

ECOSOC Resolution 2003/64

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

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1999/65 of 26 October 1999, 2001/34 of 26 July 2001 and 2001/44 of 20 December 2001,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals¹ during the biennium 2001-2002,

A

Work of the Committee regarding the transport of dangerous goods

Recognizing the importance of the work of the Committee for the harmonization of codes and regulations relating to the transport of dangerous goods,

Bearing in mind the need to maintain safety standards at all times and to facilitate trade, as well as the importance of this to the various organizations responsible for modal regulations, while meeting the growing concern for the protection of life, property and the environment through the safe transport of dangerous goods, including their security in transport,

Noting the increasing volume of dangerous goods being introduced into worldwide commerce and the rapid expansion of technology and innovation,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* for the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals with respect to matters relating to the transport of dangerous goods, including their security in transport;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(a) To circulate the new and amended recommendations² on the transport of dangerous goods to the Governments of Member States, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and other international organizations concerned;

(b) To publish the thirteenth revised edition of the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: Model Regulations*³ and the fourth revised edition of the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: Manual of Tests and Criteria*⁴ in all the official languages of the United Nations, in the most cost-effective manner, not later than the end of 2003;

¹ E/2003/46.

² ST/SG/AC.10/29/Add.1 and 2.

³ ST/SG/AC.10/1/Rev.13.

⁴ ST/SG/AC.10/11/Rev.4.

(c) To make these publications available on the web site of the Economic Commission for Europe, which also provides secretariat services to the Committee, and to make them available also on CD-ROM;

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

4. *Invites* all interested Governments, the regional commissions, the specialized agencies and the international organizations concerned, when developing or updating appropriate codes and regulations, to consider taking into account the recommendations of the Committee;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on the status of the effective implementation of the *Model Regulations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods* by Member States and international organizations on a worldwide level;

B

Work of the Committee regarding the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

Bearing in mind that, pursuant to paragraph 19.27 of Agenda 21,⁵ the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals has cooperated for a decade with the International Labour Organization, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development and the Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods to develop a globally harmonized hazard classification and compatible labelling system for chemicals,

Bearing in mind also that the Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals was created pursuant to resolution 1999/65 to make the Globally Harmonized System available worldwide, to keep it up-to-date and to promote and monitor its implementation,

Noting with satisfaction that the Committee could reach consensus on the Globally Harmonized System after consideration of a draft consolidated by the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals on the basis of input from the Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, the International Labour Organization and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development,

Aware that the World Summit on Sustainable Development at its 2002 session in Johannesburg, in paragraph 23 (c) of its Plan of Implementation,⁶ encouraged countries to implement the Globally

⁵ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

⁶ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No.

Harmonized System as soon as possible with a view to having the system fully operational by 2008,

Also aware that the General Assembly, by its resolution 57/253 of 20 December 2002, endorsed the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and requested the Economic and Social Council to implement the provisions of the Plan relevant to its mandate and, in particular, to promote the implementation of Agenda 21 by strengthening system-wide coordination,

Further aware of and recognizing the significance of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research/International Labour Organization/Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development Global Partnership for Capacity-Building to Implement the Globally Harmonized System for building capacities at all levels to achieve the 2008 target,

1. *Expresses its deep appreciation* to the Committee and other organizations concerned for their fruitful cooperation;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(a) To publish the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals in all the official languages of the United Nations, in the most cost-effective manner and to circulate it to the Governments of Member States, the specialized agencies and other international organizations concerned as soon as possible and no later than 2004;

(b) To consider disseminating the Globally Harmonized System as a CD-ROM;

(c) To make the Globally Harmonized System available on the web site of the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Europe, which also provides secretariat services to the Committee;

3. *Invites* all Governments to take the necessary steps, through appropriate national procedures and/or legislation, to implement the Globally Harmonized System, as soon as possible and no later than 2008;

4. *Reiterates* the call for support to developing countries in strengthening their capacity of the sound management of chemicals by providing technical and financial assistance;

5. *Invites* the regional commissions, United Nations programmes, the specialized agencies and other organizations concerned to promote the implementation of the Globally Harmonized System and, where relevant, to amend their respective legal international instruments addressing transport safety, work safety, consumer protection or the protection of the environment so as to give effect to the Globally Harmonized System through such instruments;

6. *Invites* Governments, the regional commissions, United Nations programmes, the specialized agencies and other organizations concerned to provide feedback to the Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on the status of implementation of the Globally Harmonized System;

8. *Encourages* Governments, regional commissions, United Nations programmes, specialized agencies and other relevant international organizations and non-governmental organizations, in particular industry, to support implementation of the Globally Harmonized System and capacity-building activities in developing countries and countries in transition by providing financial contributions and/or technical assistance;

C

Programme of work of the Committee

Taking note of the programme of work of the Committee for the biennium 2003-2004 as contained in paragraphs 29 to 31 of the report of the Secretary-General,⁷

Noting the relatively poor representation of experts from developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the work of the Committee and the need to ensure their wider participation in its work,

1. *Decides* to approve the programme of work of the Committee;

2. *Stresses* the importance of the participation of experts from developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition in the work of the Committee, calls, in this regard, for voluntary contributions to facilitate their participation, including through support for travel and daily subsistence allowance, and invites Member States and international organizations in a position to do so to contribute;

3. *Notes* the recommendations of the Committee regarding staff resources⁸ and invites the General Assembly to consider this issue in the context of its review of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Economic and Social Council in 2005 on the implementation of the present resolution.

*49th plenary meeting
25 July 2003*

⁷ E/2003/46.

⁸ As contained in E/2003/46, para. 33; see also A/54/443/Add.1, para. 7.