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**COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE TRANSPORT
OF DANGEROUS GOODS AND ON THE GLOBALLY
HARMONIZED SYSTEM OF CLASSIFICATION
AND LABELLING OF CHEMICALS**

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS
ON ITS SECOND SESSION
(10 December 2004)

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REPORT

ATTENDANCE

1. The Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals held its second session in Geneva on 10 December 2004.
2. Experts from the following countries took part in the session: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, Senegal, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom and United States of America.
3. Under rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council, observers from Algeria, Bulgaria, Slovakia and Switzerland took part.
4. A representative of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) was present.
5. The following intergovernmental organization was represented: Commission of the European Communities (CEC).
6. Representatives of the following non-governmental organizations took part in the discussion of items of concern to their organizations: European Chemical Industry Council (CEFIC), Industrial Federation of Paints and Coats of Mercosul (IFPCM), Dangerous Goods Advisory Council (DGAC), International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA), International Organization for Standardization (ISO), Soap and Detergent Association (SDA), Compressed Gas Association (CGA) and International Air Transport Association (IATA).

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Document: ST/SG/AC.10/31 (Secretariat)
Informal document: INF.1 (List of documents) (Secretariat)

7. The Committee adopted the provisional agenda prepared by the secretariat, as modified with the addition of informal documents (INF.1 to INF.3).

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

8. On a proposal by the expert from the United States of America, Ms. K. Headrick (Canada) and Mr. S. Benassai (Italy) were elected President and Vice-President respectively.

RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Document: ST/SG/AC.10/2004/1 (Secretariat)

9. The Committee took note of the Economic and Social Council's resolutions 2003/64 of 25 July 2003, and of decisions 2003/201D of 24 June 2003 and 2004/201A of 4 February 2004, and of their consequences for its membership and that of its sub-committees, as detailed in the explanatory notes to the agenda.

10. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the secretariat had published the thirteenth revised edition of the Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Model Regulations (ST/SG/AC.10/1/Rev.13), the fourth revised edition of the Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Manual of Test and Criteria (ST/SG/AC.10/11/Rev.4) and the first version of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) (ST/SG/AC.10/30) in all official languages of the United Nations. The Model Regulations and the GHS are also available in all official languages on the website of the Transport Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (www.unece.org/trans/danger/danger.htm). The Model Regulations and the GHS are available separately on CD-ROMS as English/French sales publications including in addition the Manual of Tests and Criteria. Other language versions are made available by the secretariat on request.

WORK OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS DURING THE BIENNIUM 2003-2004

Documents: ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/46 and Add.1
ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/48 and Add.1
ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/50 and Add.1
ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2004/80
ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2004/CRP.3 and Adds.1-11
ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2004/CRP.4 and Adds.1-5

11. The Committee took note of the reports of the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods on its twenty-third, twenty-fourth and twenty-fifth sessions. The Committee noted also that the Sub-Committee had adopted its reports on its twenty-sixth session (29 November to 7 December 2004) on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat (ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2004/CRP.3 and Adds.1-11 and -/CRP.4 and Adds. 1-5) with some slight modifications. The final report has been issued as ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/52.

12. The Committee decided to endorse the reports of the Sub-Committee, including the amendments to the existing recommendations on the transport of dangerous goods and the new recommendations made (see annexes 1 and 2).

WORK OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE GLOBALLY HARMONIZED SYSTEM OF CLASSIFICATION AND LABELLING OF CHEMICALS DURING THE BIENNIUM 2003-2004

Documents: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/10
ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/12
ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/14
ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/15
ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/CRP.3 and Adds.1-3
ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/CRP.4 and Add.1

13. The Committee took note of the reports of the Sub-Committee on its fifth, sixth and seventh sessions. The Committee noted also that the Sub-Committee had adopted the report on its eighth session (7-9 December 2004) on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat (ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/CRP.3 and Adds. 1-3 and -/CRP.4 and Add.1) with some minor changes. The final report has been issued as ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/16.

14. The Committee decided to endorse the reports of the Sub-Committee, including the amendments to the existing text of the GHS and the new provisions adopted (see annex 3).

PROGRAMME OF WORK

Programme of work for the biennium 2005-2006 and related proposals

Informal document: INF.3 (Secretariat)

15. The Committee approved the programme of work of the two sub-committees as reflected in ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/52, paras.141 and 142 and ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/8, as well as the list of tasks assigned to OECD in relation to health hazards and hazards to the environment (ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/8, annex 3).

Calendar of meetings

16. The Committee agreed that the schedule of meetings for 2005-2006 should be as follows:

2005

4 – 8 July 2005:	TDG Sub-Committee – 10 meetings
11-13 (a.m) July 2005:	GHS Sub-Committee – 5 meetings
28 November-7 December 2005:	TDG Sub-Committee – 15 meetings
7 (p.m)-9 December 2005:	GHS Sub-Committee – 5 meetings
(Total: TDG:	25 meetings
GHS:	10 meetings)

2006

3-12 (a.m.) July 2006:	TDG Sub-Committee– 15 meetings
12 (p.m.)-14 July 2006:	GHS Sub-Committee – 5 meetings
4 - 12 (a.m.) December 2006:	TDG Sub-Committee – 13 meetings
12 (p.m.)-14 December 2006:	GHS Sub-Committee – 5 meetings
15 December 2006:	Committee – 2 meetings
(Total: TDG:	28 meetings
GHS:	10 meetings
Committee:	2 meetings)

DRAFT RESOLUTION 2005/... OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Informal document: INF.2

17. The Committee adopted a draft resolution for consideration by the Council at its 2005 substantive sessions (see annex 4).

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

18. The Committee adopted the report on its second session and the annexes thereto on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat.

Annex 1

Amendments to the thirteenth revised edition of the Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Model Regulations (ST/SG/AC.10/1/Rev.13)
(See ST/SG/AC.10/32/Add.1)

Annex 2

Amendments to the fourth revised edition of the Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Manual of Tests and Criteria (ST/SG/AC.10/11/Rev.4)
(See ST/SG/AC.10/32/Add.2)

Annex 3

Amendments to the first edition of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and labelling of Chemicals (GHS) (ST/SG/AC.10/30)
(See ST/SG/AC.10/32/Add.3)

Annex 4**Draft resolution 2005/...of the Economic and Social Council****Work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals**

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1999/65 of 26 October 1999, 2001/34 of 26 July 2001, 2001/44 of 20 December 2001 and 2003/64 of 25 July 2003,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals¹ during the biennium 2003-2004,

A**Work of the Committee regarding the transport of dangerous goods**

Recognizing the importance of the work of the Committee for the harmonization of codes and regulations relating to the transport of dangerous goods,

Bearing in mind the need to maintain safety standards at all times and to facilitate trade, as well as the importance of this to the various organizations responsible for modal regulations, while meeting the growing concern for the protection of life, property and the environment through the safe transport of dangerous goods, including their security in transport,

Noting the increasing volume of dangerous goods being introduced into worldwide commerce and the rapid expansion of technology and innovation,

Recalling its resolution 1975 (LIX) of 30 July 1975 whereby it requested the Committee to study, in consultation with other bodies concerned, particularly the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the then Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the International Air Transport Association and the regional commissions, the possibility of a joint approach to the drafting of an international convention on the transport of dangerous goods by all modes of transport which would take into account the general scope of a future convention on international intermodal transport,

Recalling also that in response to resolution 1975 (LIX) the Committee had, until now, considered that the consideration of such a convention would not be appropriate until the various international agreements or conventions governing international transport of dangerous goods had not been harmonized,

Noting that the major international instruments governing the transport of dangerous goods by the various modes of transport (International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code, Technical Instructions for the Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air, European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road, Regulations concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Rail, European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterway) as well as many national regulations are now harmonized with the Model Regulations annexed to the Committee's Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, but that the lack of

¹ E/2005/... [to be completed]

simultaneity in the updating process of national inland transport legislation in most countries of the world remains the major reason for regulatory disharmony at worldwide level and represents serious legislative obstacles to international multimodal transport,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* for the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals with respect to matters relating to the transport of dangerous goods, including their security in transport;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(a) To circulate the new and amended recommendations² on the transport of dangerous goods to the Governments of Member States, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and other international organizations concerned;

(b) To publish the fourteenth revised edition of the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: Model Regulations*³ and amendments to the fourth revised edition of the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: Manual of Tests and Criteria*⁴ in all the official languages of the United Nations, in the most cost-effective manner, not later than the end of 2005;

(c) To make these publications available on the web site of the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Europe⁵, which also provides secretariat services to the Committee, and to make them available also on CD-ROM;

3. *Invites* all Governments, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the other international organizations concerned to transmit to the secretariat of the Committee their views on the Committee's work, together with any comments that they may wish to make on the amended recommendations;

4. *Invites* all interested Governments, the regional commissions, the specialized agencies and the international organizations concerned, when developing or updating appropriate codes and regulations, to take into account the recommendations of the Committee;

5. *Reiterates* its request to the Committee to study, in consultation with the International Maritime Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization, regional commissions and intergovernmental organizations concerned, the possibility of a joint approach to the drafting of a convention on multimodal international transport of dangerous goods, or any other possibility of improving simultaneous implementation of the Model Regulations on the transport of dangerous goods in all countries for the purposes of ensuring a high level of safety and eliminating technical barriers to international trade;

² ST/SG/AC.10/32/Add.1 and 2.

³ ST/SG/AC.10/1/Rev.14.

⁴ ST/SG/AC.10/11/Rev.4/Amendt.1.

⁵ www.unece.org/trans/danger/publi/unrec/rev13/13files_e.html

B
Work of the Committee regarding the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

Bearing in mind that the World Summit on Sustainable Development at its 2002 session in Johannesburg, in paragraph 23 (c) of its Plan of Implementation,⁶ encouraged countries to implement the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals as soon as possible with a view to having the system fully operational by 2008,

Bearing also in mind that the General Assembly, by its resolution 57/253 of 20 December 2002, endorsed the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and requested the Economic and Social Council to implement the provisions of the Plan relevant to its mandate and, in particular, to promote the implementation of Agenda 21 by strengthening system-wide coordination,

Noting with satisfaction that

(a) All United Nations programmes and specialized agencies concerned with chemical safety in the field of the transport or the environment, in particular the Economic Commission for Europe, the United Nations Environment Programme, the International Maritime Organization and the International Civil Aviation Organization have taken appropriate steps to amend or consider amending their legal instruments in order to give effect to the Globally Harmonized System;

(b) The International Labour Office and the World Health Organization are also taking appropriate steps to adapt their existing chemical safety recommendations, codes and guidelines to the Globally Harmonized System in particular in the areas of occupational health and safety and prevention and treatment of poisoning respectively;

(c) Member States participating in the activities of the Sub-Committee on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals as well as the European Commission, are actively preparing revisions of national or regional legislation applicable to chemicals for implementation of Globally Harmonized System;

(d) Several United Nations programmes, specialized agencies, regional organizations, in particular the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the International Labour Office, the World Health Organization, the Economic Commission for Europe, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety, Governments, the European Commission and non-governmental organizations representing the chemical industry have organized, or contributed to, multiple workshops, seminars and other capacity building activities at international, regional, sub-regional and national levels in order to raise administration, health sector and industry awareness and to prepare implementation of the Globally Harmonized System,

Aware that effective implementation by the 2008 target will require further cooperation between the Sub-Committee on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals and international bodies concerned, continued efforts by the Governments of the Member States, cooperation with the industry and other affected parties, and significant support for capacity-building activities in countries with economies in transition and developing countries,

⁶ Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002 (*United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum*), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

Recalling the particular significance of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research/International Labour Office/Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Global Partnership for Capacity-Building to implement the Globally Harmonized System for building capacities at all levels,

1. *Commends* the Secretary-General for the publication of the Globally Harmonized System in the six official languages of the United Nations, in book form⁷ and on CD-ROM, and its availability together with related information material on the web site of the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Europe⁸;

2. *Expresses its deep appreciation* to the Committee, United Nations programmes, specialized agencies and other organizations concerned for their fruitful cooperation and their commitment to the implementation of the Globally Harmonized System;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General

(a) to circulate the amendments⁹ to the Globally Harmonized System to the Governments of Member States, the specialized agencies and other international organizations concerned;

(b) to publish the first revised edition¹⁰ of the Globally Harmonized System in all the official languages of the United Nations in the most cost effective manner not later than the end of 2005, and to make it available on CD-ROM and on the web site of the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Europe, which provides secretariat services to the Committee;

4. *Invites* Governments who have not yet done so to take the necessary steps, through appropriate national procedures and/or legislation, to implement the Globally Harmonized System, as recommended in the World Summit on Sustainable Development Plan of implementation;

5. *Re-iterates also its invitation* to the regional commissions, United Nations programmes, the specialized agencies and other organizations concerned to promote the implementation of the Globally Harmonized System and, where relevant, to amend their respective legal international instruments addressing transport safety, work safety, consumer protection or the protection of the environment so as to give effect to the Globally Harmonized System through such instruments;

6. *Invites* Governments, the regional commissions, United Nations programmes, the specialized agencies and other organizations concerned to provide feedback on implementation to the Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals;

7. *Encourages* Governments, regional commissions, United Nations programmes, specialized agencies and other relevant international organizations and non-governmental organizations, in particular industry, to strengthen their support to the implementation of the Globally Harmonized System by providing financial contributions to capacity-building activities in developing countries and countries in transition and/or technical assistance.

⁷ ST/SG/AC.10/30.

⁸ www.unece.org/trans/danger/publi/ghs/ghs.html

⁹ ST/SG/AC.10/32/Add.3.

¹⁰ ST/SG/AC.10/30/Rev.1.

C Programme of work of the Committee

Taking note of the programme of work of the Committee for the biennium 2005-2006 as contained in paragraphs .. to .. of the report of the Secretary-General,¹¹

Noting the relatively poor representation of experts from developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the work of the Committee and the need to ensure their wider participation in its work,

Noting with concern that the General Service staff resources requested for the activities of the Sub-Committee on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals when it was established and which had been provided through general temporary assistance until end 2004 have been suppressed in 2004, irrespective of the recommendations made by the Committee at its first session .¹²

1. *Decides* to approve the programme of work of the Committee;
2. *Stresses* the importance of the participation of experts from developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition in the work of the Committee, and calls, in this regard, for voluntary contributions to facilitate their participation, including through support for travel and daily subsistence allowance, and invites Member States and international organizations in a position to do so to contribute;
3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to re-allocate appropriate General Service staff resources for the activities of the Committee;
4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Economic and Social Council in 2005 on the implementation of the present resolution, the Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals.

¹¹ E/2005/... [to be completed]

¹² E/2003/46, para. 33.