

## **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**

**10 June 2014**

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Item 7 of the provisional agenda

**Capacity building**

### **Activities of the UNITAR/ILO Global GHS Capacity Building Programme and UNITAR/ILO/OECD WSSD GHS Partnership**

**Transmitted by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research  
(UNITAR)**

1. This document provides an update regarding activities in the UNITAR/ILO Global GHS Capacity Building Programme and the WSSD GHS Partnership for the period January to June 2014.

#### **UNITAR/ILO Global GHS Capacity Building Programme Activities**

##### **Country-based activities and training**

2. The SAICM QSPTF-supported GHS projects in Chile, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan continue during 2014.

3. Planning and Inception Workshops to launch similar projects were held in Mexico (February 2014), Guatemala (February 2014), and Bolivia (June 2014). UNITAR is serving as the international executing agency for these projects.

4. GHS Training Workshops took place in the DRC in January 2014 and in Colombia in May 2014. Both countries are now preparing National GHS Implementation Strategies.

5. Kyrgyzstan carried out an analysis of national legislation related to GHS and prepared a draft governmental decree on GHS implementation based on the results. A draft National GHS Implementation Strategy is being developed.

6. In addition, UNITAR is currently executing eight broader QSPTF-supported projects with a GHS-related component (preparation of national GHS situation and gap analyses and support for GHS capacity building) in Benin, Cameroon, Haiti, Kiribati, Madagascar, Togo, Mali, and Tunisia. A workshop took place in Madagascar in mid-June 2014 to validate the GHS situation and gap analysis.

7. Through its GHS e-learning course, “Classifying and Labelling Chemicals According to the UN GHS” (see paragraph 8), UNITAR provided capacity-building to 35 participants from Asia, Africa, Europe, Latin America, and North America. Participants represented government, industry, and civil society.

**Guidance, training, and resource materials**

8. The second edition of the GHS e-learning course, “Classifying and Labelling Chemicals According to the UN GHS”, took place from 12 May to 30 June 2014. The course materials have been updated to correspond with Rev. 5 of the GHS.

9. As part of an EU-supported project to further develop, promote, and train on the *IOMC Toolbox for Decision Making in Chemicals Management* (IOMC Toolbox), UNITAR, in collaboration with ILO, will develop a management scheme for implementing a classification and labelling system for chemicals (GHS). The IOMC Toolbox is aimed at countries that wish to address specific national issues regarding chemicals management (<http://iomctoolbox.oecd.org>). The GHS management scheme is being developed during 2014.

10. Since January 2014, the Responsible Packaging Management Association of Southern Africa (RPMASA) conducted four introductory and one advanced GHS training sessions in South Africa using UNITAR/ILO materials.

**Other matters**

11. UNITAR/ILO continue to greatly appreciate the efforts of the Programme Advisory Group (PAG) and the GHS Training Course Review Group for their time and expert inputs to our projects and activities.

**WSSD Global Partnership for Capacity Building to Implement the GHS**

12. UNITAR would like to acknowledge contributions from the Government of Switzerland and the SAICM QSPTF for financial support to UNITAR/ILO implemented Partnership activities, including the Partnership Secretariat, national GHS implementation projects, and regional and global workshops. Other in-kind contributions, such as that from US OSHA, Health Canada, KemI, ECHA, EPA New Zealand, and UNECE are also kindly acknowledged.

13. GHS capacity building activities organised by UNITAR/ILO continue to be funded by extra-budgetary resources. UNITAR/ILO welcome suggestions and proposals from the SCEGHS regarding how ensure sustainable funding to meet the continued demand for GHS capacity building activities in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

14. UNITAR will continue to update the SCEGHS on these and other activities over the course of this year.

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