in conjunction with Uusi Suomen matkakartasto /The New Finnish Travel Atlas/ was performed using the automatic data processing. It contains 9,500 standardized Finnish names.

#### Exonyms

Recommendations II/28, II/29, II/35, III/18, III/19, IV/20. - The recommendations concerning exonyms have, in principle, been approved in their general outlines. Recommendations concerning international use have been strictly adhered to with the exception that no listing for international use has been made of Finnish exonyms. Exonyms have been taken out of international use and efforts have been made to prevent new ones from being created. It has not been regarded as possible or necessary to completely reject those exonyms which have established themselves in national usage. Lists have been published which contain guidelines to their orthography and declension.

#### Romanization

The general goal of a single romanization system for international use for each non-Roman writing system is considered to be valuable, even though attaining it completely can hardly be regarded as a realistic possibility at least in the short term. In any case the recommendations made by the United Nations concerning romanization have already had a beneficial effect on the international use of geographical names. An effort to follow these recommendations has been made in Finland and the hope has been expressed that reliable data concerning officially romanized names could be made more readily available.

Geographical names for unwritten languages

The collection of names among peoples speaking unwritten languages should be supported so that the recommendations would be implemented within the foreseeable future.

Manual of name standardization (orth)

The rapid implementation of recommendation IV/9 is praiseworthy.

Aids to pronunciation

Since the recommendation III/7 is too difficult to implement in practice daily needs will be served rather well by adhering to the principles laid down in Toponymic Guidelines for map and other editors in addition to quickly publishing and widely disseminating these guidelines.

Minority languages

The development of a general orthography for the inhabitants of different countries using Lappish as specifically mentioned in recommendation II/36 has been completed. In 1978 the Nordic Sami Council decided that the new orthography would enter into official use on 1 July 1979. It is presently in use in the areas inhabited by Lapps in Finland, Sweden, and Norway.

Geographical names on tourist maps

The importance of using standardized geographical names on tourist maps and in other information intended for tourists in accordance with recommendation II/38 has been stressed, and the pertinent parties have been urged to avoid the creation of new exonyms, the use of both erroneous forms of names as well as of new "marketing names".

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