

# Economic Commission for Europe

## Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

2 September 2022

Joint Meeting of the RID Committee of Experts and the  
Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

Geneva, 12 – 16 September 2022

Item 11 of the provisional agenda

Any other business

## Circular economy and sustainable development goals

### Note by the secretariat

#### A. UNECE

1. The ECE Executive Committee (EXCOM), at its session on 21 July 2021, requested its subsidiary bodies to provide inputs on the development of effective and measurable solutions to promote a circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources to facilitate the achievement of the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (see [E/2021/37–E/ECE/1494](#)) and particularly decisions A (69) and B (69) in Chapter IV).
2. At its last session (see [ECE/TRANS/316](#)), the Inland Transport Committee welcomed these Commission decisions on strengthening the work of sectoral committees in the area of circular economy and invited its Working Parties to enhance and expand their work on the specific aspects of circular economy in transport, as appropriate.
3. The Inland Transport Committee also requested Working Parties to continue the implementation of the Strategy particularly for next steps included in document [ECE/TRANS/2022/3](#). Especially, the secretariat should report annually to the Committee on aspects of the work of the Joint Meeting (WP.15/AC.1) and the Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (WP.15) related to the circular economy and green transport.
4. This was discussed during the last session of WP.15 (see report [ECE/TRANS/WP.15/258](#)) and the Working Party highlighted that the provisions related to the circular economy included in the ADR, such as those relating to packaging, used batteries or the transport of waste, result from harmonization with the Model Regulations and the work of the Joint Meeting.
5. The Working Party WP.15 agreed this annual report should be presented from a multimodal perspective and that discussions should also take place in the Joint Meeting.
6. The secretariat and the bureau of WP.15 agreed to reserve some time during the next session (8-11 November 2022) to hold a panel discussion on circular economy from the multimodal transport of dangerous goods' point of view (see annotated agenda [ECE/TRANS/WP.15/259/Add.1](#)).
7. Delegations and members of the bureau of the Joint Meeting that wish to do so are invited to present information on the subject at the next session of WP.15 and to inform the secretariat accordingly before 10 October 2022.
8. To gather useful information for both ITC and EXCOM, the presentations could focus on:
  - How to promote further circular economy approaches and the sustainable use of natural resources by mainstreaming circularity and the sustainable use of natural resources in its work programme (EXCOM decision A (69));
  - How to enhance the impact of RID/ADR/ADN, to foster circular and more resource-efficient approaches (EXCOM decision B (69)).

9. As outlined in EXCOM decision B (69) this may include options for replicating and scaling up existing approaches that facilitate broad and effective use of RID/ADR/ADN and other appropriate instruments, including through capacity-building and knowledge-sharing activities. This may also include developing proposals in the programme of work, including possible collaboration across subprogrammes, for impactful and measurable solutions that promote a circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources and that can facilitate attaining the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

10. The subjects presented could include current situation, steps forward and challenges for: collect and inland transport of waste batteries for recycling; transport of dangerous waste for recycling; modal specific issues such as use of electrified vehicles for dangerous goods.

## B. ECOSOC

11. A similar approach was done in 2021 at the ECOSOC level with a review of the implementation of General Assembly [resolution 72/305](#) on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council of its subsidiary, [resolution 75/290 B](#) on the review of the implementation of GA resolutions 67/290 on the format and organizational aspects of the High-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF) and [resolution 70/299](#) on the follow-up and review of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level.

12. By nature, the work of the ECOSOC Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (TDG) and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) and its two sub-committees builds on best practices, science, data, evidence, technical expert analysis and on the interlinkages across the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It supports the implementation of the 2030 agenda and is aligned with SDGs and targets, in particular goals **3** (Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages), **6** (Ensure access to water and sanitation for all), **8** (Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all), **12** (Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns), **13** (Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts) and **14** (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development).

13. During their sessions in December 2021, the TDG and GHS sub-committees already reviewed their activities and contributions to the SDGs as well as related follow-up actions. More detailed information of both sub-committees is available in informal documents [INF.31/Rev.1](#) (60<sup>th</sup> TDG Sub-Committee) and [INF.5](#) (41<sup>st</sup> GHS Sub-Committee).

14. At their recent sessions in July 2022, the TDG and GHS Sub-Committees considered the ECOSOC summary recommendations in informal document [INF.17/TDG and INF.13/GHS](#) respectively and noted several contributions and suggestions on possible actions as reflected in [INF.22/GHS](#) and paragraph 109 of the TDG report [ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/120](#) (excerpt is reproduced below).

*“109. The Sub-Committee considered informal document INF.17 during a lunchtime informal meeting on Friday, 1 July 2022 and as follows:*

*(a) Delegations were invited to add in the justification part of their future proposals the interlinkage to the sustainable development goals, when applicable;*

*(b) It was recommended to add a specific agenda item on the follow-up to the Agenda 2030 to ensure regular discussions by the Sub-Committee;*

*(c) It was suggested inserting a summary of the activities of the sub-committees on this subject into the draft report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee of Experts and its sub-committees;*

*(d) One expert suggested to consider organising one online session per biennium, based on the experience gained in the hybrid sessions organized during the COVID-19 pandemic, and with the idea to both facilitate broader attendance and participation in the Sub-Committee’s activities according to the principle of the Agenda 2030 “Leaving no one behind” and to avoid travelling with the aim to contribute to the principle of the Agenda 2030 “Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts”.*

*(e) To ease the access by delegates to more detailed information and background information on Agenda 2030 and the review of the work of ECOSOC subsidiary bodies, the secretariat volunteered to insert a new entry on the homepage of the Committee of Experts and its sub-committees.”*

15. Both sub-committees agreed to coordinate their follow-up actions listed above and to come back at their next sessions with a common recommendation for further consideration.

**C. Proposal**

16. It is suggested that the RID/ADR/ADN Joint Meeting consider the above-mentioned high-level policy matters on the United Nations Agenda 2030, the related SDGs, circular economy including the sustainable use of natural resources and decide on similar follow-up actions, as appropriate.

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