

UN/SCETDG/18/INF.21

INFORMATION PAPER (Transmitted by the Chairman)

SUMMARY REPORT ON THE 16th CONSULTATION OF THE IOMC CO-ORDINATING GROUP FOR THE HARMONIZATION OF CHEMICAL CLASSIFICATION COMMUNICATION

The meeting took place at the ILO Headquarters (Geneva) from 25 to 26 May 2000.

After the approval of the Agenda and of the report of the previous meeting, the 1999/65 Resolution from ECOSOC, concerning the restructuring of the UN Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, was discussed.

It was noted that the letter of invitation to Member States of UN, asking for a participation to the new SubCommittee on GHS, was not yet been sent and it was underlined the necessity of a prompt posting.

It was confirmed the choice of a wide participation to that SubCommittee and it was suggested that the participation to the Main Committee should be at least the same as for the existing Committee of Experts.

The first meeting of the SubCommittee on GHS will take place in July 2001 and it was proposed that it will deal, inter alias, with a review of ECOSOC procedures, recognition of NGOs participation, status and role of existing working groups (ILO, OECD, UNCETDG), and establishment and functioning of the Main Committee.

The second meeting (December 2001) will deal with a review of the GHS as developed by the working groups, definition of work programme 2003-2004, establishment of a working group on Capacity Building.

On that basis the Co-ordinating Group will remain in charge up to the end of 2001, in order to complete the preparation of the Guidance Document to be transmitted to the SubCommittee on GHS. This document will summarise the GHS requirements and will contain, as appendices, the result of the work of the various working groups (classification criteria for substances and mixtures, labelling, safety data sheets).

A progress report of the work, illustrating the achieved results and the future work, will be presented at the 3rd meeting of the International Forum on Chemical Safety to be held in Brazil, October 2000.

The next meeting of the Co-ordinating Group is envisaged for 2-3 November 2000 in Rome.
