



Secretariat

Distr.
GENERAL

ST/SG/AC.10/35
7 October 2008

ENGLISH
Original: ENGLISH AND FRENCH

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

Geneva, 12 December 2008

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FOURTH SESSION^{1, 2}

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting at 2.30 p.m. on Friday 12 December 2008

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Election of officers
3. Resolutions and decisions of the Economic and Social Council
4. Work of the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods during the biennium 2007-2008

¹ For reasons of economy, delegates are requested to bring copies of all relevant documents to the session. There will be no documentation available in the conference room. Before the session, documents may be downloaded from the UNECE Transport Division's website (<http://www.unece.org/trans/main/dgdb/dgcomm/ac10age.html>). During the session, official documents may be obtained from the UNOG Documents Distribution Section (Room C.337, third floor, Palais des Nations).

² Delegates are requested to complete the registration form available for download at the UNECE Transport Division's website (<http://www.unece.org/trans/registfr.html>). It should be transmitted to the UNECE secretariat no later than two weeks prior to the session by email (laurence.berthet@unece.org) or by fax (+41 22 917 00 39). Upon arrival at the Palais des Nations, delegates should obtain an identification badge at the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate (14, Avenue de la Paix). In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone (ext. 72106). For a map of the Palais des Nations and other useful information, see website <http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm>

5. Work of the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals during the biennium 2007-2008
6. Programme of work for the biennium 2009-2010
 - (a) Programme of work and related proposals
 - (b) Calendar of meetings
7. Draft resolution 2009/... of the Economic and Social Council
8. Any other business
9. Adoption of the report.

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

General

Status and membership

The Committee is a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council, and was previously known as the «Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods». It was reconfigured by the Economic and Social Council's resolution 1999/65 of 26 October 1999 as the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals, with two sub-committees, the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (TDG Sub-Committee) and the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS Sub-Committee) (refer also to document ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2001/7). The first session of the Committee was held in Geneva from 11-12 December 2002, and the report was circulated as document ST/SG/AC.10/29 and Adds 1-2. The second session was held in Geneva on 10 December 2004, and the report was circulated as document ST/SG/AC.10/32 and –Adds 1-3 and –Add.3/Corr.1. The third session was held in Geneva on 15 December 2006 and the report was circulated as document ST/SG/AC.10/34 and Adds. 1-3, Add.1/Corr.1, Add.2/Corr.1 and Add.3/Corr.1.

Pursuant to the Economic and Social Council's decisions 2001/201B, 2002/201C, 2003/201D, 2005/201C and 2008/201C the membership of the Committee is 37, as follows:

Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Denmark³, Finland, France, Germany, Greece³, India⁴, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland³, Italy, Japan, Mexico⁴, Morocco⁴, Netherlands, New Zealand³, Nigeria³, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Qatar³, Russian Federation⁴, Senegal³, Serbia³, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine³, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Zambia³.

³ Committee and GHS Sub-Committee only

⁴ Committee and TDG Sub-Committee only

Documentation

The documentation relating to the Committee is issued under the symbol ST/SG/AC.10/...

The documentation relating to the TDG Sub-Committee is issued under the symbol ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/...

The documentation relating to the GHS Sub-Committee is issued under the symbol ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/...

Documents are issued in English and French only, which are the working languages of the secretariat.

All documents are available on the web site of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), whose secretariat provides the secretariat services for the Committee: <http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/danger.htm>.

Interpretation

Interpretation during the session will be provided in Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

Rules of procedures

In accordance with Rule 27 of the Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Council, Chapters VI and VIII to XII of the Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Council apply to the proceedings of the Committee and of its sub-committees (refer also to documents ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2001/1, ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2001/6).

Mandate

In accordance with resolution 1999/65, the mandate of the Committee is to deal with strategic issues rather than technical issues. It is not envisaged that it would review, change or revisit technical recommendations of the sub-committees.

Its main functions are:

- (a) To approve the work programmes of the sub-committees in the light of available resources;
- (b) To coordinate strategic and policy directions in areas of shared interests and overlap;
- (c) To give formal endorsement to the recommendations of the sub-committees and provide the mechanism for channelling them to the Economic and Social Council;
- (d) Facilitate and coordinate the smooth running of the sub-committees.

Timetable

The length of the session has been limited to half a day. It will be preceded by the thirty-fourth session of the TDG Sub-Committee (1-9 December 2008) (Agenda: ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/67 and -/Add.1) and the sixteenth session of the GHS Sub-Committee (10-12 (a.m) December 2008) (Agenda: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/31 and -/Add.1).

1. Adoption of the agenda

In accordance with the established practice, the first item on the agenda is the adoption of the agenda.

2. Election of officers

In accordance with the established practice, the Committee shall elect one President and one or several vice-presidents from among the representatives of its members.

3. Resolutions and decisions of the Economic and Social Council

The resolutions and decisions of the Economic and Social Council of relevance to the work of the Committee during the biennium 2007-2008 are as follows:

Decision 2008/201C of 29 April 2008 (Membership of Nigeria) (see informal document UN/SCEGHS/15/INF.6).

Resolution 2007/6 of 23 July 2007 (Work of the Committee) (see informal documents UN/SCETDG/32/INF.38 or UN/SCEGHS/14/INF.14).

4. Work of the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods during the biennium 2007-2008

The reports of the TDG Sub-Committee on its thirty-first, thirty-second and thirty-third sessions are contained in documents ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/62 and Add.1; ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/64; ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/66 and Add.1.

The list of draft amendments to the Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Model Regulations and Manual of Tests and Criteria adopted so far by the Sub-Committee has been consolidated in document ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2008/97.

These draft amendments are still subject to a final reading at the Sub-Committee's thirty-fourth session (1-9 December 2008) where additional amendment proposals should also be discussed. The report of the Sub-Committee on its thirty-fourth session will be made available to the Committee either in its final form or in the draft form prepared by the secretariat, as documents ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2008/CRP.3 and addenda for the report proper and ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2008/CRP.4 and addenda for changes to the consolidated list of draft amendments. The Committee may wish to endorse the draft amendments adopted by the Sub-Committee and any other recommendations made by it.

5. Work of the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals during the biennium 2007-2008

The reports of the GHS Sub-Committee on its thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth sessions have been issued as documents ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/26 and -/Corr.1, ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/28 and ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/30. The list of draft amendments to the GHS adopted so far by the Sub-Committee has been consolidated in document ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2008/14.

The report of the Sub-Committee on its sixteenth session will be made available to the Committee either in its final form or under the draft form prepared by the secretariat (ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2008/CRP.3 and addenda for the report proper and ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2008/CRP.4 and addenda for any change to the consolidated list of draft amendments). The Committee may wish to endorse the draft amendments adopted by the Sub-Committee and any other recommendations made by it.

6. Programme of work for the biennium 2009-2010

(a) Programme of work and related proposals

The Committee should consider the proposals made by the TDG and the GHS Sub-Committees at their December 2008 sessions for their respective programmes of work, and approve them in the light of resources available for 2009-2010.

(b) Calendar of meetings

The total number of meeting days allocated to the Committee and its sub-committees by the Economic and Social Council for a biennium is 38 days (i.e. 76 meetings of three-hour duration). On the basis of the experience for the biennium 2007-2008, the following dates have been provisionally scheduled by the secretariat for 2009-2010:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 22-26 June 2009: | TDG Sub-Committee, 35th session |
| 29 June -1 (a.m) July 2009: | GHS Sub-Committee, 17th session |
| 30 November -9 (a.m) December 2009: | TDG Sub-Committee, 36th session |
| 9 (p.m.)-11 December 2009: | GHS Sub-Committee, 18th session |
| 21-30 (a.m) June 2010: | TDG Sub-Committee, 37th session |
| 30 (p.m.) June – 2 July 2010: | GHS Sub-Committee, 19th session |
| 29 November – 7 (a.m) December 2010: | TDG Sub-Committee, 38th session |
| 7 (p.m.) – 9 December 2010: | GHS Sub-Committee, 20th session |
| 10 December 2010: | Committee, 5th session. |

The Committee may wish to consider the allocation of meetings for each sub-committee depending on their respective programmes of work.

7. Draft resolution 2009/... of the Economic and Social Council

The Committee may wish to note that both sub-committees will have prepared their own contribution to the draft resolution to be submitted to the Economic and Social Council for adoption at its 2009 substantive session. The Committee should combine the two parts and adopt the draft resolution to be submitted to the Council.

8. Any other business

At the time of writing, there is no issue under this agenda item.

9. Adoption of the report

The Committee should adopt the report on its fourth session on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat.
