

**1997/3. Work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

Recalling its resolutions 1995/5 and 1995/6 of 19 July 1995,

Recalling also its decision 1996/301 of 26 July 1996, in which it invited the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, when examining the question of the periodicity of amendments to the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods*,<sup>10</sup> to take fully into account the views expressed by delegations during the substantive session of 1996 of the Council,

Bearing in mind the increasing volume of dangerous goods in worldwide commerce and the rapid expansion of technology and innovation,

Bearing in mind also 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 laws, the Economic Commission for Europe, the International Maritime Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization and other specialized agencies and international organizations involved in activities related to the transport of dangerous goods and interested Member States have responded positively to the various resolutions of the Council adopted since 15 April 1953 and that, being committed to taking the recommendations of the Committee as a basis for the formulation of their requirements and regulations, including those concerning labelling and classification, those organizations therefore rely on the work of the Committee,

Aware also of the advice of the Committee to the effect that reformatting the provisions applicable to all modes of transport contained in the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods* into a model regulation, annexed to a basic recommendation, that could be directly integrated into all modal national and international regulations would enhance harmonization, facilitate regular updating of all relevant instruments by the organizations or regulatory authorities concerned and result in considerable overall savings for the Governments of the Member States, the United Nations, the specialized agencies and other international organizations,

Reconfirming the need for the Committee to participate actively in relevant activities associated with the implementation of Agenda 21,<sup>11</sup> as expressed in Council resolution 1995/6,

**A. WORK OF THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS DURING THE BIENNIUM 1995–1996**

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 1995–1996<sup>12</sup> and in particular of:

(a) The adoption of new and amended provisions<sup>13</sup> for inclusion in the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods*;<sup>10</sup>

(b) The completion of the first step in the reformatting of the existing *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods* into a model regulation annexed to a basic recommendation;<sup>14</sup>

(c) The elaboration, pursuant to Council resolution 1995/6, of proposals for criteria for the classification of flammable, explosive and reactive materials, globally harmonized for various regulatory purposes, in cooperation with the International Labour Organization in the context of the implementation of chapter 19 of Agenda 21<sup>11</sup> and the concurrence of the Committee with the request from the

International Labour Organization that it pursue the work in the biennium 1997–1998 on unresolved issues, on the same basis as in the biennium 1995–1996;

2. Commends the Secretary-General for the timely publication of the ninth revised edition of the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods* in all the official languages of the United Nations and for the publication of the second revised edition of the *Manual of Tests and Criteria*<sup>15</sup> in English, French, Russian and Spanish;

3. Requests the Secretary-General:

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

(b) To publish a consolidated version of the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods*, as amended,<sup>16</sup> in the reformatted form of a model regulation, annexed to a basic recommendation, including the new and amended recommended provisions, in all the official languages of the United Nations, in the most cost-effective manner, no later than the end of 1997;

(c) To expedite the publication, in the most cost-effective manner, of the second revised edition of the *Manual of Tests and Criteria* in Arabic and Chinese;

4. 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 that they may wish to make on the amended recommendations;

5. Invites all interested Governments, regional commissions and specialized agencies and the other international organizations concerned, when developing or updating appropriate codes and regulations, to take full account of the recommendations, including the structure and format of such codes and regulations;

**B. PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE BIENNIUM 1997–1998**

6. Approves the programme of work of the Committee and its Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods for the biennium 1997–1998 and the working arrangements and the priorities of work for that biennium, as follows:

(a) Global harmonization of systems of classification and labelling of chemicals (implementation of chapter 19 of Agenda 21), in accordance with Council resolution 1995/6;

(b) Second step in the reformatting of the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods* into a model regulation;

(c) New or revised recommendations on the transport of dangerous goods;

<sup>10</sup> United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.VIII.1.

<sup>11</sup> Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.1.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

<sup>12</sup> E/1997/16.

<sup>13</sup> See ST/SG/AC.10/23/Add.1.

<sup>14</sup> ST/SG/AC.10/23/Add.2.

<sup>15</sup> United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.VIII.2.

<sup>16</sup> ST/SG/AC.10/1/Rev.10. For the consolidated version, see United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.VIII.1.

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary steps for ensuring representation of the secretariat of the Committee at appropriate meetings of international organizations committed to implementing the recommendations of the Committee or involved in the process of global harmonization of classification and labelling systems for chemicals;

C. PERIODICITY OF AMENDMENTS TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS

8. *Takes note* of the advice of the Committee that:

(a) A new and revised version of the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods* should be published after completion of the second step of reformatting, that is, in 1999, after the 1998 session of the Committee;

(b) The new and revised version should be implemented by the various international organizations concerned with the transport of dangerous goods through their respective modal instruments by 1 January 2001;

(c) No firm decision as regards a possible future four-year periodicity of amendments should be taken as long as the processes of reformatting the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods* into a model regulation, annexed to a basic recommendation, and of global harmonization of systems of classification and labelling of chemicals for the implementation of Agenda 21 have not been completed;

9. *Invites* the Committee to reconsider the issue at its 1998 session;

D. REPORT TO THE COUNCIL

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Council in 1999 on the implementation of the present resolution.

*34th plenary meeting  
18 July 1997*