

## **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**

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Item 7 of the provisional agenda

**Capacity building**

### **Activities of the UNITAR/ILO Global GHS Capacity Building Programme and UNITAR/ILO/OECD WSSD GHS Partnership**

**Transmitted by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research  
(UNITAR)**

1. This document provides an update regarding activities in the UNITAR/ILO Global GHS Capacity Building Programme and the WSSD GHS Partnership for the period July to December 2015.

#### **UNITAR/ILO Global GHS Capacity Building Programme Activities**

##### **Country-based activities and training**

2. The SAICM QSPTF-supported GHS projects in Bolivia, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Guatemala, Mexico, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan continued during 2015. An additional GHS project in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) commenced in May 2015. UNITAR is serving as the international executing agency for these projects.

3. A final workshop took place in Mexico in August 2015. The key outcomes of this project are a National GHS Implementation Strategy, increased coordination among sectors, awareness-raising and training of stakeholders, and agreement on next steps for GHS implementation. This final workshop was held back to back with an annual conference of the Asociación Nacional de la Industria Química (ANIQ), where US OSHA agreed to send an expert on the GHS.

4. A final independent monitoring and evaluation was carried out for Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, which highlighted the success of the projects. All project objectives have been met, and the introduction of the GHS into the national legislation is under way. In Tajikistan, the project's GHS implementation proposals were approved for inclusion into the National Sustainable Development Strategy (covering up to 2030).

5. In Guatemala, the National Coordination Team is working in close cooperation with the Ministry of Education to include the GHS into the national curricula for primary schools. Awareness-raising materials have been developed and an animated video is about to be produced for this purpose. The video will also be sensitive on gender and indigenous people empowerment.

6. In addition, UNITAR is currently serving as the international executing agency for three broader QSPTF-supported projects with a GHS-related component (preparation of

national GHS situation and gap analyses, and support for GHS capacity building) in Burundi, Haiti, and Tunisia. Haiti and Tunisia have initiated preparation of the analyses. The Burundi project is in the inception phase.

#### **Guidance, training, and resource materials**

7. The fifth edition of the GHS e-learning course, “Classifying and Labelling Chemicals According to the UN GHS”, started on 12 October 2015 and will end on 20 December 2015. Through this course, UNITAR/ILO is providing capacity-building to some 15 participants from Africa, Europe, Latin America, and North America. Participants represents government, industry and international organisations. The next course is planned for the second quarter of 2015.

8. As part of an EU-supported project to further develop, promote, and train on the *IOMC Toolbox for Decision Making in Chemicals Management* (IOMC Toolbox), UNITAR, in collaboration with ILO, has developed a management scheme for implementing a classification and labelling system for chemicals (GHS). Following a peer review of the Word version of the scheme in November and December 2014, an interactive scheme was developed and is now online (<http://iomctoolbox.oecd.org>). A peer review of the online scheme is open until 31 January 2016 (please send comments to [brandon.turner@unitar.org](mailto:brandon.turner@unitar.org)). The IOMC Toolbox is an internet-based tool that enables countries to identify the most relevant and efficient tools to address specific national problems in chemicals management.

#### **Other matters**

9. UNITAR/ILO continue to greatly appreciate the efforts of the UNITAR/ILO GHS Capacity Building Programme Advisory Group and the GHS Training Course Review Group for their time and expert inputs to our projects and activities.

#### **WSSD Global Partnership for Capacity Building to Implement the GHS**

10. UNITAR/ILO would like to acknowledge contributions from the Government of Switzerland and the SAICM QSPTF for financial support to UNITAR/ILO implemented Partnership activities, including the Partnership Secretariat and national GHS implementation projects. Other in-kind contributions, such as that from US OSHA, Health Canada, KemI, ECHA, EPA New Zealand, CIS Center, and UNECE are also kindly acknowledged.

11. GHS capacity building activities organised by UNITAR/ILO continue to be funded by extra-budgetary resources. UNITAR/ILO welcome suggestions and proposals from the SCEGHS regarding how to ensure sustainable funding to meet the continued demand for GHS capacity building activities in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

12. UNITAR will continue to update the SCEGHS on these and other activities over the course of the next months.

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