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

New York, 21-30 August 2007

Item 9 (b) of the provisional agenda\*

**National standardization: office treatment of names****Recommendation on the changes of municipality  
names in Finland****Submitted by Finland\*\*****Summary\*\*\***

In recent decades, the reform of municipality and service structures has been a topic of heated public debate in Finland. The reform would entail a decrease in the number of municipalities, for example, through municipality mergers, to approximately 200.

The reform will also affect the names of municipalities. In view of the importance of the issue with regard to national identity and the entire linguistic landscape of the nation, the Finnish Language Council of the Research Institute for the Languages of Finland considered the names of the merging municipalities in its meeting in 2006, and issued a recommendation, the main principle of which was that old traditional names should be preserved and that the tradition of local names and their suitability to current spelling should be taken into account when new names were being developed.

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\* E/CONF.98/1.

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\*\*\* The full text of the report is being issued in English only as document E/CONF.98/123/Add.1.

