

**Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods  
and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification  
and Labelling of Chemicals**

28 November 2019

**Sub-Committee of Experts on the  
Transport of Dangerous Goods**

**Fifty- sixth session**

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Item 1 of the provisional agenda

**Adoption of the agenda**

**Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized  
System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals**

**Thirty- eighth session**

Geneva, 11-13 December 2019

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

**Adoption of the agenda**

## **Accreditation of experts**

### **Note by the secretariat**

1. The secretariat would like to draw the attention of delegates and permanent missions to the necessity of properly accrediting experts participating in the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and its two subsidiary sub-committees.

2. It is recalled that the Committee is a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council. The Committee and its subcommittees are expert bodies composed of governmental experts.

3. In accordance with the original terms of reference of the Committee, Governments are invited, at the request of the Secretary-General and at their own expense, to make available the experts for the Committee (and its sub-committees). The membership of the Committee and of its subcommittees is restricted.

4. The current composition is as follows:

- TDG Sub-Committee: 30 full members
- GHS Sub-Committee: 36 full members

In accordance with established practice, since the creation of the GHS Sub-Committee, any country which is a member of any of the two sub-committees is a full member of the Committee, which now counts 40 full members.

5. Any country which is a full member of a Sub-Committee has to designate one expert to serve on the sub-committee concerned. This governmental expert is considered to be the Head of delegation and has to be accredited (as well as any alternate) by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or the Permanent Mission of the country concerned to the United Nations Office in Geneva. Other members of the delegation (advisors) may be designated by the Head of delegation.

6. States which are not full members may participate in accordance with Rule 72 of the Rules of procedures of the Economic and Social Council. They do not have the right to vote, but they may submit proposals which may be put to the vote on request of any member of the sub-committee/committee. The Head of delegation of such a State is designated as the observer of the State and may also be accompanied by advisors. The observer (Head of delegation) should also be accredited by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or the Permanent Mission, although it is current practice to admit observers accredited only by their own ministry provided that they do not submit proposals.

7. For the TDG Sub-Committee, it is expected that the government-nominated expert represents the coordinated expertise of his/her Government in relation to all modes of transport.

8. For the GHS Sub-Committee, it is expected that the government-nominated expert represents the coordinated expertise of his/her Government in relation to all sectors concerned by the GHS (in particular health, labour, transport, environment, trade).

9. For the Committee, it is expected that the government-nominated expert represents the coordinated position of his/her Government as regards all issues addressed by both subcommittees.

- (a) If the member of the Committee is a State which is member of only one Sub-Committee, the secretariat considers that the Head of delegation is the expert of that Sub-Committee, unless otherwise notified by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or Permanent Mission.
- (b) If the member of the Committee is a State which is member of both Sub-Committees,
  - (i) If the Head of delegation is to be the expert of the TDG Sub-Committee or of the GHS Sub-Committee, this should be confirmed to the secretariat by both experts or by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or by the Permanent Mission.
  - (ii) If the Head of delegation is to be anybody else, the name should be notified by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or by the Permanent Mission.

10. The secretariat notes that for some countries, the list of experts accredited to serve on the Committee and its two sub-committees is incomplete or outdated. A request for updates was circulated by email on 9 November 2010 both to the Head of delegation and to the Permanent missions but got very few answers.

11. The secretariat would like to emphasize the importance of keeping that list up to date, as the Head of delegation is the secretariat's focal point for all official notifications and for accrediting the members of his/her delegation.

12. The names of experts currently considered by the secretariat as accredited Head of delegation for each of the sub-committees will be available during the session. The secretariat invites delegates to check whether the information in that list is still applicable and to take the appropriate steps to communicate any updates in accordance with the above. It is recalled that changes in the nomination of a Head of delegation (i.e. updates or new nominations) will only be validated when **received through official channels** (i.e: Permanent Mission or Ministry of Foreign Affairs).

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