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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**

Report of Finland

Submitted by Finland**

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Summary

The most important name planning events between 1998 and 2001 were as follows:

- The name planning officials for Finnish, Swedish and Saami of the Research Institute for the Languages of Finland published guidelines for name planners in bilingual areas. The new guidelines cover not only the Finnish-Swedish but also the Finnish-Saami place names.
- The Finnish National Land Survey's Geographic Names Register was established. A toponymic database serving the needs of both national standardization and map production, the Register covers the whole country and includes over 800,000 place names.
- The Research Institute organized yearly seminars and workshops on onomastics for onomastic researchers and name planners. They attracted 30 to 40 participants.
- In 1998 the Nordic Congress on Onomastics was held in Hämeenlinna. There were 72 participants.
- In 1999, an event called "European Heritage Days" was held in Finland under the theme "Place names — the memory of places". In 2001, to obtain information on urban place names, the Research Institute launched the Urban Place Names Project jointly with six Finnish universities.
- In 2001 the Research Institute and the University of Helsinki established a joint professorship for onomastics.
