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

14 June 2023

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

Sixty-second session

Geneva, 3-7 July 2023

Item 16 of the provisional agenda

Other business

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

Forty-fourth session

Geneva, 10-12 July 2023

Item 7 of the provisional agenda

Other business

**Consultative relations between the United Nations and non-
governmental organizations**

Note by the secretariat

Background

1. The secretariat would like to recall the arrangements for consultation between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), as set out in Economic and Social Council's (ECOSOC) resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996.¹

2. To be entitled to participate in the work of the Committee of Experts on Transport of Dangerous Goods (TDG) and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) and its two sub-committees (TDG and GHS), NGOs shall seek consultative status:

- (a) with ECOSOC; or
- (b) with the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods itself or its sub-committee(s).

Consultative status with ECOSOC

3. NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC concerned with matters falling within the competence of the Committee or its sub-committees, are entitled to participate in the work of the Committee or its sub-committees.

4. NGOs seeking to obtain consultative status with ECOSOC shall contact the NGO Branch of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), which is the intergovernmental body responsible for granting consultative with ECOSOC. All the information regarding consultative status with ECOSOC can be found at: <https://csonet.org/index.php?menu=14>.

5. NGOs in general and special consultative status with ECOSOC must submit every four years a brief report (the quadrennial report) to the Committee on NGOs, including information about contributions of the NGO to the work of the United Nations. The requirements are further detailed in ECOSOC resolution 2008/4² which stipulates measures that the Council has taken to suspend, and subsequently withdraw consultative status of organizations that fail to submit their reports on time. For additional details see: <https://csonet.org/index.php?menu=85>.

¹ <https://www.un.org/ecosoc/sites/www.un.org.ecosoc/files/documents/2020/resolution-1996-31.pdf>

² <https://www.un.org/ecosoc/sites/www.un.org.ecosoc/files/documents/2008/resolution-2008-4.pdf>

Consultative status with the Committee and its sub-committees

6. For NGOs which are not in consultative status with ECOSOC and which are not seeking consultative status with the Council, the Committee agreed at its sixth session (October-November 1969) that each organ (Committee or any of its subsidiary bodies) should be entitled to take its own decision with respect to requests for consultation made by such NGOs and to the extent to which such NGOs could participate. Once a decision has been taken, it remains valid for the following sessions of the organ concerned.

7. NGOs applying for consultative status with the Committee or any of its sub-committees are requested to provide the secretariat with the information required in paragraph 44 of the Economic and Social Council's resolution 1996/31.

8. When considering applications from NGOs, the organ concerned (Committee or its sub-committees) applies the principles contained in parts I and II of the Economic and Social Council's resolution 1996/31.

Change of name

9. The secretariat has noticed that NGOs do not always communicate officially changes in name. In this respect, all NGOs are invited to take note of the information below.

10. NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC wishing to change their name in the official records of the United Nations are required to follow the procedure described at: <https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/ngo/change-of-name>

11. NGOs which are in consultative status with the Committee and its subcommittees (but not with ECOSOC) are invited to submit the same information to the secretariat, i.e:

- (a) A letter of intent on the organization's official letterhead, with the original signature of the head of the NGO, requesting the Committee and/or the sub-committee(s) to acknowledge the change of the old name of the organization to the new name;
- (b) Supporting documentation which should include all legal documents showing that the change of name was approved by a governmental authority in the country in which the NGO is based; and
- (c) A revised Constitution/By-laws under the new name (as well as a reference to the old name).

12. Supporting documentation should take account of the following criteria:

- (a) The document (certificate of registration) should mention both the old and the new name of the organization;
- (b) The certificate with the new name must contain a signature, stamp or seal from a governmental entity. Entities other than the government are not acceptable such as public notaries, minutes of the Assembly, etc;
- (c) If the certificate or registration document is in a language other than English or French (the working languages of the secretariat), it must be translated into either English or French and should be submitted in both versions (i.e. original language together with the translation); and
- (d) The Constitution should include all the articles and amendments, and it should also refer to the change of name by mentioning the old name of the organization, as well as the new name.

13. Upon receipt of the required documents, the information will be submitted to the Committee and/or the sub-committee(s), as applicable, for its consideration and follow-up action as necessary.

Action requested

14. NGOs are invited to take note of and follow the procedures in paragraphs 1 to 8 when seeking consultative status and the procedures applicable to notifications of change of name in paragraphs 9 to 13.
