

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**

27 June 2016

Thirty-first session

Geneva, 5 – 8 July 2016

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 under the UNITAR/ILO Global GHS Capacity Building Programme and the WSSD GHS Partnership for the period January to June 2016.

UNITAR/ILO Global GHS Capacity Building Programme Activities

Country-based activities

2. The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) Quick Start Programme (QSP) Trust Fund-supported GHS projects in Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Guatemala and Mexico have continued during the first half of 2016. UNITAR is serving as the international executing agency for these projects.

3. The project in Mexico is undertaking final activities, including broad dissemination of the gap and situation analysis, and the national GHS strategy, additional training on the GHS, a civil society and industry training workshop, and further development of a website. Key outcomes so far 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.

4. In Guatemala, the project coordinator is proceeding with plans for the final workshop. The project has developed and disseminated significant awareness-raising materials, and drafted national agreements on TDG and the GHS.

5. A project in the Kyrgyz Republic ended in 2015 with a government decree to implement the GHS. Furthermore, a project in Tajikistan closed in 2015 and agreed on actions to mainstream the GHS into national legislation, as part of the Tajik National Strategy on Sustainable Development.

6. In addition, UNITAR is currently serving as the international executing agency for three broader QSP Trust Fund-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. Burundi initiated project activities in April 2016.

Guidance, training, and resource materials

7. The fifth edition of the GHS e-Learning course - “Classifying and Labelling Chemicals According to the UN GHS” – took place between 12 October 2015 and 20 December 2015. Through this course, UNITAR/ILO provided capacity-building to 14 participants from the African, Asia-Pacific, Latin American and Caribbean, and Western European and Others regions. Ten of the participants obtained pass marks to complete the course. Participants represented government (2 participants), industry (7), international organisations (2), and academia and civil society (3).

8. The sixth edition of the GHS e-Learning course started 27 April 2016, running until 10 July 2016. Eighteen participants are taking the course, again across a range of stakeholders and sectors. Final results and information will be provided at the thirty-second session of the UNSCEGHS. The course was fully updated to include changes adopted in the sixth edition of the GHS.

9. As part of an EU-supported project to develop further, promote, and train on the IOMC Toolbox for Decision Making in Chemicals Management, UNITAR, in collaboration with ILO, has developed a management scheme for implementing a classification and labelling system for chemicals. 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. Awareness-raising of the tool is undertaken on an ongoing basis by Participating Organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC).

Other matters

10. UNITAR and the ILO continue to appreciate greatly 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

11. UNITAR and the ILO would like to acknowledge contributions from the Government of Switzerland and the SAICM QSP Trust Fund 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 as having contributed to the setup and ongoing support of the programme.

12. GHS capacity building activities organised by UNITAR and the ILO continue to be funded by extra-budgetary resources. UNITAR and the 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.

13. UNITAR will continue to update the SCEGHS on these and other activities.
