

SUB-COMMITTEE ON GHS
(4th session,
Geneva, 9-13 December 2002)

SECOND DRAFT RESOLUTION FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE

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, 2001/34 of 26 July 2001 and 2001/44 of 20 December 2002,

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 2001-2002;

A. WORK OF THE COMMITTEE REGARDING THE TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS (TDG)

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 transport of dangerous goods;

Noting the increasing volume of dangerous goods being introduced into world-wide commerce and the rapid expansion of technology and innovation;

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 recommendations² on the transport of dangerous goods to the Governments of member States, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic

¹ E/2003/...

² ST/SG/AC.10/29/Add....

Energy Agency and other international organizations concerned;

- (b) To publish the thirteenth revised edition³ of the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Model Regulations*, and the fourth revised edition of the *Recommendations on the Transport of dangerous Goods, Manual of Tests and Criteria*⁴ in all the official languages of the United Nations, in the most cost-effective manner, not later than the end of 2003;
 - (c) To make these publications available on the web site of the Economic Commission for Europe, which also provides secretariat services to the Committee, and to make them also available on CD-Rom;
3. *Invites* all Governements, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the other international organizations concerned 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, when developing or updating appropriate codes and regulations, to consider taking into account the recommendations of the Committee;
 5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to carry out a survey of the status of the effective implementation of the Model Regulations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods by member States and international organizations on worldwide level;

B. WORK OF THE COMMITTEE REGARDING THE GLOBALLY HARMONIZED SYSTEM OF CLASSIFICATION AND LABELLING OF CHEMICALS (GHS)

Bearing in mind that, pursuant to para 19.27 of agenda 21, the Inter-organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) has cooperated for a decade with the International Labour Organization, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (TDG Sub-Committee) to develop a globally harmonized hazard classification and compatible labelling system for chemicals;

Bearing also in mind that the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS Sub-Committee) was created pursuant to resolution 1999/65 to make the GHS available worldwide, to keep it up-to-date and to promote

³ ST/SG/AC.10/1/Rev.13

⁴ ST/SG/AC.10/11/Rev.4

and monitor its implementation;

Noting with satisfaction that the Committee could finalize the first version of the GHS⁵ after consideration of a draft consolidated by IOMC on the basis of inputs from the TDG Sub-Committee, ILO and OECD;

Aware that the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) at its 2002 session in Johannesburg encouraged, in para. 22 (c) of its plan of implementation⁶, countries to implement the GHS as soon as possible with a view to having the system fully operational by 2008;

[*Aware also* that the General Assembly endorsed the plan of implementation....].

Further aware of, and recognizing, the significance of the UNITAR/ILO/OECD Global Partnership for Capacity Building to implement the GHS for building capacities at all levels to achieve the 2008 target;

1. *Expresses* its deep appreciation to the Committee and other organizations concerned for their fruitful cooperation;
2. *Requests* the Secretary-General :
 - (a) to publish the GHS⁵ in all the official languages of the United Nations, in the most cost-effective manner and to circulate it to the Governments of Member States, the specialized agencies, and other international organizations concerned as soon as possible and no later than in 2004;
 - (b) to consider disseminating the GHS as a CD-ROM;
 - (c) to make the GHS available on the web site of the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Europe, which also provides the secretariat services to the Committee;
3. *Invites* all governments to take the necessary steps to implement the GHS⁵ through their national legislation as soon as possible and no later than in 2008;
4. *Invites* regional commissions, United Nations programmes, specialized agencies and other organizations concerned to promote the implementation of the GHS⁵ 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;
5. *Invites* governments, regional commissions, United Nations programmes, specialized agencies and other organizations concerned to provide feed-back to the GHS Sub-Committee;
6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to monitor the status of implementation of the GHS;

⁵ ST/SG/AC.10/30

⁶ A/CONF.199/20.

7 *Encourages* donor Governments and agencies, regional and international financial institutions, United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, in particular the chemical industry, to assist developing countries and countries in transition in their capacity-building to enable them through technical assistance or financial contributions to implement the GHS.

C. PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

Noting the programme of work of the Committee for the biennium 2003-2004 as contained in paragraph ... of the report of the Secretary-General;

Noting nevertheless with concern that the additional staff resources requested in relation to the reconfiguration of the Committee in operative paragraph 4 of resolution 1999/65, detailed as resources at P4 level and General Service level in E/1999/L.48 and in paragraph 7 of document A/54/443/Add.1 and approved by the General Assembly under resolution 54/250A of 23 December 1999 for 2001, have been only partially reconducted for 2002-2003;

1. *Decides* to approve the programme of work of the Committee;
 2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Transport Division of the Economic Commission for Europe with the requested additional staff at General Service level in accordance with A/54/443/Add.1;
 3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to it in 2005 on the implementation of the present resolution.
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