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

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS
ON ITS THIRD SESSION
(14 December 2006)

CONTENTS

	<u>Paragraphs</u>
ATTENDANCE	1-5
ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA	6
ELECTION OF OFFICERS	7
RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL	8-9
WORK OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS DURING THE BIENNIUM 2005-2006	10-11
WORK OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE GLOBALLY HARMONIZED SYSTEM OF CLASSIFICATION AND LABELLING OF CHEMICALS DURING THE BIENNIUM 2005-2006	12-13

CONTENTS (cont'd)

	<u>Paragraphs</u>
PROGRAMME OF WORK	
Programme of work for the biennium 2007-2008 and related proposals	14
Calendar of meetings	15
DRAFT RESOLUTION 2007/... OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL	16
ADOPTION OF THE REPORT	17

* * *

ANNEXES:

	<u>Page</u>
<u>Annex 1:</u> Amendments to the fourteenth revised edition of the Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Model Regulations (ST/SG/AC.10/1/Rev.14) ST/SG/AC.10/34/Add.1	7
<u>Annex 2:</u> Amendments to the fourth revised edition of the Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Manual of Tests and Criteria (ST/SG/AC.10/11/Rev.4) ST/SG/AC.10/34/Add.2	7
<u>Annex 3:</u> Amendments to the first revised edition of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and labelling of Chemicals (GHS) (ST/SG/AC.10/30/Rev.1) ST/SG/AC.10/34/Add.3	7
<u>Annex 4:</u> Draft resolution 2007/...of the Economic and Social Council.....	8

REPORT

ATTENDANCE

1. The Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals held its third session in Geneva on 14 December 2006.
2. Experts from the following countries took part in the session: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Russian Federation, Sweden, United Kingdom and United States of America.
3. Under rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council, observers from Cambodia, Nigeria, Philippines and Thailand took part.
4. The following intergovernmental organization was represented: Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).
5. Representatives of the following non-governmental organizations took part in the discussion of items of concern to their organizations: Compressed Gas Association (CGA), European Chemical Industry Council (CEFIC), European Liquefied Petroleum Gas Association (AEGPL), International Confederation of Plastics Packaging Manufacturers (ICPP), International Paint and Printing Ink Council (IPPIC), Soap and Detergent Association (SDA) and Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers' Institute (SAAMI).

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Document: ST/SG/AC.10/33 (Secretariat)
Informal document: INF.1 (List of documents) (Secretariat)

6. The Committee adopted the provisional agenda prepared by the secretariat, as modified with the addition of informal documents (INF.1 and INF.2).

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

7. Mr. S. Benassai (Italy) and Ms. K. Headrick (Canada) were elected President and Vice-President respectively.

RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Document: ST/SG/AC.10/2006/1 (Secretariat)

8. The Committee took note of the Economic and Social Council's resolution 2005/53 of 27 July 2005, of decision 2005/201C of 27 April 2005 and of their consequences for its membership and that of its sub-committees, as detailed in the explanatory notes to the agenda.

9. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the secretariat had published the fourteenth revised edition of the Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Model Regulations (ST/SG/AC.10/1/Rev.14), Amendment 1 to the fourth revised edition of the Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Manual of Test and Criteria (ST/SG/AC.10/11/Rev.4/Amdt.1) and the first revised edition of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) (ST/SG/AC.10/30/Rev.1) in all official languages of the United Nations. The Model Regulations and the GHS are also available in all official languages on the website of the Transport Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (www.unece.org/trans/danger/danger.htm). The Model Regulations and the GHS are available separately on CD-ROMs as English/French sales publications including in addition the Manual of Tests and Criteria. Other language versions are made available by the secretariat on request.

WORK OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS DURING THE BIENNIUM 2005-2006

Documents: ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/54
ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/56 and -/Add.1
ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/58 and -/Adds 1-2
ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2006/101
ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2006/CRP.3 and Adds.1-10
ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2006/CRP.4 and Adds.1-7

10. The Committee took note of the reports of the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods on its twenty-seventh, twenty-eighth and twenty-ninth sessions. The Committee noted also that the Sub-Committee had adopted its reports on its thirtieth session (4-12 December 2006) on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat (ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2006/CRP.3 and Adds.1-10 and -/CRP.4 and Adds. 1-7) with some slight modifications. The final report has been issued as ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/60.

11. The Committee decided to endorse the reports of the Sub-Committee, including the amendments to the existing recommendations on the transport of dangerous goods and the new recommendations made (see annexes 1 and 2).

WORK OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE GLOBALLY HARMONIZED SYSTEM OF CLASSIFICATION AND LABELLING OF CHEMICALS DURING THE BIENNIUM 2005-2006

Documents: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/18
ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/20
ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/22
ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2006/19
ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2006/CRP.3 and Adds.1-2
ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2006/CRP.4 and Adds.1-2

12. The Committee took note of the reports of the Sub-Committee on its ninth, tenth and eleventh sessions. The Committee noted also that the Sub-Committee had adopted the report on

its twelfth session (12-14 December 2006) on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat (ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2006/CRP.3 and Add. 1-2 and -/CRP.4 and Add.1-2) with some minor changes. The final report has been issued as ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/24.

13. The Committee decided to endorse the reports of the Sub-Committee, including the amendments to the existing text of the GHS and the new provisions adopted (see annex 3).

PROGRAMME OF WORK

Programme of work for the biennium 2007-2008 and related proposals

14. The Committee approved the programme of work of the two sub-committees as reflected in ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/60, para. 100 and ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/24, annex 2, as well as the list of tasks assigned to OECD in relation to health hazards and hazards to the environment (ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/24, annex 2).

Calendar of meetings

15. The Committee agreed that the schedule of meetings for 2007-2008 should be as follows:

2007

2-6 July 2007:	TDG Sub-Committee, 31st session	(10 meetings)
9-11 July 2007:	GHS Sub-Committee, 13th session	(5 meetings)
3-12 (a.m.) December 2007:	TDG Sub-Committee, 32nd session	(15 meetings)
12 (p.m.)-14 December 2007:	GHS Sub-Committee, 14th session	(5 meetings)

Total: TDG: 25 meetings
GHS: 10 meetings

2008

30 June – 9 (a.m.) July 2008:	TDG Sub-Committee, 33rd session	(15 meetings)
9 (p.m.) – 11 July 2008:	GHS Sub-Committee, 15th session	(5 meetings)
1-9 (a.m.) December 2008:	TDG Sub-Committee, 34th session	(13 meetings)
9 (p.m.) – 11 December 2008:	GHS Sub-Committee, 16th session	(5 meetings)

12 December 2008: Committee, 4th session (2 meetings)

Total: TDG: 28 meetings
GHS: 10 meetings
Committee: 2 meetings

DRAFT RESOLUTION 2007/... OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Informal document: INF.2

16. The Committee adopted a draft resolution for consideration by the Council at its 2007 substantive session (see annex 4).

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

17. The Committee adopted the report on its third session and the annexes thereto on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat.

* * * * *

Annex 1

Amendments to the fourteenth revised edition of the Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Model Regulations (ST/SG/AC.10/1/Rev.14)
(See ST/SG/AC.10/34/Add.1)

Annex 2

Amendments to the fourth revised edition of the Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Manual of Tests and Criteria (ST/SG/AC.10/11/Rev.4)
(See ST/SG/AC.10/34/Add.2)

Annex 3

Amendments to the first revised edition of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and labelling of Chemicals (GHS) (ST/SG/AC.10/30/Rev.1)
(See ST/SG/AC.10/34/Add.3)

Annex 4

Draft resolution 2007/... of the Economic and Social Council

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 and 2005/53 of 27 July 2005,

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 Chemicals¹ during the biennium 2005-2006,

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 and secure transport of dangerous goods,

Noting the ever increasing volume of dangerous goods being introduced into worldwide commerce and the rapid expansion of technology and innovation,

Recalling that the major international instruments governing the transport of dangerous goods by the various modes of transport and many national regulations are now better 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,

Aware of activities initiated by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in order to address the problems caused by the denial of shipments of

¹ E/2007/...[to be completed].

radioactive material, including the creation of a senior level Steering Committee including representatives from international organizations²,

Sharing the concern of the IAEA at the negative consequences of these denials and related transport delays which render radioactive isotopes useless for their intended application such as medical diagnosis, therapy, industrial applications, production of nuclear power and research,

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;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(a) To circulate the new and amended recommendations³ 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 fifteenth revised edition of the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: Model Regulations*⁴ and the amendments to the fourth revised edition of the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: Manual of Tests and Criteria*⁵ in all the official languages of the United Nations, in the most cost-effective manner, not later than the end of 2007;

(c) To make those publications available on the website of the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Europe⁶, 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

² IAEA General Conference resolution CG(50)/RES/10 of 22 September 2006, *Measures to strengthen international cooperation in nuclear, radiation and transport safety and waste management, Part B, paragraph 13.*

³ ST/SG/AC.10/34/Add.1 and 2.

⁴ ST/SG/AC.10/1/Rev.15.

⁵ ST/SG/AC.10/11/Rev.4/Amend.2.

⁶ <http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/danger.htm>.

possibilities of improving the implementation of the Model Regulations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods in all countries 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;

6. *Invites* United Nations programmes, specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organizations concerned with transport of dangerous goods safety or transport facilitation, or by the negative impact of denials of shipments of radioactive material, as well as Non-Governmental Organizations representing transport associations, to take action, as deemed appropriate, to facilitate transport and quick delivery of such material and to enhance cooperation in this respect with the IAEA,

B

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

Bearing in mind that the World Summit on Sustainable Development at its 2002 session in Johannesburg, in paragraph 23 (c) of its Plan of Implementation,⁷ encouraged countries to implement the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) as soon as possible with a view to having the system fully operational by 2008,

Bearing also in mind that the General Assembly, by its resolution 57/253 of 20 December 2002, endorsed the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation 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 that

(a) all United Nations programmes and specialized agencies concerned with chemical safety in the field of the transport or the environment, in particular UNECE, UNEP, IMO and ICAO have taken appropriate steps to amend or consider amending their legal instruments in order to give effect to the GHS by the 2008 target date or as soon as possible;

(b) ILO, FAO and WHO are also taking appropriate steps to adapt their existing chemical safety recommendations, codes and guidelines to the GHS in particular in the areas of occupational health and safety, pesticide management and prevention and treatment of poisoning respectively;

⁷ *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.*

(c) Members States participating in the activities of the GHS Sub-Committee as well as the European Commission, are actively preparing revisions of national or regional legislation applicable to chemicals for implementation of GHS;

(d) several United Nations programmes, specialized agencies, regional organizations, in particular UNITAR, ILO, WHO, UNECE, APEC, IFCS, 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 international, regional, sub-regional and national levels in order to raise administration, health sector and industry awareness and to prepare implementation of the GHS,

Aware that effective implementation by the 2008 target will require further cooperation between the GHS Sub-Committee and international bodies concerned, continued efforts by the Governments of the Member States, cooperation with industry and other stakeholders, and significant support for capacity-building activities in countries with economies in transition and developing countries,

Recalling the particular significance of the UNITAR/ILO/OECD Global Partnership for Capacity-Building to implement the GHS for building capacities at all levels,

1. *Commends* the Secretary-General for the publication of the first revised edition of the GHS⁸ in the six official languages of the United Nations, in book form and on CD-ROM, and its availability together with related information material on the website of the UNECE;
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 GHS;
3. *Requests* the Secretary-General
 - (a) to circulate the amendments to the first revised edition of the GHS to the Governments of Member States, the specialized agencies and other international organizations concerned;
 - (b) to publish the second revised edition of the GHS⁹ in all the official languages of the United Nations in the most cost effective manner not later than the end of 2007, and to make it available on CD-ROM and on the web site of the Economic Commission for Europe, which provides secretariat services to the Committee;
4. *Invites* Governments who would not have done so yet to take the necessary steps, through appropriate national procedures and/or legislation, to implement the Globally Harmonized System, as soon as possible with a view to having the system fully operational by 2008;

⁸ ST/SG/AC.10/30/Rev.1.

⁹ ST/SG/AC.10/30/Rev.2.

5. *Re-iterates also its invitation* to the regional commissions, United Nations programmes, the specialized agencies and other organizations concerned to promote the implementation of the GHS and, where relevant, to amend their respective legal international instruments addressing transport safety, work safety, consumer protection or the protection of the environment so as to give effect to the GHS through such instruments;
6. *Invites* Governments, the regional commissions, United Nations programmes, the specialized agencies and other organizations concerned to continue to provide feedback on implementation to the Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals¹⁰;
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 to the implementation of the GHS by providing financial contributions to capacity-building activities in developing countries and countries in transition and/or technical assistance.

C

Programme of work of the Committee

Taking note of the programme of work of the Committee for the biennium 2007-2008 as contained in paragraphs [...]of the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee of Experts,

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,

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, and 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 submit a report to the Economic and Social Council in 2009 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.

¹⁰ Information on GHS implementation, by country, is available at the UNECE website at: http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/publi/ghs/implementation_e.html.