

## 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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Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda

**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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