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

Berlin, 27 August-5 September 2002

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 Seventh Conference**

**Report of Lithuania**

**Submitted by Lithuania**

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\* E/CONF.94/1.

## Summary

The standardization of place names in Lithuania was basically carried out before the Second World War, in 1935 and 1936. Since the reestablishment of the independence of Lithuania in the early 1990s, it has been the responsibility of the State Commission of the Lithuanian Language. The official usage of place names in Lithuania is defined by the Law on the State Language, Article 14, which states that official, standardized forms of place names are written in the official language of the Republic of Lithuania.

The names of populated places initiated by local municipalities and accepted by the State Commission of the Language at Seimas, are going to be approved by the Government. The official forms of place names — residential areas, streets and so on — are entered in the Register of Residential Places, which is administered by the Cadaster and Register of Land and Other Immovable Property. The Register contains data extending back to 1923, the year the first population census was carried out in Lithuania. The Institute of the Lithuanian Language has the largest collection of Lithuanian place names, a card file containing about one million entries.

Foreign place names are written in Lithuanian according to the principles of writing foreign names and place names. In fiction and popular and children's literature, names and place names in languages based on the Latin alphabet are adapted (i.e. written as they are pronounced, taking into account the age and education of the reader). In academic literature, advertising, informative publications and specialized texts, foreign proper names are written in the original; more common place names are often adapted. Both adapted and original forms of names can be given (one of them in brackets). In the Lithuanian language, however, proper nouns and place names that have accepted traditional forms are preserved. Foreign names and place names of languages not based on the Latin alphabet are transcribed, taking into account the pronunciation of the words and the prevailing writing traditions in the Lithuanian language, or they are transliterated.

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