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

Berlin, 27 August-5 September 2002

Item 8 of the provisional agenda*

**Economic and social benefits of the national and
international standardization of geographical names**

**The one-city one-site proposal: report by Australia on a
proposal to secure geographical names for community use
as Internet domain names**

Submitted by Australia**

* E/CONF.94/1.

** Prepared by Brian Goodchild, Chairman, Committee for Geographical Names of Australasia.

Summary

This paper provides the details concerning an Australian proposal to ensure that geographical names, particularly town and locality names, are reserved for community use as Internet domain names. The paper explains how the issue of Internet domain names came to be considered by a geographical names authority, and then elaborates on the model developed by the One-City One-Site (OCOS) Working Party. It describes the publicity developed to promote the model to ensure community support.

The OCOS Working Party believes that there are considerable economic and social benefits to the community in reserving geographical names as Internet domain names. It wants to ensure that these benefits are developed for the community, not for commercial organizations. It proposes a simple web site address for towns and communities that will be as useful as a normal mailing address and will provide benefits to the whole community.

This paper is also presented to promote discussion on an emerging names issue, and to identify how other countries are dealing or have dealt with this matter. Should this Conference be promoting a view on the matter, and is the Australian approach supported?
