

OEWG-IV/13: Work on hazard characteristics

The Open-ended Working Group

Recalling decision VII/17 on hazard characteristics,

1. *Agrees* to the establishment of a working relationship between itself and the United Nations Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals, on hazard characteristics and the elements of the globally harmonized system of classification and labelling of chemicals;
2. *Agrees* to establish a correspondence group between itself and the United Nations Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals and adopts the terms of reference of the correspondence group as contained in the annex to the present decision;
3. *Invites* Parties and others to nominate participants for the correspondence group to the Secretariat by 31 August 2005;
4. *Requests* the Secretariat to report regularly on the outcome of the work of the correspondence group to the Open-ended Working Group and to the Conference of the Parties;
5. *Invites* the United Nations Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals also to consider the attached terms of reference with a view to its adoption.

Annex

Terms of reference of the correspondence group between the United Nations Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals and the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention on hazard characteristics

1. The tasks of the correspondence group on hazard characteristics between the United Nations Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals and the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention are as follows:

- (a) To work intersessionally, preferably by electronic means, with a view to undertaking consultations, between experts of the United Nations Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System on Classification and Labelling of Chemicals and experts of the Open-ended Working Group, on the preparation of guidelines on hazard characteristic and on the revision of such guidelines adopted by the Conference of the Parties;
 - (b) To identify inconsistencies, discrepancies or shortcomings of hazard classification used or developed internationally with a view to recommending appropriate action to the Conference of the Parties;
 - (c) To work towards harmonization of hazard classification systems internationally in order to assist Parties in the implementation of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal and to improve consistency at the international level on the use of classification systems for wastes and chemicals;
 - (d) To prepare a work programme;
 - (e) To make regular reports on progress in its work to the United Nations Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals and the Open-ended Working Group;
2. The correspondence group may invite experts to participate in the correspondence group if needed on the basis of the hazard characteristics being considered.