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**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**  
(9-11 December 2002)

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FOURTH SESSION**

**to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
starting at 10.00 a.m. on Monday, 9 December 2002**

**Items**

1. Adoption of the agenda

2. Globally Harmonized System of Classification and  
Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)

**Documents**

ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/7

ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2002/16 and addenda  
ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2002/17  
ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2002/18  
ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2002/21  
ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2002/22

**Items**

3. Programme of work for the biennium 2003-2004
4. Implementation
5. Capacity building
6. Draft Resolution of the Economic and Social Council
7. Other business
8. Adoption of the report

**Documents**

ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2002/14  
ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2002/15 and /15/Add.1  
ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2002/19  
ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2002/20

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**Note 1:** For reasons of economy, delegations are invited to keep their own copies of documents and to bring them to the meeting.

**Note 2:** Documents may be consulted on the web site of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (<http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/danger.htm>).

**Note 3:** In view of the security arrangements for access to the Palais des Nations, delegations are asked to inform the secretariat (UNECE Transport Division) of their exact composition. Access to the Palais des Nations will only be granted to those in possession of an identity card issued by the Safety and Security Section, Villa les Feuillantines, 13, Avenue de la Paix (see map on last page).

Delegates which are not in possession of a valid identity card are asked to fill out the registration form on page 5 in advance, and to send it by fax (41 22 917 00 39) or by E.mail ([catherine.masson@unece.org](mailto:catherine.masson@unece.org)) no later than one week before the meeting commences.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### 1. Adoption of the agenda

In accordance with established practice, the first item on the agenda is the adoption of the provisional agenda prepared by the secretariat.

### 2. Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)

#### *Proposals for modifications and consolidation of the GHS document*

At its third session, the Sub-Committee adopted a series of amendments to the GHS document as indicated in ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/6, paras. 10 to 27 and annex 1. It also considered the consolidated text of the GHS document in English that had been merged, revised and renumbered by the secretariat (UN SCEGHS/3/INF.5). The Sub-committee further decided to establish a Correspondence Group on editorial matters, led by the Chairperson and the two Vice-Chairpersons, that had the task to further review the GHS text and come up with a final text for adoption by the Sub-Committee at its fourth session. This text is available in English and in French (ST/SG/AC.10/2002/16 and Adds 1-11). The most important editorial changes have been listed in document ST/SG/AC.10/2002/17. All these changes can be seen on the website of the UNECE Transport division in documents UN/SCEGHS/4/INF1 to INF 12 where amendments have been kept visible.

New proposals for modifications or improvements of the GHS text have also been submitted as follows:

<b>Items</b>	<b>Documents</b>
on the recollection of editorial amendments to the GHS, submitted by the GHS Editorial Group,	ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2002/17
on GHS Health Hazard Symbol, submitted by the Chairperson on the behalf of the GHS Correspondence Group on Pictograms	ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2002/18
on Part 2 of the GHS, Physical hazards, Corrosive to metals, submitted by the secretariat.	ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2002/21

#### *GHS symbol for serious health effects*

At its fourth session, the Sub-Committee should take a final decision on the GHS pictogram on serious health effects so that this pictogram can be incorporated in the final text of the GHS before its publishing. Two symbol proposals were considered at the third session, the double exclamation mark proposed by the United Kingdom and symbol N°4 proposed by Sweden. On none of them an agreement could be reached, and it was decided to try to propose a third option at the fourth meeting of the Sub-Committee. A correspondence group led by the Chairperson was set up to work out this new proposal on the basis of a set of criteria (e.g. the symbol is to be simple, gender neutral and should not give misleading information or be confused with other symbols). The new proposal (ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2002/18) together with the two other options, i.e. the double exclamation mark and symbol N°4, should be considered by the Sub Committee which should select and adopt one of the options.

#### *Comprehensibility testing of the GHS pictograms and transport of dangerous goods labels*

At the third session, the Sub-Committee was informed that the Department of Transportation of the United States of America had initiated a study to evaluate the GHS red diamond border pictograms (see also ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/4, para. 12). The study was not complete and final results will be presented at the fourth session (ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2002/22).

### **3. Programme of work for the biennium 2003-2004**

The programme of work for the next biennium, 2003-2004, should be decided at the fourth session of the Sub-Committee, endorsed by the Committee at its first session which will be held back-to-back (11-13 December 2002) and presented to the Economic and Social Council. Taking into account the debates of the third session, document ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2002/19 is proposed by the Chairperson as a basis for further discussions. Specific elements that the Sub Committee may wish to incorporate into the programme of work are also proposed such as the development of criteria for terrestrial environment (in document ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2002/14, by the experts from Austria, Greece, New Zealand and Spain), making the use of the GHS more user-friendly through providing help for hazard statements (ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2002/15 and /15/Add.1, by the experts from Austria and Germany) and other possible areas for future work/activities for training and capacity building for GHS implementation (ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2002/20, by the experts from Argentina, Brazil, Canada and Germany).

### **4. Implementation**

Experts, observers and international organizations concerned may wish to provide new or updated information to the Sub-Committee about progress in the GHS implementation.

### **5. Capacity building**

Experts, observers and international organizations concerned may wish to inform the Sub Committee of any capacity-building activities or projects undertaken in relation to the GHS. In particular, international organizations, such as UNITAR, ILO and OECD, may wish to inform the Sub Committee about progress in the Partnership Initiative to reinforce the GHS capacity building programme, and in particular of the related outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg, 26 August-4 September 2002.

### **6. Draft resolution of the Economic and Social Council**

Based on a proposal from the secretariat, the Sub-Committee will prepare the parts of the draft resolution 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 Chemicals during the biennium 2001-2002 which concern GHS matters. This draft resolution will be submitted, once agreed by the Committee, by the Secretary-General to the Economic and Social Council for consideration and adoption at its July 2003 substantive session. Therefore, it should contain the list of actions that the Sub-Committee would like the Council to take, within its own terms of reference, so as to allow continuation of work and facilitate implementation of the GHS at worldwide level.

### **7. Other business**

At the time of writing, there is no issue under this agenda item.

### **8. Adoption of the report**

In accordance with established practice, the Sub-Committee may wish to adopt the report on its fourth session on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat.



## UNITED NATIONS OFFICE - GENEVA

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**Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (4th session)**

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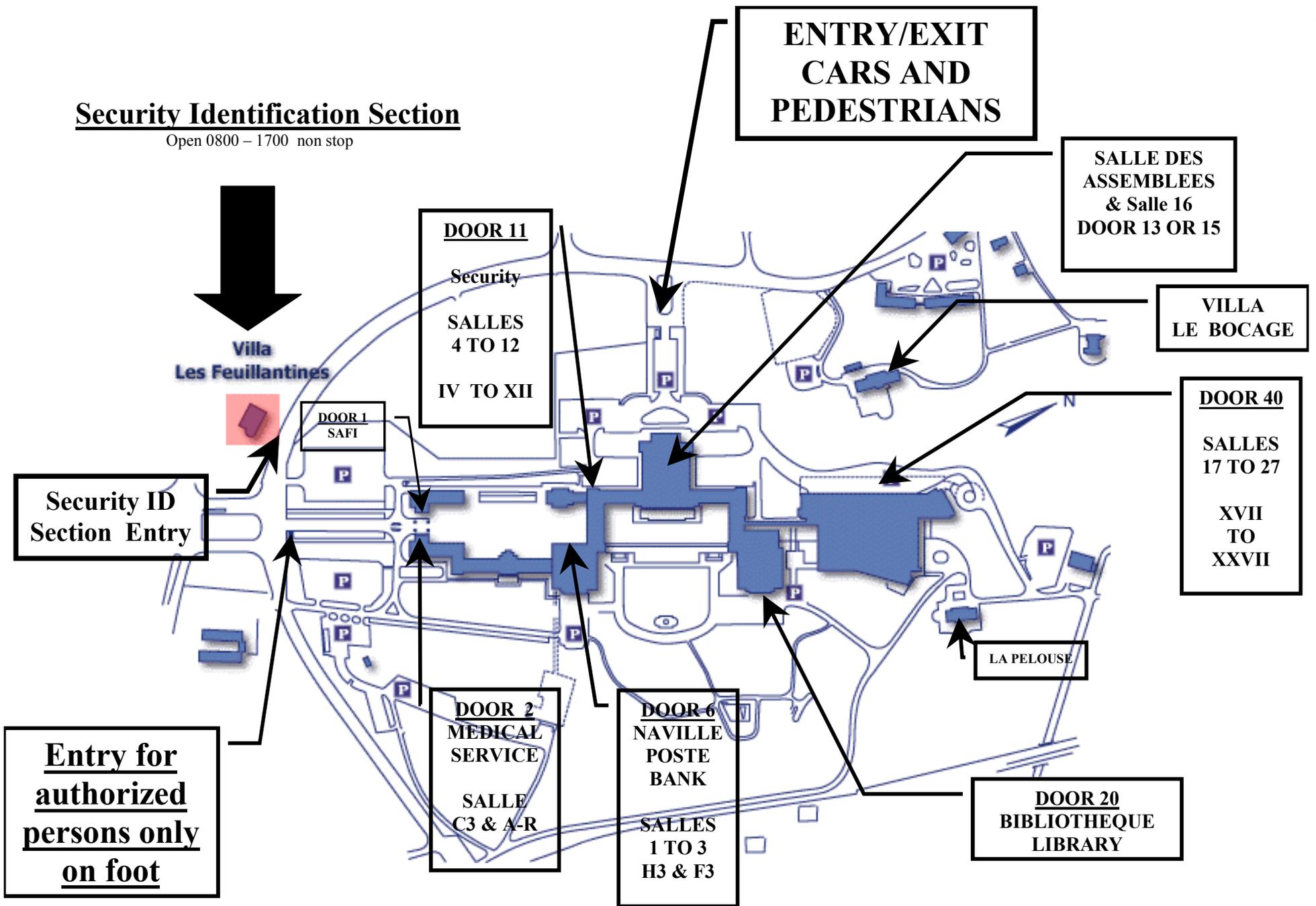
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