

**Draft RCNYO statement for introduction of the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals as contained in document E/2025/72**

I have the honour to introduce this report on behalf of the Secretariat of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, which provides secretariat services to the Committee of Experts since 1963.

The Committee was established in 1953 and was last restructured in 1999, when its mandate was expanded to address global harmonization of chemical classification and labelling, as requested in Chapter 19 of Agenda 21, adopted at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

The work of the Committee contributes to the sound management of chemicals and wastes and Sustainable development Goals 3, 6, 8, 9, 12, and 13.

The report before you is submitted by the Secretary-General pursuant to Council's resolution 2023/5 and is structured in four parts.

**Part I** contains the draft resolution prepared by the Committee, which the Council is invited to adopt.

**Part II** reviews implementation of resolution 2023/5 in two key areas:

- Harmonization of provisions for the safe transport of dangerous goods by all modes;
- Global harmonization of classification and labelling criteria for hazardous chemicals.

To facilitate worldwide implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee in 2021-2022, the Secretary-General published in 2023, in the 6 UN official languages, consolidated revised editions of the *Model Regulations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods*, the *Manual of Tests and Criteria*, and the *Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals*.

Based on these updates, international organizations covering international transport of dangerous goods by air, sea, road, rail and inland waterways amended accordingly their legal instruments, for application as from 1 January 2025. Many governments have also aligned their national legislation accordingly. Details on global implementation are provided in **Part II, Section B** of the report. Section C of the report addresses the mutual administrative support for monitoring compliance of UN-marked transport containment systems with the Model Regulations. Member States are encouraged to provide the information outlined in paragraph 14 of the report, as requested by resolution 2015/7.

**Part II, Section D** focuses on GHS implementation and capacity-building activities. Over 70 countries, including major chemical producers, have adopted or are working to implement the system. International organizations and UN programmes and specialized agencies continue to develop or align their legal instruments, guidance and recommendations on pesticide management, occupational health, and industrial accident prevention, with the GHS.

The Council may wish to note that GHS implementation by 2030 by all Governments is one of the targets of the *Global Framework on Chemicals*, adopted in 2023 at the fifth International Conference on Chemicals Management in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

**Part III** summarizes the outcome of the work of the Committee during 2023–2024. This includes recommendations for safe transport of cells and batteries and hydrogen storage systems; use of recycled or fibre-reinforced plastics; testing of explosives, flammability, lithium cells and batteries; classification of aerosols and chemicals under pressure; use of non-animal testing methods; classification of chemicals hazardous by contributing to global warming; and simple asphyxiant hazards.

**Part IV** outlines the Committee’s work programme and meeting schedule for 2025–2026.

**[Action Requested]**

The Committee invites the Council to:

- Request the Secretary-General, through parts A and B of the proposed draft resolution:
  - to publish the recommendations resulting from its work during 2023–2024 in the 6 UN official languages; and to invite Governments and relevant organizations to implement them and to provide feedback to the Committee;
- to approve the Committee’s programme of work for 2025–2026 through paragraph 1 of part C of the proposed draft resolution.

**To conclude, the Council is invited to adopt the whole draft resolution contained in Part I of the report.**

Thank you for your attention.