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

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Implementation of the GHS: Implementation issues

Guiding principles for developing a global list of classified chemicals

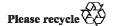
Transmitted by the expert from the United States of America

A. Introduction

- 1. The purpose of this informal paper is to present the list of guiding principles that will be used to evaluate possible options for moving forward with developing a global list of classified chemicals.
- 2. These guiding principles are intended to serve as the foundation for establishing a process to examine the creation of a global list and to facilitate future discussions.

B. Background

- 3. During the twentieth session of the Sub-Committee meeting, this working group was entrusted with evaluating the possible development of a global list of chemicals classified according to the GHS.
- 4. Specifically, this working group was charged with considering the following three items (Mandate/Terms of Reference: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2010/20 (paragraph 12):
 - (a) The principles to guide the development of a global list of GHS classified chemicals, including how priorities should be established;
 - (b) What chemicals should be the focus of work for classification according to the GHS, considering those chemicals possessing hazards of serious health, physical and/or environmental concern; those most commonly used and transported worldwide; and which end-points should be covered; and
 - (c) The interim steps such as the development of a proposal on functionalities that would increase the efficacy of the OECD eChemPortal regarding the current GHS classification of chemicals in existing lists.



C. Guiding principles

- 5. During the 21st session of the Sub-Committee meeting, the working group convened in the plenary to discuss a number of issues related to the development of a global list of classified chemicals. The discussion confirmed that the working group should agree to a set of guiding principles as the first step in this process. Participants reached consensus on the following principles:
 - (a) The process for developing and maintaining a global list must be clear and transparent, follow the principles of the GHS, and include opportunities for stakeholders to provide input as well as a mechanisms for expert review and conflict resolution.
 - (b) All GHS hazard categories and classes must be included in the global list of classified chemicals.
 - (c) Only substances will be included on the global list of classified chemicals.
 - (d) All substances must be accurately identifiable and described for each entry (e.g. including impurities and CAS numbers).
 - (e) The data sets forming the basis for the chemical classification must be included with the classification. The source of the information must also be readily available and publicly accessible.
 - (f) The global list of chemical classifications will be non-binding. As with the GHS itself, countries will have the option to make the list binding if they adopt it through their legislative or regulatory processes.
- 6. These principles will assist the working group in developing a structured process and provide a clear standard to measure proposed mechanisms against, in order to determine their compatibility.

D. Moving forward

- 7. To move forward this working group must now determine the mechanism that may be utilized if a global list of classified chemicals is developed. The mechanism adopted must support the principles established by this group.
- 8. The next step is to evaluate the considerations and criteria that will shape the structure of the global list. In order to begin examining these issues, we have listed a series of questions for discussion:
 - (a) How will chemicals be nominated for the list?
 - (b) Will existing lists be used as a basis for making the initial global list?
 - (c) How many chemicals should be in the pilot group?
 - (d) What mechanism will be used to ensure that chemical classifications are reviewed and updated?
 - (e) What mechanisms should be utilized to gather stakeholder input?
 - (f) If there are discrepancies between the global list of classified chemicals and lists of individual countries, how will they be resolved?

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