

UN/SCEGHS/5/INF.18

Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals
(Fifth session, 7-9 July 2003,
agenda item 6)

CAPACITY BUILDING

Activities of the UNITAR/ILO GHS Capacity Building Programme and the UNITAR/ILO/OECD WSSD Global GHS Partnership

Transmitted by UNITAR

1. This document provides an update regarding the activities in the UNITAR/ILO GHS Capacity Building Programme and the UNITAR/ILO/OECD WSSD Global GHS Partnership. At the request of the Secretariat, UNITAR has also submitted two other INF documents to this meeting (INF.2 and INF.3), which are the capacity development materials being used in the UNITAR/ILO pilot countries.

UNITAR/ILO Capacity Building Programme Activities

2. The two pilot countries, Zambia and South Africa, continue their work on developing national chemical hazard communication and GHS implementation strategies.
3. In Zambia, the national project committee has selected a number of priority activities for implementation for the final phase of the project. These activities will be completed by October 2003. The observer from Zambia will provide more detail about these activities and future plans.
4. In South Africa, the assessment (situation analysis) of the infrastructure and available national expertise relevant to chemical hazard communication in South Africa and comprehensibility testing has been completed. The next step in 2003 is a gap analysis, followed by development of an implementation strategy.
5. Regarding the GHS capacity development activities underway in Senegal and Sri Lanka, both countries have completed national GHS action plans. The observer from Senegal will provide more detail about their activities and future plans.
6. In 2002, UNITAR/ILO conducted a survey to determine national levels of awareness and priority needs for capacity building regarding chemical hazard communication and the GHS. A draft report regarding the results is available from UNITAR.

7. The UNITAR/ILO GHS Capacity Building Programme Advisory Group (PAG) continues to meet to review programme documents, ensure complementarity with other chemical hazard communication initiatives and provide overall guidance regarding Programme implementation.

Related Activities

8. A sub-regional workshop on the GHS for SADC countries will be held in September 2003 in Zambia. It is a contribution to the WSSD *Global Partnership for Capacity Building to Implement the GHS*, part of a series of regional and sub-regional GHS awareness raising workshops which are co-ordinated and supported through the UNITAR/ILO GHS Capacity Building Programme with extra-budgetary resources. Special thanks is extended to GTZ, IFCS and the Governments of Switzerland and the Netherlands for their financial contribution to the workshop. It is also anticipated that South Africa will play an active role in the workshop.
9. At a special session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) (Maputo, Mozambique; 9–10 June 2003), African Environment Ministers endorsed a draft Action plan for the environmental initiative of NEPAD with a view to submitting it to the summit of the African Union scheduled for early July. The draft action plan includes GHS implementation as a cross-cutting issue.
10. Planning for the side event entitled “The Globally Harmonized System for the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals: Opportunities and Challenges”, to be held on the evening of Sunday, 2 November 2003, at Forum IV, is at an advanced stage. The workshop is co-sponsored by UNECE, UNITAR, IFCS, GTZ, Health Canada, US OSHA, the Finnish Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, ICCA and the Society for Chemical Hazard Communication. It will provide participants with an opportunity to learn about the new system and discuss key issues regarding GHS implementation. Presentations and discussions will include the perspectives of governments, industry, labour and international organizations.

WSSD Global Partnership for Capacity Building to Implement the GHS

11. 11. Following the formal launch of the UNITAR/ILO/OECD *Global Partnership for Capacity Building to Implement the GHS* at a dedicated side-event at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002, a number of activities have taken place:
 - a draft Partnership Progress Report for 2002 is now available;
 - a presentation about the Partnership was held at CSD-11 in May 2003;
 - a preliminary version of the Partnership website has been developed; and
 - the first Meeting of Partners will be held 10-11 July 2003. The event is organized by UNITAR, in cooperation with ILO and OECD and will bring together governments, intergovernmental organisations, and stakeholders, including industry, public interest, consumers and labour organizations that may be in a position to support Partnership activities financially or through in-kind contributions.

Demand for Capacity Building and Resource Considerations

12. As of July 2003, 65 countries have expressed an interest to UNITAR to participate in a GHS capacity development project (see Annex). A UNITAR/ILO framework project proposal is available upon request for interested countries and organizations that may be in a position to support project activities at the regional or country level in 2004 and beyond.
13. GHS capacity building activities organized by UNITAR/ILO are funded by extra-budgetary resources. UNITAR/ILO would like to acknowledge the financial support of the Government of the Netherlands and Government of Switzerland for GHS projects and development of the WSSD GHS Partnership. In addition, ICCA has pledged support for the development of a website for the Partnership and organization of a regional GHS workshop. Current funding will allow the continuation of the UNITAR/ILO Programme until the end of 2003. Continuation of the Programme beyond 2003 will be subject to availability of financial resources for specific projects.
14. UNITAR will continue to update the SCEGHS on all of these activities over the course of the next year.

Annex 1: Countries Expressing Interest in a GHS Capacity Development Project

Angola	Mexico
Argentina	Micronesia, Federated States of
Bahrain	Moldova, Republic of
Belarus	Morocco
Benin	Myanmar
Bolivia	Nepal
Bosnia & Herzegovina	Niger
Brazil	Nigeria
Brunei Darussalam	Oman
Bulgaria	Poland
Burkina Faso	Senegal
Burundi	Seychelles
Chad	Slovak Republic
Chile	Slovenia
Colombia	Sudan
Costa Rica	Syrian Arab Republic
Côte d'Ivoire	Thailand
Croatia	Togo
Cyprus	Trinidad & Tobago
Czech Republic	Turkey
Dominica	Uganda
Ecuador	Zimbabwe
El Salvador	
Estonia	
Ethiopia	
Fiji	
Gabon	
The Gambia	
Ghana	
Guinea-Bissau	
Honduras	
Hungary	
Indonesia	
Iran	
Jamaica	
Kiribati	
Kuwait	
Republic of Kyrgyzstan	
Latvia	
Libyan Arab Jamhiria	
Macedonia	
Mali	
Mauritius	

Total countries: 65