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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**

Place-name care and place-name standardization in Norway

Submitted by Norway**

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Summary

There has been a public place-name service in Norway since 1879, and over the years a number of regulations have been issued to institute standardized spelling of place names in official use. The process culminated in the adoption of the Place Name Act in 1990 and the issuance of regulations in 1991 and 1993. The most important rules in the Place Name Act may be divided into two groups. The first concerns rules for the way in which place names are written, namely on the basis of inherited, local pronunciation and in accordance with current spelling principles. The second group concerns rules for organizing the consultancy apparatus and the procedure for handling business. The governmental or municipal body that is responsible for the name bearer in question makes decisions on spelling based on the advice of consultants. To some extent the introduction of correct spelling has been hampered by local resistance. However, there is a growing interest in preserving place names as part of the cultural heritage. Today, more than 12 years after the law was passed, an evaluation committee has proposed several amendments, including the addition of a new section relating to the protection of place names.
