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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**
(9-11 July 2001)

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIRST SESSION

**to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting at 10 a.m. on Monday, 9 July 2001**

Items	Documents
1. Adoption of the agenda (see explanatory notes)	ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/1
2. Organization of work	
(a) Rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council	ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2001/1
(b) Other rules or administrative matters	ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2001/6 ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2001/7 ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2001/8
3. Election of officers	ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2001/1 ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2001/6
4. Requests for consultative status (Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs))	ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2001/2 ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2001/9 ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2001/10
5. Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)	ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2001/3 ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2001/4 ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2001/11 ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2001/12

Items

6. Cooperation with United Nations organs and programmes, specialized agencies and other organizations
7. Implementation
8. Work programme for the biennium
9. Adoption of the report

Documents

- ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2001/13
ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2001/14
- ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2001/13
ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2001/15

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Provisional timetable:

Monday	9 July 2001	Agenda items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Tuesday	10 July 2001	Agenda items 5, 6, 7, 8
Wednesday	11 July 2001	Agenda item 9

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NOTE 1: The documentation for this first session will be circulated to all recipients of ST/SG/AC.10 documents and to experts nominated by their Government for participation at this session.

The documentation may also be consulted in the original language of submission on the web site of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Transport Division (<http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/danger.htm>).

NOTE 2: For reasons of economy, delegations are invited to keep their own copies of documents and to bring them to the meeting.

NOTE 3: The names of the experts nominated by each member of the Sub-Committee, of their alternate or advisers and the names of representatives of international organizations or NGOs should be communicated to the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe by the relevant authority of the country or organization concerned upon receipt of the invitation.

In addition, in view of the security arrangements for access to the Palais des Nations, all delegates who would not be in possession of a long duration badge are asked to fill out the registration form on page 6 in advance and send it by fax (00 41 22 917 00 39) or by e-mail (chantal.baudet@unece.org) no later than one week before the meeting commences. An identity card will be issued by the Safety and Security Section and should be retrieved at the "Villa les Feuillantines", 13, Avenue de la Paix (see map on last page). Access to the Palais des Nations will only be granted to those in possession of a valid identity card.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

1. Adoption of the agenda

As this is the first session of the Sub-Committee, the secretariat suggests that the Sub-Committee should first adopt the agenda as drafted to allow the secretariat to introduce the various rules applicable to the proceedings of the Sub-Committee (item 2). Decisions to be taken in this respect could be addressed after the election of officers.

2. Organization of work

(a) *Rules of procedures of the Economic and Social Council*

The rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council are reproduced in document ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2001/1. In accordance with rule 27, paragraph 1, the rules of Chapters VI and VIII to XII apply to the proceedings of the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemical (GHS Sub-Committee).

(b) *Other rules or administrative matters*

The other rules applicable to the proceedings of, or applied by, the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and its subsidiary bodies at their previous sessions, are indicated in document ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2001/6.

Document ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2001/7 contains, for background information, the text of the Economic and Social Council's resolution 1999/65 which created the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals and the GHS Sub-Committee, as well as the letter dated 12 January 1999 of the President of the Intergovernmental Forum for Chemical Safety to the Secretary-General of the United Nations which was submitted to the Economic and Social Council as the basic proposal for the reconfiguration.

The terms of reference of the GHS Sub-Committee and of the reconfigured Committee are annexed to resolution 1999/65.

Document ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2001/8 indicates the composition of the reconfigured Committee and of the two sub-committees as agreed by the Economic and Social Council at its resumed organizational session for 2001 (New York, 3-4 May 2001).

3. Election of officers

In accordance with the established practice, the Sub-Committee may wish to elect one chairperson and one vice-chairperson for the biennium. The Sub-Committee may wish to consider the suggestions of the secretariat in ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2001/6, paras. 10 and 11.

4. Requests for consultative status (Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs))

Document ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2001/2 contains information about the arrangements for consultation between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

The Sub-Committee may wish to discuss under this agenda item applications for consultative status with the Sub-Committee from NGOs which are not in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. Applications have been received from:

- the International Confederation of Container Reconditioners (ICCR) (ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2001/9); and
- the Federation of European Aerosol Associations (FEA) (ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2001/10).

NGOs which are already in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and which have informed the secretariat of their interest to participate in the work of the Sub-Committee will be directly invited by the secretariat.

5. Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)

The following documents summarizing the status of work on the GHS have been prepared:

ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2001/3 (Secretariat)	Classification criteria for chemicals presenting physical hazards and progress report
ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2001/4 (OECD)	Progress report on classification criteria for health hazards and hazards to the environment
ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2001/11 (OECD)	Classification criteria for health hazards and hazards to the environment
ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2001/12 (OECD)	Mixtures

The Sub-Committee will also be informed of the outcome of the seventh meeting of the ILO Working Group for the Harmonization of Chemical Hazard Communication, to be held in Geneva at ILO Headquarters on 21-23 May 2001.

6. Cooperation with United Nations organs and programmes, specialized agencies and other organizations

The development of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals has been co-ordinated by the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) Co-ordinating Group for the Harmonization of Chemical Classification System (CG/HCCS).

Document ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2001/13 contains the draft report on the seventeenth consultation of that group (Rome, 2-3 November 2000), and the Sub-Committee will be informed of the outcome of the eighteenth consultation, which is expected to be the last one, scheduled for 24-25 May 2001 in Geneva.

The Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, ILO and OECD were the three focal points for the development of the system, and the Sub-Committee may wish to consider their future respective roles in the light of proposals that these focal points might wish to make. The Sub-Committee may wish to discuss the roles of international organizations in the effective implementation of the GHS under agenda item 7.

The Sub-Committee will be informed of recent developments concerning the preparation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Rio + 10") to be held in Johannesburg in June 2002 (ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2001/14).

7. Implementation

Although discussing implementation issues might be premature since the GHS is not yet available and since the Sub-Committee might consider that the priority for the biennium is to make the GHS available, the Sub-Committee may wish to note that some discussions have already taken place within the IOMC Co-ordinating Group (see ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2001/13).

The experience in the field of the transport of dangerous goods shows that international organizations which have responsibilities in the development of international codes, regulations and legal instruments play an important role in the effective implementation of UN Recommendations through their legal instruments, and provide important feedback for improvement of such recommendations.

The Sub-Committee may wish to consider which existing international legal instruments/recommendations contain provisions concerning classification or labelling of chemicals that would have to be harmonized with the GHS and how to establish co-operation with organizations, within or outside the UN system, responsible for such instruments.

The expert of Germany has submitted a document concerning the implementation of the GHS in developing countries and countries in transition (ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2001/5).

8. Work programme for the biennium

On the basis of the terms of reference of the Sub-Committee in resolution 1999/65 and of reports on discussions at the level of the IOMC Co-ordinating Group, the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods has prepared, at its twenty-first session (Geneva, 4-13 December 2000) a minimum work programme for the Sub-Committee for the biennium 2001-2002, which has been submitted by the secretariat to the Economic and Social Council as follows:

- Preparation of a document describing the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) and of recommendations related to its implementation;
- Development of cooperation arrangements with international organizations involved in the development of the GHS and of working arrangements with the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods.

The Sub-Committee may wish to consider how to complete this work programme by the end of 2002 and to allocate tasks accordingly.

9. Adoption of the report

In accordance with established practice, the Sub-Committee may wish to adopt the report on its first session on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat.



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