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**United Nations Group of Experts on
Geographical Names****2019 session**

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Item 5 (a) of the provisional agenda*

**Reports: Governments on the situation in their countries
and on the progress made in the standardization of
geographical names****Report of Finland****Summary****

In Finland there is no one national authority responsible for geographical names or any specific law that would determine who has the power to decide on different place names and their spelling, who registers the approved names and what place names the authorities should use.

The Institute for the Languages of Finland acts as an authoritative and coordinating organ in matters relating to the standardization of place names by providing guidance for administrative bodies and by checking geographical names in the Geographic Names Register of the National Land Survey. The National Land Survey of Finland has the responsibility to take care of national mapping activities and the maintenance of the national topographic data system, to support and coordinate the development of the national spatial data infrastructure and to release, publish and share map data and other data in its field of activity.

The full report provides background information and updates on the following topics: (a) linguistic background of toponyms in Finland; (b) names authorities and legislation; (c) field collection of place names; (d) official treatment of names; (e) toponymic datasets; and (f) publications, campaigns, symposiums and websites. The most important activity since the Eleventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names was the launch of the digital names archive in December 2017.

* [GEGN.2/2019/1](#).

** The full report was prepared by Ulla Onkamo, Institute for the Languages of Finland, and Teemu Leskinen, National Land Survey of Finland. The report will be available at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEKN/1st_session_UNGEKN.html, in the language of submission only, as document GEGN.2/2019/56/CRP.56.

