

Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

Joint Meeting of the RID Committee of Experts and the

Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

Bern, 20-24 March 2023

Item 9 (b) of the provisional agenda

Any other business:

Circular economy and sustainable development goals

6 March 2023

Draft contribution to United Nations 2030 Agenda for sustainable development

Note by the secretariats

I. Introduction

1. As a follow-up of the discussion at the recent sessions of the Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (WP.15) and ADN Safety Committee, the secretariats propose some possible follow-up actions and contribution to United Nations 2030 Agenda for sustainable development in relation to the work of the RID/ADR/ADN Joint Meeting on the carriage of dangerous goods by inland transport modes.

2. For the biennium 2021-2022, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) invited its subsidiary bodies (including the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) and its sub-committees) to consider the theme “Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels”, and, without prejudice to the integrated, indivisible and interlinked nature of the SDGs, review in-depth goals 6 (on clean water and sanitation), 7 (on affordable and clean energy), 9 (on industry, innovation and infrastructure), 11 (on sustainable cities and communities) and 17 (on partnerships for the Goals). In this respect, both subcommittees discussed proposals by the secretariat (informal documents INF.31/Rev.1 of the fifty-ninth session of the TDG Sub-Committee and INF.5 of the forty-first session of the GHS Sub-Committee) and it was agreed to summarize the interlinkage of their work to the SDGs which is currently available at the UNECE website at: unece.org/transport/dangerous-goods/ecosoc-bodies-dealing-chemicals-safety#accordion_8.

II. Proposal

3. The secretariat already prepared a generic website for UNECE bodies dealing with transport of dangerous goods available at: <https://unece.org/transport/dangerous-goods/unece-bodies-dealing-transport-dangerous-goods>.

4. It is proposed to add further entries similarly to the contributions already available at the afore-mentioned ECOSOC website for the goals of interest of the ITC subsidiary bodies WP.15, ADN Safety Committee and the RID/ADR/ADN Joint Meeting activities on the safe carriage of dangerous goods by the inland transport modes road, rail and inland waterways in close cooperation and partnership with OTIF and CCNR. A draft contribution is tabled in the annex of this document.

5. The Joint Meeting is invited to consider the proposed contribution in the light of SDGs applicable to its work from the perspective of multimodal transport of dangerous goods.

Annex: ECOSOC/ITC subsidiary bodies in charge of the transport of dangerous goods provides regulatory work, capacity building and analytical work on SDGs

Subsidiary body

Regulatory work, capacity building and analytical work



**ECOSOC CE
and
ITC/WP.15**

Develops mechanisms addressing the harmonization of classification and labelling criteria (GHS) and the transport conditions for land, air and sea (Model Regulations). Implements the transport of dangerous goods regulations based on the Model Regulations, such as those developed by WP.15 (i.e. ADR for road transport, ADN for inland waterways transport) and classification and labelling of chemicals in accordance with the GHS, ensures the safe transport, handling and use of hazardous chemicals. Thanks to these harmonization mechanisms companies, countries, workers and consumers have consistent and appropriate information on the chemicals they import, produce, handle, transport or use, as well as information about their physical, health and environmental hazards through their life cycle.



**ECOSOC CE
and
ITC/WP.15**

Develop mechanisms addressing identification of chemicals hazardous to the aquatic environment as well as the conditions to ensure their safe transport and handling through the GHS and the Model Regulations.



**ITC/WP.15
and
ECOSOC SC GHS**

Their implementation through the Agreements concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR) and by Inland Waterways (ADN) contributes to minimise the risks of release into the environment thus preventing water contamination. ADR and ADN ensure mutual recognitions of certificates for vehicles, vessels, drivers, etc. and provide a framework for information exchange among Contracting Parties and thus contribute to reduce the number of checks and the overall waiting time at country borders for vehicles and vessels transporting dangerous goods. GHS defines a worldwide harmonized set of criteria for identification of hazards posed by chemicals and standardizing the hazard communication tools, thus protecting labour rights and ensuring safe working conditions. Workers in countries implementing them have access to the same level of protection and information, as regards the hazards and protective measures to be taken depending on the hazardous chemicals they use at the workplace.



ITC/WP.15

The subsidiary bodies shape the legal framework related to carriage of dangerous goods by inland transport modes to prevent accidents and damage to persons, property or the environment, to other goods or to the means of transport employed, including in urban environments. To reduce the environmental impacts of cities, WP.15 is considering options to safely deliver dangerous goods in cities with lighter, more agile, and cleaner vehicles like three-wheelers or electric vehicles.



**ECOSOC CE
and
ITC/WP.15**

ECOSOC CE develops and updates the Model Regulations and the GHS, thereby contributes to achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and the transport of dangerous goods, in particular on provisions for the reuse of plastics material for packagings. WP.15 is working on provisions related to the circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources including the reduction of transport related emissions of greenhouse gases and the recycling/repurpose of used cells and batteries, thus reducing waste production.



ITC/WP.15

To take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts, WP.15 works on solutions to use electric vehicles and vehicles with cleaner and more efficient internal combustion engine for transport of dangerous goods. It also develops provisions on how to safely transport batteries and electrified vehicles at all stages of their life cycle.



**ECOSOC CE
and
ITC/WP.15**

ECOSOC CE develops and updates the Model Regulations and the GHS enhancing the identification of chemicals hazardous to the aquatic environment as well as the conditions to ensure their safe transport and handling, thus preventing pollution from land-based activities. The ADN Safety Committee continues its activities related to greening of the inland vessel fleet towards a modern, sustainable and resilient waterway network for the safe transport of dangerous goods and, thus, contributes to combat climate change and reduce hazards to the aquatic environment.











**ITC/WP.15
and
ECOSOC CE**

WP.15 focuses on their regulatory work on the safe transport of dangerous goods by road, rail and inland waterways in close cooperation and partnership with the Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF) and the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine (CCNR). A broad collaboration between all stakeholders involved in the international and multimodal transport of dangerous goods exists to regularly update the major international conventions and agreements on the carriage of dangerous goods, such as the RID, ADR and ADN, and also the IMDG, TI and SSR-6¹ in line with the UN Model Regulations developed by the ECOSOC Committee of Experts.

¹ Including the International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code (IMDG) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the Technical Instructions (TI) of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the Safety Standards for Radioactive Material (SSR-6) of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Regulatory work, capacity building and analytical work

									
ECOSOC	CE	Develops mechanisms addressing the harmonization of classification and labelling criteria of chemicals and recommendations on the inland, sea and air transport of dangerous goods. Thanks to these harmonization mechanisms companies, countries, workers and consumers have consistent and appropriate information on the chemicals they import, produce, handle, transport or use, as well as information about their physical, health and environmental hazards through their life cycle.							
	GHS SC	Develops and updates the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) (ensures the safe transport, handling and use of hazardous chemicals)							
	TDG SC	Develops and updates the Model Regulations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (Orange Book)							
ITC/WP.15	WP.15	Based on the Model Regulations, implements the carriage of dangerous goods on roads (ADR Agreement). ADR and ADN ensure mutual recognitions of certificates for vehicles, vessels, drivers, etc, and provide a framework for information exchange among Contracting Parties thus contributing to reduce the number of checks and the overall waiting time at the border of vehicles and vessels transporting dangerous goods.							
	WP.15/AC.1	Coordinates the harmonization of the provisions of RID/ADR/ADN with the UN Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Model Regulations							
	WP.15/AC.2	Based on the Model Regulations, implements the carriage of dangerous goods on inland waterways (ADN Agreement). The implementation contributes to minimise risks of release into the environment thus preventing water contamination.							