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

New York, 21-30 August 2007

Item 7 of the provisional agenda*

**Measures taken and proposed to implement United Nations
resolutions on the standardization of geographical names****Measures taken in Finland to implement United Nations
resolution VIII/2 on commemorative naming practices for
geographical features****Submitted by Finland******Summary*****

In 2002, the extent to which commemorative names could be adopted in the planning of new place names in Helsinki and the grounds for their adoption generated lively discussions both in public and in the Place-Names Committee of the City of Helsinki.

Especially intensive were the discussions on long street names with personal names and titles. Other topical issues included the extent to which the persons honoured by a commemorative name were known to the public in general and the share of commemorative names as compared with all names in use, as well as the length of the waiting period before a commemorative name could be given.

Following these discussions, the Place-Names Committee made a recommendation on the use of commemorative names in Helsinki. The recommendation and its justifications, issued by the Committee on 15 September 2004, were reported in working paper 45 of the twenty-third session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, (<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/gegn23wp45.pdf>), and are in harmony with both resolution VIII/2 and the recommendations of the Finnish Language Board.

* E/CONF.98/1.

** Prepared by Sirkka Paikkala, Research Institute for the Languages of Finland, Finland.

*** The full text of the report is being issued in English only as document E/CONF.98/122/Add.1.

