

1993/50. Work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 468 (XV) of 15 April 1953, 1983/7 of 26 May 1983, 1985/9 of 28 May 1985, 1986/66 of 23 July 1986, 1987/54 of 28 May 1987, 1989/104 of 27 July 1989 and 1991/57 of 26 July 1991,

Noting the ever-increasing volume of dangerous goods in worldwide commerce and the rapid expansion of technology and innovation,

Noting also that the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development recommended, in chapter 19 of Agenda 21, that international bodies, including the International Programme on Chemical Safety of the World Health Organization, the International Labour Organisation and the United Nations Environment Programme, as well as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Maritime Organization, the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, in cooperation with regional and national authorities having existing classification and labelling systems and other systems for the dissemination of information, should establish a coordinating group with a view to establishing and elaborating a harmonized classification and labelling system for chemicals,¹³⁸

Noting further that, in response to the requests made in its resolutions 1983/7, 1985/9, 1986/66, 1987/54, 1989/104 and 1991/57 for adequate staff resources for servicing the Committee, an additional Professional post was granted but has not yet been filled officially, in spite of temporary redeployment arrangements,

Bearing in mind the continuing need to meet the growing concern for the protection of life, property and the environment through the safe transport of dangerous goods while facilitating trade,

Aware that, in order to achieve internationally harmonized legislation, the specialized agencies and other international organizations involved in activities related to the transport of dangerous goods, as well as interested Member States, have responded positively to the relevant resolutions adopted since Council resolution 468 G (XV) and are committed to taking the recommendations of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods as a basis for the formulation of their requirements and regulations, including those concerning classification and labelling, and, therefore, rely on the work of the Committee,

Aware of the concern expressed by the Assembly of the International Maritime Organization, in its resolution A.717 (17) of 6 November 1991,¹³⁹ with regard to the development of new conventions, legislation and recommendations relating to dangerous goods or to the management of chemicals outside the coordinated forum of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, and aware also that the Assembly had urged all United

Nations and other intergovernmental bodies concerned working on various aspects of the management of chemicals to coordinate their efforts in order to ensure the compatibility of any legislation on chemicals with established transport rules and regulations,

Recognizing the increasing need for cooperation between international bodies involved in activities related to the transport of dangerous goods and those involved in other aspects of chemical safety,

Confirming the need for the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods to participate actively in relevant activities associated with the implementation of Agenda 21,

Reaffirming the desirability of widening the decision-making base of the Committee by encouraging the participation of developing countries and other non-member countries in its future work,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods during the biennium 1991-1992¹⁴⁰ and of the new and amended recommendations approved by the Committee for inclusion in its existing recommendations;¹⁴¹

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(a) To incorporate in the existing recommendations of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods all the new and amended recommendations approved by the Committee at its seventeenth session, held at Geneva from 7 to 16 December 1992;

(b) To publish the new and amended recommendations in all the official languages of the United Nations, in the most cost-effective manner, not later than the end of 1993;

(c) To circulate the new and amended recommendations immediately after their publication to the Governments of Member States, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the other international organizations concerned;

3. *Invites* all Governments, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the other international organizations concerned to transmit to the Secretary-General their views on the work of the Committee, together with any comments they may wish to make on the amended recommendations;

4. *Invites* all interested Governments and the international organizations concerned, when developing appropriate codes and regulations, to take full account of the recommendations of the Committee;

5. *Invites* all Governments and the international organizations concerned with the implementation of chapter 19 of Agenda 21, and participating in the development of a globally harmonized system of classification and labelling of chemicals, to avoid duplication of work and to ensure that, to the greatest extent possible, the new system draws on, or is compatible with, the internationally well-recognized and implemented system developed by the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all steps necessary to ensure representation of the secretariat of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods at appropriate meetings of international organizations committed to implementing the recommendations of the Committee or involved in the process of global har-

monization of classification and labelling systems for chemicals;

7. *Recommends once again* that adequate funding be provided to support the work of the Committee;

8. *Recommends* that the staff necessary for the adequate servicing of the Committee continue to be made available, and that the vacant Professional post be filled as a matter of priority;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Council in 1995 a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

*45th plenary meeting
29 July 1993*