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

**Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized
System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals**

Twenty-second session
Geneva, 7 – 9 June 2011

Draft report

I. Attendance

1. The Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals held its twenty-second session from 7 to 9 December 2011, with Ms. Kim Headrick (Canada) as Chairperson and Mr. Thomas Gebel (Germany) and Ms. Elsie Snyman (South Africa) as vice-chairpersons.

[2. Experts from the following countries took part in the session: Argentina, [Australia], Austria, Brazil, Belgium, Canada, China, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, [Serbia], South Africa, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Zambia.

3. Under rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council, observers from the following countries also took part: Romania, Switzerland [and Turkey].

4. Representatives of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and of the following specialized agencies were present: [International Labour

Organization (ILO)], International Maritime Organization (IMO) and World Health Organization (WHO).

5. The following intergovernmental organizations were also represented: European Union and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

6. Representatives of the following non-governmental organizations took part in the discussion of items of concern to their organizations: Australian Explosives Industry and Safety Group Incorporated (AEISG); Compressed Gas Association (CGA); Croplife International; Dangerous Goods Advisory Council (DGAC); European Chemical Industry Council (CEFIC); Industrial Federation of Paints and Coats of Mercosul (IFPCM); International Association for Soaps, Detergents and Maintenance Products (AISE); International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA); International Paint and Printing Ink Council (IPPIC); International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association (IPIECA); Responsible Packaging Management Association of Southern Africa (RPMASA); Soap and Detergent Association (SDA) and World Federation of Building Service Contractors (WFBSC).]

II. Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 1)

Documents: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/43 (Secretariat)

ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/43/Add.1 (Secretariat)

Informal documents: INF.1, INF.2 and INF.9 (Secretariat)

7. The Sub-Committee adopted the provisional agenda prepared by the secretariat after amending it to take account of informal documents [INF.1 to INF.28].

III. Updating of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) (agenda item 2)

A. Physical hazards

1. Decision logics for self-reactive substances and organic peroxides

Document: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2011/5 (ICCA)

Informal document: INF.27 (Secretariat)

8. The Sub-Committee welcomed the initiative of the authors to favour the proposal in alternative 2 and to withdraw the proposal in alternative 1 on the grounds that this approach would allow the integration in the decision logics of existing principles in the GHS which are not currently reflected therein, while the adoption of alternative 1 would have introduced contradictory approaches in transport regulations and in the GHS. The representative of ICCA invited the Sub-Committee to provide comments on alternative 2 and said that he intended to submit a revised proposal for the next session.

2. Classification of desensitized explosives for supply and use

Informal documents: INF.10 (Germany) and INF.27 (Secretariat)

9. The Sub-Committee fully supported the continuation of the work on the development of criteria for the classification of desensitized explosives suitable for all sectors. The Chairman of the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods explained that the lack of progress achieved in last years was mainly due to the absence of data for assessing these substances and of resources available at national level to perform the necessary tests to obtain such data.

10. Noting that a meeting of the Working Group on Explosives would be held in parallel to the next session of the TDG Sub-Committee, and that the group will consider the information provided by the International Group of Experts on the Explosion Risks of Unstable Substances (IGUS) on a number of issues, the Sub-Committee requested that the Chairman of the Working Group on Explosives, inform IGUS on the need to provide data on desensitized explosives. Experts from transport and supply/use sectors were invited to

participate in the Explosives Working Group, which would most probably meet during the first week (25 to 29 June 2011) of the 41st session of the TDG Sub-Committee. The secretariat was requested to circulate the details of the meeting (dates, agenda, etc) as soon as they were available to ensure that relevant experts from all sectors can take the necessary steps to attend it.

3. Classification and testing of water-reactive substances

Informal documents: INF.11 (Germany), INF.22 (USA) and INF.27 (Secretariat)

11. The Sub-Committee concurred with the TDG Sub-Committee on the need to continue the work on the classification of water-reactive substances, and on the improvement and standardization of test method N.5 for the assessment of water activated toxicity, particularly as regards the determination of the gas evolution rate and the adaptation of the test method in order to decrease lower measuring limits.

12. Recognizing that one of the reasons why the work had not progressed in the last years was the lack of resources available, the Sub-Committee welcomed the information provided by the expert from the United States on the availability of funds for a research programme to review existing procedures and classification criteria for water-reactive substances and to consider development of improved testing methodologies so that appropriate provisions could be applied.

13. The Sub-Committee also welcomed the invitation from the expert from the United States to join the experts from the TDG Sub-Committee in a meeting with the contractor in charge of the research programme which could be held in parallel to the 41st session of the TDG Sub-Committee in June 2011 and the details of which will be provided at a later stage. There was agreement on that it was essential that experts from all sectors would participate in the work. However, while one expert considered that health hazard experts should be involved in the work from the beginning, others considered that their participation was premature at this stage, and that the group would only benefit from their expertise once the test method has been improved.
