



Secretariat

Distr.
GENERAL

ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2004/32
7 April 2004

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

**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
Transport of Dangerous Goods

Twenty-fifth session, 5-14 July 2004
Item 13 of the provisional agenda

OTHER BUSINESS

World convention on the transport of dangerous goods

Transmitted by the expert from Italy

Introduction

At the 19th session (2-10 December 1996) the UN Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods adopted the first version of the **Model Regulations** on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (annexed to the 10th revised edition of the Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods) in order to facilitate the direct integration of the Model Regulations into all modal, national and international regulations and thereby enhance harmonization, facilitate regular up-dating and result in overall considerable resource savings.

Looking at the present situation it can be recognized that indeed harmonization among the modal regulations has been largely and successfully progressed.

On that basis, and in order to further move on the direction of a complete harmonization, it could be appropriate to think in terms of changing the legal status of the Model Regulations into a worldwide Convention.

Background

It has to be noted that the idea of a Convention is not a new one.

The ECOSOC, in Resolution 1973 (LIX), instructed the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods to study the possibility of drafting an international convention on the transport of dangerous goods by all modes of transport.

The Committee of Experts discussed the matter at its 9th Session (December 1976), 10th Session (December 1978) and 11th Session (December 1980), on the basis of previous discussion in the Group of Rapporteurs.

Finally the Committee decided (para 19 of ST/SG/AC.10/5):

*... to give priority to the harmonization of the existing rules and recommendations with the United Nations Recommendations. This would mean declaring that for the time being **the convention was not desirable until more conformity between existing rules and the Recommendations had been achieved.***

At the 17th Session (December 1992) of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods a proposal from Italy (ST/SG/AC.10/R.354) for a “World Convention on the Transport of Dangerous Goods” was discussed.

There was some support for the proposal, but the majority of the Committee decided not to adopt such a proposal, feeling that timing was not opportune, that ICAO and IMO should be consulted on the subject, that the Committee should continue to work in a flexible way.

Proposal

Taking care of the level of harmonization achieved, and looking for a more harmonized and timely implementation of amendments throughout all the modes, it is proposed to put on the agenda of the next biennium the subject of a World Convention for the Transport of Dangerous Goods.

In order to guide the discussion during the next biennium, it is proposed that the Sub-Committee starts now the discussion on the matter, with regard to the following principles:

- agreement on the basic proposal;
 - definition of work plan;
 - involvement of IMO, ICAO, Joint Meeting ADR/RID/AND, etc.;
 - drafting of a resolution for ECOSOC.
-