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

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Item 9 (c) of the provisional agenda*

**National standardization: treatment
of names in multilingual areas**

Guidelines for the planning of names in a bilingual area

Submitted by Finland**

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Summary

The name planners for Finnish, Swedish and Saami of the Research Institute for the Languages of Finland have jointly drafted guidelines for the name planners of the bilingual areas. The guidelines were published in 2001 and cover both the Finnish-Swedish and the Finnish-Saami areas.

The main principle of the guidelines is that translations should be avoided in the bilingual areas and names should also be preserved in the original language in other areas if possible. This practice would enable Finland to preserve the historical and cultural legacy of the names, together with their linguistic message. This effort is especially important in the southern areas, which are growing rapidly and becoming more and more Finnish.
