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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

(Sixty-eighth session, 7-9 February 2006,
agenda item 3)

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE,
THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AND
OTHER UNITED NATIONS BODIES AND CONFERENCES**

**I. PROVISIONS OF GENERAL INTEREST TO THE INLAND TRANSPORT
COMMITTEE ARISING FROM THE SIXTIETH SESSION OF THE ECONOMIC
COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

Introduction

1. The sixtieth session of the Commission was held from 22 to 26 February 2005 (see Annual Report E/2005/37 - E/ECE/1431). The following main topics and issues were examined and debated at the High Level Policy segment of the session: economic developments in the UNECE region; financing for development: follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development, and sustainable development in the UNECE region. At the General Segment of the session, the following topics were considered: the UNECE's cooperation with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE); the UNECE reform; programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007; achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration; major policy issues of the UNECE and their impact on the UNECE programme of work; UNECE's achievements and constraints; technical cooperation; report of the Group of Experts on the Programme of Work (GEPW); and other business. All documents discussed at the session may be downloaded from the UNECE web site http://www.unece.org/commission/2005/60th_index.htm.

2. Discussion with regard to financing for development: follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development, took place at the two Round Tables held during the Commission session: Round Table I: focused on “Exchange of experiences with domestic policies that have successfully increased financial resources for development in the UNECE region” and Round Table II addressed “The role of regional cooperation in financing for development in the UNECE region”. Participants highlighted that liberalizing domestic prices and markets as well as foreign trade is important to avoid distortions in the allocation of financial resources. Investments in human capital are important to create a basis for economic diversification as well as foreign direct investments which are a beneficial source of financing.

3. The Commission felt that regional cooperation initiatives can play an important role in improving the business climate and thus raising the attractiveness of countries concerned as appealing destinations for foreign investments. For the regional cooperation to be successful, participating countries must credibly commit themselves to it. Whilst the contribution of regional initiatives to economic development can be significant, they cannot substitute for, but rather complement and support, coherent national development strategies, because individual countries will remain the owners of the development and reform agenda.

UNECE cooperation with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

4. The Executive Secretary emphasized the successful conclusion of negotiations between the UNECE and OSCE as reflected in the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two organizations in December 2004. The Commission welcomed the signature of the MOU in the hope that this would enhance the effectiveness of the two organizations, the spirit and transparency between the two organizations as well as with the member States. Member States noted that the support to the OSCE should not be to the detriment of other UNECE activities, and that the additional workload be mitigated by the measures identified in document E/ECE/1430/Add.1.

5. The Inland Transport Committee may wish to note that the OSCE Permanent Council designated “Transport” as the central theme of the 14th OSCE Economic Forum to be held in 2006. Two main clusters of special interest have been identified: Transport development to enhance regional economic co-operation and stability, and Secure transport networks. The UNECE Transport Division is expected to provide inputs for the OSCE Economic Forum session in 2006.

UNECE reform

6. The comprehensive Report on the state of the UNECE, whose preparation and outline were discussed during the annual session in February, was completed on 30 June 2005. The Report provided an analysis of the role, mandate and functions of the UNECE in the light of the changed European institutional landscape and produced recommendations to determine any

possible and necessary changes. The Report has a number of general conclusions and recommendations addressing the mission statement, governance, management of the UNECE, etc., as well as concrete recommendations for each of the UNECE sub-programmes. Although the Report indicates high relevance of the work of the UNECE Transport Division, it recommends certain measures aimed at avoiding duplication with other international organizations and strengthening the cooperation with UNECE Trade and Environment Divisions. The Report also calls for further expansion of the TIR Convention to include territories outside the UNECE region. Noting the recommendations presented in the Report, the Commission convened an ad-hoc meeting in July 2005, at which it adopted the document prepared by its Chairman. The document outlined the steps to be taken in negotiations leading to reform measures to be adopted by the UNECE's Member States.

7. Following these developments, the Member States engaged in a negotiation process whose outcome will have implications for all UNECE sub-programmes and Divisions. However, at the time of writing of this document, the outcome of the negotiation process has not yet been known.

8. Taking into account the decisions of Member States in the context of the reform process, the Committee will be invited to express its views on the way as to how these decisions and their possible resource implications should be taken into account in the biennial evaluation and its work programme.

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 and matters relating to the programme of work planning and evaluation processes

9. The Commission considered this item on the basis of documents E/EECE/1423 and E/ECE/1423/Add.1. The Commission underlined the need to ensure that the outcome of the UNECE comprehensive review should be taken into account in the programme of work for 2006-2007. The Commission adopted the recommendations of the Group of Experts on the Programme of Work concerning new programme planning processes.

Major policy issues of the UNECE and their impact on the UNECE programme of work

10. The Commission highlighted the need to address aspects of issues such as globalization, transition and environmental policies within the scope of UNECE's mandate. Furthermore, the Commission reconfirmed that the setting of priorities of the Commission rests with the member States and that the overall objective within the UNECE remains the promotion of stability and prosperity across the UNECE region.

The work of UNECE: achievements and constraints

11. The Commission considered this agenda item on the basis of a report by its Executive Secretary (E/ECE/1424). The Chairpersons or Vice-Chairpersons of the principal subsidiary bodies presented their major achievements and future programme of activities, focusing on the

outlook and challenges ahead. The ensuing debate showed the high value attached to the work of the PSBs.

12. The Committee may wish to note Decision 11 of the Commission's session which states that – "Having considered the proposal contained in paragraphs 21 and 22 of E/ECE/1426, the Commission agreed to encourage participation of non-UNECE countries which are Contracting Parties to legal instruments administered by WP.1 and the other subsidiary bodies of the ITC, but was unable to reach consensus on granting voting rights to such countries. The Commission, however, recognized the need for further discussion."

II. SIXTIETH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

13. The attention of the Committee is drawn to the fact that during its sixtieth session, the General Assembly unanimously adopted the Resolution aimed at reducing deaths and injuries from road accidents worldwide. In the Resolution, the General Assembly encourages Member States to adhere to the UN Conventions on Road Traffic and on Road Signs and Signals, in order to ensure a high level of road safety in their countries, and also encourages them to strive to reduce road traffic injuries and mortality in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. At the same time, it stresses the importance of the improvement in the international legal road traffic safety norms and welcomes specifically, in this regard, the substantial package of amendments to the 1968 Conventions on Road Traffic and on Road Signs and Signals, which has been elaborated by the Working Party on Road Traffic Safety (WP.1). The text of the resolution is reproduced in the Annex to this document.

III. SUBSTANTIVE SESSION OF 2005 OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

14. The Committee may wish to note that the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) adopted, at its 2005 substantive session (New York, 29 June to 27 July 2005), resolution 2005/53 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 Chemicals. It is recalled that the Committee of Experts is a subsidiary body of the Council, serviced by the UNECE secretariat. ECOSOC adopted also resolution 2005/34 on "Europe-Africa fixed link through the Strait of Gibraltar". The texts of both resolutions are reproduced in the Annex to this document.

15. With regard to Part A of resolution 2005/53, operative paragraph 2(a) and to Part B, operative paragraphs 3(a) and (b), the Committee may wish to note that the new and amended recommendations on the transport of dangerous goods, and the amendments to the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) have been issued as documents ST/SG/AC.10/32/Add.1, -/Add.2 and -/Add.3 in all United Nations official languages.

16. With regard to the request in Part A, operative paragraphs 2(b) and (c) and Part B, operative paragraph 3(b), the Committee may wish to note that the 14th revised edition of the

Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Model Regulations, Amendment 1 to the fourth revised edition of the Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Manual of Tests and Criteria, and the first revised edition of the GHS have already been published in English and French, and the Arabic, Chinese, Russian and Spanish versions should be available by the end of 2005.

17. In Part A, operative paragraph 4, the Council invited, inter alia, all interested Governments and regional commissions to take into account, when developing or updating appropriate codes and regulations, the recommendations of the Committee. The Committee may wish to note, in this respect, that the new recommendations have already been taken into account by the Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods when preparing the set of draft amendments to the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR), the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterway (ADN) and the Regulations concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Rail (RID), which are expected to enter into force on 1 January 2007.

18. Attention is also drawn to operative paragraph 5 of Part A, which requests the Committee of Experts to study (in consultation, inter alia, with regional commissions) the possibilities of improving the implementation of the UN Model Regulations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods. In Europe, ADR, RID and ADN are regularly updated and kept in line with the UN Model Regulations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods. Nevertheless, 16 out of the 55 UNECE Member States are still not parties to ADR, 22 are not parties to RID, and ADN has not yet entered into force. Although all Member States of the European Union have also to apply the requirements of ADR and RID to domestic traffic, this is not always the case in other UNECE countries, and even though some of these other Member States are known to apply most of the provisions of the UN Model Regulations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods to domestic transport, this is not done systematically or simultaneously and, therefore, there are still difficulties in international transport, in particular multimodal transport. The Committee may wish to provide comments on this request for cooperation.

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Annex

Resolution of the United Nations General Assembly

A/RES/60/5

Improving global road safety

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 57/309 of 22 May 2003, 58/9 of 5 November 2003 and 58/289 of 14 April 2004 on improving global road safety,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the global road safety crisis,¹

Commending the World Health Organization for its role in implementing the mandate conferred upon it by the General Assembly in its resolution 58/289, to act, working in close cooperation with the United Nations regional commissions, as a coordinator on road safety issues within the United Nations system,

Also commending the United Nations regional commissions and their subsidiary bodies for having responded to the above-mentioned resolutions and to the report of the Secretary-General by accelerating or expanding their road safety activities,

Noting with satisfaction the progress made by the United Nations Road Safety Collaboration as described in the report of the Secretary-General as well as the road safety initiatives undertaken by relevant United Nations agencies and international partners,²

Underlining the importance for Member States to continue using the *World Report on Road Traffic Injury Prevention* as a framework for road safety efforts and implementing its recommendations by paying particular attention to the five risk factors identified, namely safety belts and child restraints, alcohol, helmets, inappropriate and excessive speed and infrastructure,³

Welcoming the proposal of the Economic Commission for Europe to host the first United Nations Global Road Safety Week in Geneva in April 2007 targeted at young road users, including young drivers,

Also welcoming the proposal to designate the third Sunday in November as the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims in recognition of road traffic victims and their families' loss and suffering,⁴

Convinced that responsibility for road safety rests at the local, municipal and the national levels,

Recognizing that many developing countries and countries with economies in transition have limited capacities to address these issues, and underlining, in this context, the importance of international cooperation towards further supporting the efforts of developing countries, in particular, to

¹ A/60/181 and Corr.1.

² A/60/181, para. 32.

³ Ibid., para. 37 (f) and (g).

⁴ Ibid., para. 37 (i).

build capacities in the field of road safety and providing the financial and technical support associated with such efforts,

1. *Expresses its concern* at the continued increase, in particular in developing countries, in traffic fatalities and injuries worldwide;

2. *Reaffirms* the importance of addressing global road safety issues and the need for the further strengthening of international cooperation, taking into account the needs of developing countries, by building capacities in the field of road safety, and providing financial and technical support for their efforts;

3. *Encourages* Member States and the international community including international and regional financial institutions, to lend financial, technical and political support, as appropriate, to the United Nations regional commissions, the World Health Organization and other relevant United Nations agencies for their efforts to improve road safety;

4. *Invites* the United Nations regional commissions, relevant United Nations agencies and international partners to continue the existing road safety initiatives, and encourages them to take up new ones;

5. *Encourages* Member States to adhere to the 1949 Convention on Road Traffic and 1968 Conventions on Road Traffic and on Road Signs and Signals, in order to ensure a high level of road safety in their countries, and also encourages them to strive to reduce road traffic injuries and mortality in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals;

6. *Stresses* the importance of the improvement in the international legal road traffic safety norms, and welcomes in this regard the work of the Working Party on Road Traffic Safety of the Inland Transport Committee of the Economic Commission for Europe in the elaboration of a substantial package of amendments to the 1968 Conventions on Road Traffic and Road Signs and Signals;

7. *Invites* Member States to implement the recommendations of the *World Report on Road Traffic Injury Prevention*, including those related to the five main risk factors, namely the non-use of safety belts and child restraints, the non-use of helmets, drinking and driving, inappropriate and excessive speed, as well as the lack of appropriate infrastructure;

8. *Also invites* Member States to establish a lead agency, on a national level, on road safety and to develop a national action plan to reduce road traffic injuries, by passing and enforcing legislation, conducting necessary awareness-raising campaigns and putting in place appropriate methods to monitor and evaluate interventions that are implemented;

9. *Invites* the United Nations regional commissions and the World Health Organization to organize jointly, within their resources as well as with voluntary financial assistance from concerned stakeholders from Government, civil society and the private sector, the first United Nations Global Road Safety Week to serve as a platform for global and regional, but mainly national and local, activities to raise awareness about road safety issues and to stimulate and advance responses as appropriate for these settings, and to convene a second Road Safety Stakeholders' Forum in Geneva as part of the Global Road Safety Week to continue work begun at the first forum held at the United Nations Headquarters in 2004;

10. *Invites* Member States and the international community to recognize the third Sunday in November of every year as the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims as the appropriate acknowledgement for victims of road traffic crashes and their families;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session on the progress made in improving global road safety;

12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-second session the item entitled "Global road safety crisis".

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Resolutions of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

2005/53

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 Chemicals⁵ 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 1973 (LIX) of 30 July 1975 whereby it requested the Committee to study, in consultation with other bodies concerned, in particular 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

⁵ E/2005/53.

of transport which would take into account the general scope of a future convention on international intermodal transport,

Noting that the major international instruments governing the transport of dangerous goods by the various modes of transport and many national regulations are now harmonized with the Model Regulations annexed to the Committee recommendations on the transport of dangerous goods, but that the uneven progress in the updating process of national inland transport legislation in some countries of the world remains, inter alia, a reason for regulatory disharmony at the worldwide level and represents a serious legislative obstacle 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 recommendations⁶ 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*⁷ and the amendments to the fourth revised edition of the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: Manual of Tests and Criteria*⁸ in all the official languages of the United Nations, in the most cost-effective manner, no later than the end of 2005;

(c) To make those publications available on the website of the Secretariat of the Economic Commission for Europe,⁹ 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 concerned international organizations 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 to take into account, when developing or updating appropriate codes and regulations, the recommendations of the Committee;

5. *Requests* the Committee to continue to study, in consultation with the International Maritime Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the regional commissions and the intergovernmental organizations concerned, the possibilities of improving the implementation of the Model Regulations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods in all countries

⁶ ST/SG/AC.10/32/Add.1 and 2.

⁷ ST/SG/AC.10/1/Rev.14.

⁸ ST/SG/AC.10/11/Rev.4.

⁹ <http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/danger.htm>.

for the purposes of ensuring a high level of safety and eliminating technical barriers to international trade, including through the further harmonization of international agreements or conventions governing the international transport of dangerous goods, or a possible joint approach to the development of an effective international instrument on multimodal international transport of dangerous goods, as appropriate;

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

Bearing in mind that in paragraph 23 (c) of the Plan of Implementation adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002 in Johannesburg,¹⁰ countries were encouraged 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,

Also bearing in mind that the General Assembly, by its resolution 57/253 of 20 December 2002, endorsed the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development¹¹ 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:

(a) That all United Nations programmes and specialized agencies concerned with chemical safety in the field of transport or of 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 of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals;

(b) That 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 of the prevention and treatment of poisoning;

(c) That Member States participating in the activities of the Subcommittee of Experts 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 the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals;

(d) That several United Nations programmes, specialized agencies and regional organizations, in particular the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the International Labour Organization, the World Health Organization, the Economic Commission for Europe, the Asia-Pacific

¹⁰ *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.

¹¹ *Ibid.*

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 the international, regional, subregional and national levels in order to raise administration, health sector and industry awareness and to prepare for implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals,

Aware that effective implementation by 2008 will require further cooperation between the Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals and the 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,

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

1. *Commends* the Secretary-General for the publication of the *Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals* (GHS) in the six official languages of the United Nations, in book form¹² and on CD-ROM,¹³ and the availability of that and related material on the website of the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Europe;¹⁵⁸

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 of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(a) To circulate the amendments¹⁴ to the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals to the Governments of Member States, the specialized agencies and other international organizations concerned;

(b) To publish the first revised edition¹⁵ of the *Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals* in all the official languages of the United Nations in the most cost-effective manner no later than the end of 2005, and to make it available on CD-ROM and on the website of the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Europe,⁹ 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 of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals,

¹² United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.E.25 and Corr.1.

¹³ United Nations publication, Sales No. E/F.03.0.22.

¹⁴ ST/SG/AC.10/32/Add.3.

¹⁵ ST/SG/AC.10/30/Rev.1.

as recommended in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;¹¹

5. *Reiterates* 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 of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals and, where relevant, to amend their respective legal international instruments addressing transport safety, workplace safety, consumer protection or the protection of the environment so as to give effect to the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals 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 of the implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals by providing financial contributions and/or technical assistance to capacity-building activities in developing countries and to countries in transition;

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 41 to 42 of the report of the Secretary-General in the work of the Committee of Experts,⁵

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 promote their wider participation in its work,

Noting with concern that the General Service staff resources requested for the activities of the Subcommittee of Experts 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 were suppressed in 2004, irrespective of the recommendations made by the Committee at its first session,¹⁶

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 from countries with economies in transition in the work of the Committee, calls in that 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 reallocate appropriate General Service staff resources for the activities of the Committee;

¹⁶ E/2003/46, para. 33.

4. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Economic and Social Council in 2007 on the implementation of the present resolution, the recommendations on the transport of dangerous goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals.

*40th plenary meeting
27 July 2005*

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2005/34

Europe-Africa fixed link through the Strait of Gibraltar

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1982/57 of 30 July 1982, 1983/62 of 29 July 1983, 1984/75 of 27 July 1984, 1985/70 of 26 July 1985, 1987/69 of 8 July 1987, 1989/119 of 28 July 1989, 1991/74 of 26 July 1991, 1993/60 of 30 July 1993, 1995/48 of 27 July 1995, 1997/48 of 22 July 1997, 1999/37 of 28 July 1999, 2001/29 of 26 July 2001 and 2003/52 of 24 July 2003,

Referring to resolution 912 (1989) adopted on 1 February 1989 by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe¹⁷ regarding measures to encourage the construction of a major traffic artery in south-western Europe and to study thoroughly the possibility of a fixed link through the Strait of Gibraltar,

Referring also to the Barcelona Declaration adopted at the Euro-Mediterranean Conference, held in Barcelona, Spain, in November 1995, and to the work programme annexed thereto, aimed at connecting the Mediterranean transport networks to the trans-European transport network so as to ensure their interoperability,

Referring further to the Lisbon Declaration adopted at the Conference on Transport in the Mediterranean, held in Lisbon in January 1997, and to the conclusions of the Pan-European Transport Conference, held in Helsinki in June 1997, on corridors in the Mediterranean incorporating the fixed link,

Taking note of the follow-up report prepared jointly by the Economic Commission for Europe and the Economic Commission for Africa pursuant to resolution 2003/52 of 24 July 2003,

Taking note also of the conclusions of the second and third meetings of the Western Mediterranean Transport Group, held, respectively, in Rabat in September 1995 and in Madrid in January 1997, and of the conclusions of the meeting held in Brussels in 2000 by the Euro-Mediterranean Forum on Transport, which constitutes a framework for coordination among the countries of the Mediterranean basin for the development of integrated transport networks,

¹⁷ See Council of Europe, Parliamentary Assembly, fortieth ordinary session (third part), 30 January-3 February 1989, *Texts adopted by the Assembly*, Strasbourg, France, 1989.

Taking note further of the conclusions of the studies launched by the European Commission (INFRAMED, MED TEN-T and DESTIN) for the development of an integrated transport network in the Mediterranean basin,

Taking note of the progress of the high-level committee on extension of the main trans-European transport arteries to neighbouring countries and regions, set up by the European Commission, which considers the France-Iberian peninsula-Morocco artery to be a corridor constituting a continuation of the trans-European network,

1. *Welcomes* the cooperation on the project for the link through the Strait of Gibraltar between the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic Commission for Europe, the Governments of Morocco and Spain and specialized international organizations;

2. *Also welcomes* the progress made in deep-sea drilling project studies, and especially the work carried out, which have given a decisive impetus to geological and geotechnical explorations of undersea formations;

3. *Commends* the Economic Commission for Europe and the Economic Commission for Africa for the work done in preparing the project follow-up report requested by the Council in its resolution 2003/52 of 24 July 2003;

4. *Notes with appreciation* the holding, in Madrid in January 2005, by the International Tunnelling Association, under the aegis of the Economic Commission for Europe and the Economic Commission for Africa, of a seminar on soundings and treatments;

5. *Renews its invitation* to the competent organizations of the United Nations system and to specialized governmental and non-governmental organizations to participate in the studies and work on the fixed link through the Strait of Gibraltar;

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretaries of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for Europe to continue to take an active part in the follow-up to the project and to report to the Council at its substantive session of 2007;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide formal support and, to the extent that priorities permit, the resources necessary, within the regular budget, to the Economic Commission for Europe and the Economic Commission for Africa, to enable them to carry out the activities mentioned above.

*39th plenary meeting
26 July 2005*
