

ECOSOC Resolution 2005/53

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, 2001/44 of 20 December 2001 and 2003/64 of 25 July 2003,

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 2003-2004,

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,

Recalling its resolution 1973 (LIX) of 30 July 1975 whereby it requested the Committee to study, in consultation with other bodies concerned, in particular the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the then Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the International Air Transport Association and the regional commissions, the possibility of a joint approach to the drafting of an international convention on the transport of dangerous goods by all modes of transport which would take into account the general scope of a future convention on international intermodal transport,

Noting that the major international instruments governing the transport of dangerous goods by the various modes of transport and many national regulations are now harmonized with the Model Regulations annexed to the Committee recommendations on the transport of dangerous goods, but that the uneven progress in the updating process of national inland transport legislation in some countries of the world remains, inter alia, a reason for regulatory

¹ E/2005/53.

disharmony at the worldwide level and represents a serious legislative obstacle to international multimodal transport,

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 fourteenth revised edition of the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: Model Regulations*³ and the amendments to 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, no later than the end of 2005;

(c) To make those publications available on the website of the Secretariat of the Economic Commission for Europe,⁵ 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 concerned international organizations 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 to take into account, when developing or updating appropriate codes and regulations, the recommendations of the Committee;

5. *Requests* the Committee to continue to study, in consultation with the International Maritime Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the regional commissions and the intergovernmental organizations concerned, the possibilities of improving the implementation of the Model Regulations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods in all countries for the purposes of ensuring a high level of safety and eliminating technical barriers to international trade, including through the further harmonization of international agreements or conventions governing the international transport of dangerous goods, or a possible joint approach to the development of an effective international instrument on multimodal international transport of dangerous goods, as appropriate;

² ST/SG/AC.10/32/Add.1 and 2.

³ ST/SG/AC.10/1/Rev.14.

⁴ ST/SG/AC.10/11/Rev.4.

⁵ <http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/danger.htm>.

B

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

Bearing in mind that in paragraph 23 (c) of the Plan of Implementation adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002 in Johannesburg,⁶ countries were encouraged to implement the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals as soon as possible with a view to having the system fully operational by 2008,

Also bearing in mind that the General Assembly, by its resolution 57/253 of 20 December 2002, endorsed the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development⁷ 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,

Noting with satisfaction:

(a) That all United Nations programmes and specialized agencies concerned with chemical safety in the field of transport or of the environment, in particular the Economic Commission for Europe, the United Nations Environment Programme, the International Maritime Organization and the International Civil Aviation Organization, have taken appropriate steps to amend or consider amending their legal instruments in order to give effect to the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals;

(b) That the International Labour Office and the World Health Organization are also taking appropriate steps to adapt their existing chemical safety recommendations, codes and guidelines to the Globally Harmonized System, in particular in the areas of occupational health and safety and of the prevention and treatment of poisoning;

(c) That Member States participating in the activities of the Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and *Labelling of Chemicals*, as well as the European Commission, are actively preparing revisions of national or regional legislation applicable to chemicals for implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals;

(d) That several United Nations programmes, specialized agencies and regional organizations, in particular the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the International Labour Organization, the World Health Organization, the Economic Commission for Europe, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety, Governments, the European Commission and non-governmental organizations representing the chemical industry, have organized or contributed to multiple workshops, seminars and other capacity-building activities at the international, regional, subregional and national levels in order to

⁶ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

⁷ *Ibid.*

raise administration, health sector and industry awareness and to prepare for implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals,

Aware that effective implementation by 2008 will require further cooperation between the Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals and the international bodies concerned, continued efforts by the Governments of the Member States, cooperation with the industry and other affected parties, and significant support for capacity-building activities in countries with economies in transition and developing countries,

Recalling the particular significance of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research/International Labour Organization/Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Global Partnership for Capacity-Building to implement the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals for building capacities at all levels,

1. *Commends* the Secretary-General for the publication of the *Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)* in the six official languages of the United Nations, in book form⁸ and on CD-ROM,⁹ and the availability of that and related material on the website of the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Europe;¹⁰

2. *Expresses its deep appreciation* to the Committee, United Nations programmes, specialized agencies and other organizations concerned for their fruitful cooperation and their commitment to the implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(a) To circulate the amendments¹¹ to the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals to the Governments of Member States, the specialized agencies and other international organizations concerned;

(b) To publish the first revised edition¹² of 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 no later than the end of 2005, and to make it available on CD-ROM and on the website of the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Europe,¹³ which provides secretariat services to the Committee;

4. *Invites* Governments who have not yet done so to take the necessary steps, through appropriate national procedures and/or legislation, to implement the Globally Harmonized System of

⁸ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.E.25 and Corr.1.

⁹ United Nations publication, Sales No. E/F.03.0.22.

¹⁰ <http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/danger.htm>.

¹¹ ST/SG/AC.10/32/Add.3.

¹² ST/SG/AC.10/30/Rev.1.

¹³ <http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/danger.htm>.

Classification and Labelling of Chemicals, as recommended in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;¹⁴

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

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

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

C

Programme of work of the Committee

Taking note of the programme of work of the Committee for the biennium 2005-2006 as contained in paragraphs 41 to 42 of the report of the Secretary-General in the work of the Committee of Experts,¹

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 promote their wider participation in its work,

Noting with concern that the General Service staff resources requested for the activities of the Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals when it was established and which had been provided through general temporary assistance until end 2004 were suppressed in 2004, irrespective of the recommendations made by the Committee at its first session,¹⁵

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 from countries with economies in transition in the work of the Committee, calls in that regard for voluntary contributions to facilitate their participation, including

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ E/2003/46, para. 33.

through support for travel and daily subsistence allowance, and invites Member States and international organizations in a position to do so to contribute;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to reallocate appropriate General Service staff resources for the activities of the Committee;

4. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Economic and Social Council in 2007 on the implementation of the present resolution, the recommendations on the transport of dangerous goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals.

*40th plenary meeting
27 July 2005*