

Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

**Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized
System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals**

1 June 2015

Twenty-ninth session

Geneva, 29 June – 1 July 2015

Item 6 of the provisional agenda

Capacity building

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

**Transmitted by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research
(UNITAR)**

1. This document provides an update regarding activities in the UNITAR/ILO Global GHS Capacity Building Programme and the WSSD GHS Partnership for the period January to June 2015.

UNITAR/ILO Global GHS Capacity Building Programme Activities

Country-based activities and training

2. The SAICM QSPTF-supported GHS projects in Bolivia, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Guatemala, Mexico, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan continue during 2015. UNITAR is serving as the international executing agency for these projects.

3. GHS Training Workshops took place in Kyrgyzstan (March 2015), Tajikistan (March 2015), and Bolivia (June 2015). The objective of these workshops was to provide technical training to key stakeholders in GHS implementation.

4. Final workshops took place in DRC, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan in June 2015. The key outcomes of these projects are National GHS Implementation Strategies, increased coordination among sectors, awareness-raising and training of stakeholders, and agreement on next steps for GHS implementation.

5. In Kyrgyzstan, a Government Decree (“On approval of the classification system of chemical substances/mixtures and requirements for hazard communication elements: labelling and safety data sheets”) was adopted in February 2015.

6. In addition, UNITAR is currently serving as the international executing agency for seven broader QSPTF-supported projects with a GHS-related component (preparation of national GHS situation and gap analyses, and support for GHS capacity building) in Benin, Burundi, Haiti, Kiribati, Togo, Mali, and Tunisia. In March 2015, Benin and Togo conducted final workshops to endorse their national GHS situation and gap analyses. Mali has developed a draft national GHS situation and gap analysis, and Haiti and Tunisia are both currently preparing their analyses. The Burundi project is in the inception phase.

Guidance, training, and resource materials

7. The fourth edition of the GHS e-learning course, “Classifying and Labelling Chemicals According to the UN GHS”, took place from 20 April to 28 June 2015. Through this course, UNITAR/ILO provided capacity-building to some 20 participants from Asia, Africa, Europe, Latin America, and North America. Participants represented government, industry, and civil society. The next course is planned for late 2015.

8. As part of an EU-supported project to further develop, promote, and train on the *IOMC Toolbox for Decision Making in Chemicals Management* (IOMC Toolbox), UNITAR, in collaboration with ILO, is developing a management scheme for implementing a classification and labelling system for chemicals (GHS). The IOMC Toolbox is an internet-based tool that enables countries to identify the most relevant and efficient tools to address specific national problems in chemicals management. The first version of the GHS management scheme is now available online (<http://iomctoolbox.oecd.org>).

Other matters

9. UNITAR/ILO continue to greatly appreciate the efforts of the PAG and the GHS Training Course Review Group for their time and expert inputs to our projects and activities.

WSSD Global Partnership for Capacity Building to Implement the GHS

10. UNITAR/ILO would like to acknowledge contributions from the Government of Switzerland and the SAICM QSPTF for financial support to UNITAR/ILO implemented Partnership activities, including the Partnership Secretariat and national GHS implementation projects. Other in-kind contributions, such as that from US OSHA, Health Canada, KemI, ECHA, EPA New Zealand, CIS Center, and UNECE are also kindly acknowledged.

11. GHS capacity building activities organised by UNITAR/ILO continue to be funded by extra-budgetary resources. UNITAR/ILO welcome suggestions and proposals from the SCEGHS regarding how to ensure sustainable funding to meet the continued demand for GHS capacity building activities in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

12. UNITAR will continue to update the SCEGHS on these and other activities over the course of the next months.
