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

Berlin, 27 August-5 September 2002

Item 11 of the provisional agenda\*

**Reports on programmes to assist with pronunciation of names**

**Standardizing the pronunciation of geographical names for  
use in radio and television programmes in Germany**

**Submitted by Germany\*\***

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\*\* Submitted by Ständiger Ausschuss für geographische Namen (StAGN) (Permanent Committee on Geographical Names).  
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## Summary

Uniform pronunciation of geographical names on the radio and in the television programmes of ARD (Broadcasting Houses by State Law) is the essential precondition for supraregional comprehensibility and for the quick, reliable and unmistakable identification of places. ARD strives to ensure standardized pronunciation of geographical names in all ARD houses. For this purpose, geographical names have been integrated into the ARD pronunciation database.

The so-called “standardized articulation” serves as a guideline for the pronunciation of German geographical names. Independent of this articulation, the ARD pronunciation database also documents regional, dialect or “original” pronunciation variants, thus at the same time contributing to the preservation or documentation of the inventory of German geographical words.

Geographical names from other countries or languages are pronounced as closely to the original as possible and as closely to German as necessary. Sounds in foreign words are adapted systematically and the adaptations are followed throughout ARD. In these cases the basic idea is to standardize the pronunciation of foreign geographical names as far as possible. ARD and Ständiger Ausschuss für geographische Namen (Permanent Committee on Geographical Names) cooperated to compile a list of some 500 selected German-language exonyms. The list introduces systematic sound adaptations (pronunciation of endonyms in adaptation to German) to a wide public for the first time.

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