Economic and Social Council

**Ninth United Nations Conference on the
Standardization of Geographical Names**
New York, 21-30 August 2007
Item 12 of the provisional agenda*
Toponymic data files

Geographic Names Register of Finland

Submitted by Finland**

Summary***

The Geographic Names Register of the Finnish National Land Survey is a toponymic-cartographic database serving the needs of geographical name standardization and information service together with national geographic information and map data production. The main objective in the design of the Register was the management of multilingual geographical names in a multiscale and multiproduct geographical information environment.

The principal data source of the Register is the topographic database of the National Land Survey. The database includes, among other geographic information, over 800,000 natural and cultural feature names presented in the basic map (1:20,000). The spelling and location of the names have been checked and approved by Finnish, Swedish and Saami experts of the Research Institute for the Languages of Finland.

The Geographic Names Register comprises the Place Name Register and the Map Name Register, integrated as a single database. The Place Name Register has no scales or cartographic data, but contains data on feature type, feature location, approved spelling and language of place names. The Map Name Register includes the product- and name-related cartographic parameters for the selected names of the Place Name Register.

The data model of the Geographic Names Register: a place has one or more place names that may occur one or several times as map names in different cartographic products.

---

 * E/CONF.98/1.
 ** Prepared by Teemu Leskinen, Finland.
 *** The full text of the report is being issued in English only as document E/CONF.98/133/Add.1.

Examples of fields of application for the Geographic Names Register and name data include:

- Standardization of national and international names and information service;

- Rationalization of National Land Survey map (database) production;

- Place-name and map-name customer data sets;

- Digital and traditional gazetteers;

- Internet place-name and map services (such as MapSite; see www.karttapaikka.fi);

- Automatic positioning and navigation;

- International geographical information projects and databases;

- Place-name planning;

- Ontology;

- Different kinds of research.

————————