

**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
Eighth session, 7-9 December 2004

DRAFT ECOSOC RESOLUTION

Resolution
2005/..

**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, 2001/44 of 20 December 2001 and 2003/64 of 25 July 2003

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 2003-2004,

A

Work of the Committee regarding the transport of dangerous goods

[.....]

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,² 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 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 and prevention and treatment of poisoning respectively.

¹ E/2005/...

² *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 organization, 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 the industry, 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 GHS 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 GHS to the Governments of Member States, the specialized agencies and other international organizations concerned;
 - (b) to publish the first revised edition of the GHS in all the official languages of the United Nations in the most cost effective manner not later than the end of 2005, 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 and no later than 2008;
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 provide feedback on implementation to the Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals;
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.