

WSSD Global Partnership for Capacity Building to Implement the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)

First Meeting of Partners
10 July 2003

Report of the Meeting



UNITAR would like to thank the Governments of Switzerland and The Netherlands, as well as ICCA, for their financial contributions to GHS Partnership activities in 2003.

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1. Background

The first meeting of the WSSD Global Partnership for Capacity Building to Implement the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals took place in Geneva, Switzerland on 10 July 2003. The meeting brought together representatives from 16 governments, 8 Intergovernmental Organizations and 12 Non-Governmental Organizations. The meeting was organized through collaboration between UNITAR, ILO and OECD, the founding members of the Partnership.¹

Partnerships in sustainable development aimed at implementing Agenda 21 are an important outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002. At the Summit, governments agreed on a series of commitments in five priority areas backed up by specific government announcements on programmes, and by partnership initiatives. It is important to continue to build on the momentum created by the WSSD, since partnership initiatives can contribute significantly to the implementation of sustainable development at all levels.

The UN Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) is a major breakthrough towards achieving chemical safety world-wide. The system has the ultimate goal of ensuring that information on chemical hazards (e.g. by means of labels and safety data sheets) is made available to workers and consumers in a harmonized and comprehensible format in countries around the world. The GHS can therefore be considered one of the “success stories” of Agenda 21.

Developing countries and countries with economies in transition have indicated that widespread adoption of the GHS and effective chemical hazard communication is only likely to occur if adequate support, training and technical assistance is made available to countries in need of, and committed to, building appropriate GHS-relevant legal and technical infrastructures. Suitable training and education will be required to ensure the proper use of GHS tools in different national contexts.

It is in this context that the WSSD Global GHS Partnership for Capacity Building was proposed to and endorsed by the WSSD in September 2002. This report reflects the discussions that took place at the First Meeting of Partners in 2003 and was finalized and adopted by all participants. It therefore provides a general guidance for the next steps of developing and strengthening the Partnership.

2. Opening Remarks

The meeting was opened by Marcel Boisard, **UNITAR** Executive Director, and United Nations Assistant Secretary General. Mr. Boisard thanked participants for coming to Geneva and noted the presence of new countries and organizations that had not previously participated in technical GHS meetings. He also thanked the Governments of the Netherlands and Switzerland, as well as ICCA, for their initial contributions to Partnership activities. Current pledges allow UNITAR to maintain the

¹ The List of Participants and Meeting Agenda are attached in Annexes 1 and 2.

Partnership and its secretariat services until the end of 2003. He suggested that the Partnership should include concrete milestones and activities that the group should attempt to reach collectively. He concluded by wishing participants success and introducing Dr. Henrique Cavalcanti, IFCS President, as Chair of the meeting.

Jukka Takala, Director of **ILO's** Safework Programme, highlighted a new ILO report estimating the number of work-related fatalities attributed to dangerous substances (chemicals and dusts) at about 438,000 annually.² The GHS should therefore be an essential part of national occupational health and chemical safety programmes. Industrialized countries should introduce the GHS system as soon as possible and pave the way for others to follow. He also suggested that external support from outside donors would be needed for many countries to implement the GHS.

Herman Koëter, Principal Administrator at the **OECD** Environment Directorate, noted that the WSSD GHS Partnership provides, in OECD's perspective, added value by raising the profile of GHS-related capacity needs and activities. He said it would also help to engage parts of the world that might otherwise be marginalized and could help avoid duplication and overlap in GHS-related activities. He made it clear that the Partnership should develop into a platform where all work together as true partners to achieve global implementation of the GHS. Developed countries are expected to take the lead in implementing the GHS whereas developing countries and countries in transition should contribute by taking the necessary initiatives to develop the infrastructures that would pave the way to implementation of the GHS. He concluded that the GHS itself was a long term process and the same would probably be the case for the GHS Partnership which is only at its beginning.

Peter Müller, **Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape**, highlighted his governments' initial funding for the Partnership as it is an ideal "show-case partnership" for a number of reasons. It addresses an important area where relatively simple measures can achieve much, it directly links to the WSSD 2008 goal and it involves organizations, the private sector and governments as crucial partners. It also complements multilateral policy-making with concrete action on the ground and involves a real commitment to accomplish something that is crucially important for the well-being and safety of millions of human beings and for the protection of the natural environment.

3. Introductory Presentations

Introduction

Achim Halpaap, **UNITAR**, presented the background to the Partnership and reported on its launch at the WSSD in 2002. He outlined suggested Partnership goals and objectives, initial targets, and the proposed governance structure which were jointly developed by UNITAR, ILO and OECD. All three organizations were now looking forward to have a more direct dialogue with Partners to move forward. He pointed out that Partnership activities can be implemented by UNITAR/ILO or independently by the Partner after undergoing a technical review by the UNITAR/ILO Programme

² ILO, *Safety in Numbers: pointers for a global safety culture at work* (Geneva, 2003).

Advisory Group (PAG). The PAG meets regularly and brings together GHS experts from many countries and organizations.

Mr. Halpaap also pointed out that the WSSD Partnership concept is evolving. Recently, the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) further developed its criteria and guidelines, agreeing that WSSD Partnerships should be new and not merely reflect existing arrangements, provide concrete value added to the WSSD implementation process, be based on predictable and sustained resources, mobilize new resources, and be designed and implemented in a transparent and accountable manner.³

Introductory Presentations by Government Representatives

Participants from two UNITAR/ILO GHS pilot project countries presented on the value of their national GHS capacity development projects. David Kapindula, **Zambia**, and Ousmane Sow, **Senegal**, highlighted the benefits of catalyzing multi-stakeholder committees involving all key sectors, holding national awareness raising workshops with local and international expert support, undertaking situation analyses and self-needs assessment, and developing national approaches to GHS implementation.

Miguel Hildmann, **Argentina**, Tatiana Markov, **Serbia and Montenegro**, and Pornpit Silkavute, **Thailand**, expressed country perspectives out of some 60 countries that had indicated an interest to participate in a country-based GHS project. The presentations highlighted the importance of capacity development for GHS implementation that requires considerable cooperation among stakeholders and across sectors. They also highlighted the need to evaluate the effectiveness of existing systems and establish national implementation strategies with international cooperation and assistance.

Presentations by Non-governmental Sector Representatives

Laurraine Lotter, **Chemical and Allied Industry Association** (South Africa) highlighted industry's strong support for the GHS due to constraints in current systems (such as lack of SDS consistency). She noted implementation challenges, including the need for regional harmonization and improved access to information, and concluded that assistance would be useful for identifying best practices in training and access to hazard information.

Reg Green, **International Federation of Chemical, Energy, Mine and General Workers' Unions** (ICEM), said that the GHS is necessary but not sufficient to ensure chemical safety for workers. GHS implementation activities would require the commitment of sufficient initial donor funding and the development and implementation of appropriate worker education and training programmes.

³ The CSD-11 Decision on Partnerships is attached in Annex 3.

4. Statements of Partners/Participants

Governments

Matthias Kern, **GTZ**, highlighted the support of Germany for GHS implementation and said that the Partnership gives a strong political signal of commitment due to its link to the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. Among the topics of German technical cooperation are environment protection and the environmentally sound development of the industrial sector, safe workplace conditions, workers and consumers health protection. Activities like the implementation of GHS will only support chemical safety in a sustainable way if properly placed in the national development strategies. He noted their contribution to the upcoming Southern African Development Community (SADC) sub-regional workshop and indicated that it might be possible to extend support to next year.

Yoji Suga, **Japan**, outlined cooperative activities of Japan with the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), including training and seminars. He noted that yearly Japan-ASEAN training may also be undertaken.

Patricia (Kit) Norland, **USA**, indicated that the US was pleased to be a Partner and reiterated the offer presented in a letter to UNITAR that the US would provide in-kind assistance, such as participation in the PAG. She added that innovative ideas should be explored and teamwork, transparency and flexibility are needed to lead to tangible results.

Kim Headrick, **Canada**, indicated Canada's strong support for the Partnership and that efforts and resources will be needed for successful GHS implementation. She highlighted technical assistance already provided by Canada, including travel to country and regional workshops organized by UNITAR/ILO.

Pornpit Silkavute, **Thailand**, welcomed and supported the Partnership, noting it was crucial as the 2008 target moved closer. She proposed that UNITAR/ILO work with stakeholders and donors to expand the number of countries participating in the UNITAR/ILO capacity building programme.

Anna-Liisa Sundquist, **Finland**, highlighted a willingness to participate in capacity building exercises with in-kind expertise.

Anne Lenfant, **France**, suggested it would not be sensible to adopt a global system that is not implemented. She reminded participants that ILO initiated in June an integrated approach for occupational health, strongly supported by France, that is also linked to the concept of a global partnership for capacity building. She welcomed and supported the Partnership.

Marc Debois, **European Commission**, welcomed the initiative on the GHS and noted that he will continue to follow meetings organised in this context. He pledged to further investigate possible additional ways for the European Commission to support the Partnership programme.

IGOs

Lesley Onyon, **WHO/IPCS**, spoke of the commitment of the World Health Organization (WHO), to implement the GHS through the work of the International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS) and its intention to participate in and contribute to partnership initiatives. IPCS strongly supports the need for accurate communication of the hazardous properties of chemicals in order for improvements in chemicals management to accrue. IPCS has started work to maximize consistency between the GHS terminology and its own risk assessment and communication products such as IPCS International Chemical Safety Cards and sees this as an important initiative to facilitate implementation of the GHS at the country level. IPCS also intends to increase the engagement of health professionals, such as those working in poisons centres, both in its chemical assessment work and activities which will raise awareness, implementation and further elaboration of the GHS. In the future IPCS would like to see the GHS become more integrated in the development of practical chemical safety tools. One example where the GHS is currently being considered is the work on Control Banding, being undertaken cooperatively in IPCS between WHO and ILO.

NGOs

Birgit Engelhardt, International Council of Chemical Associations (**ICCA**), said that the Partnership was an excellent example of a meaningful “Type 2” outcome of the WSSD due to its direct link to the concrete 2008 goal. She noted that ICCA was ready to offer in-kind contributions in areas such as training material and training courses, as well as financial support. She indicated that ICCA was ready to further investigate concrete contributions in co-operation with the partners involved.

Conchita Poncini, **International Federation of University Women**, highlighted the importance of labelling for consumers, and in particular for household products used by women. In the area of training and capacity building, “one size does not fit all”, therefore gender awareness, language and educational levels should all be factored in to capacity building.

Leslie London, **University of Cape Town** (UCT), outlined the role of UCT in developing comprehensibility testing materials in the context of GHS development as well as new proposals for comprehensibility training. He suggested that given the relative absence of developing countries in the development of the GHS, future plans for GHS implementation should help to facilitate centres of excellence in the developing world, utilising the skills of researchers in these countries.

Jack Weinberg, **International POPs Elimination Network** (IPEN), highlighted the potential benefits of the GHS for industry trade and that sufficient support should therefore be mobilized to reap all its environment and human health benefits. Industry and exporting countries should therefore support implementation of the GHS in importing countries through mechanisms such as the UNITAR/ILO GHS capacity building programme. He also pointed out that a number of NGOs participating in IPEN indicated that GHS is a high priority for chemical safety.

5. Partnership Programme Areas

Jonathan Krueger, UNITAR, presented the four proposed GHS Partnership Programme areas which include:

- Capacity Development at the *Regional and Sub-regional Levels*
- Capacity Development at the *National Level*
- Development of *Awareness Raising, Guidance and Training Materials*
- *Supporting Activities and Services* for GHS Capacity Development

For each Programme Area he outlined the proposed targets, progress to date and future plans. The **2002 Partnership Progress Report** provides more details on these aspects and participants were encouraged to provide written comments and amendments to UNITAR by 15 August 2003 in order to ensure that the final report is accurate and complete.

Following a discussion, it was agreed that the four proposed Programme Areas serve as a good framework for the Partnership, subject to amendments, such as including translation of documents into more languages into the work programme. In light of the uncertainty for funding beyond 2003, targets should be replaced by indicators (e.g. the target “10 national action plans prepared by 2006” should be replaced by “number of national GHS action plans prepared”).

6. Demand for Capacity Building and Financial Resource Issues

Requests for Assistance from Developing and Transition Countries

Mr. Halpaap, UNITAR, noted that a recent UNITAR/ILO survey indicated that capacity development for GHS implementation has become one of the top priorities for chemicals management capacity building in developing and transition countries, with some 69% of responding countries reporting that GHS was a high to extremely high priority. Consistent with the survey results, some 65 developing and transition countries had indicated to UNITAR their interest participating in national GHS capacity development activities. In addition, the interest for regional workshops is growing and Brazil has already indicated its interest to host a regional workshop for MERCOSUR countries in 2004.

Funding of GHS Capacity Development Activities 2001-2003

Answering a question from the floor regarding how UNITAR GHS capacity building activities implemented during the course of 2001-2003 were funded, Mr. Halpaap pointed out that existing chemical safety capacity building projects funded by the Governments of Switzerland and The Netherlands during 2001-2003 had allowed UNITAR/ILO to initiate the GHS capacity building activities in countries which had chosen chemical hazard communication and GHS implementation as a priority (Zambia, South Africa, Sri Lanka and Senegal). He made clear that the Institute does not receive any subsidies from the UN General Budget and that UNITAR’s chemicals management programmes, including GHS activities, were exclusively funded through extra-budgetary resources.

Funding to Implement the 2004-2006 Workplan

The meeting noted that current project resources allow UNITAR to maintain its contribution to the Partnership, both as an executing agency of capacity building activities and as the provider of the Secretariat of the Partnership, until December 2003. Subsequent UNITAR capacity building activities as well as provision of secretariat services are dependent on provision of additional extra-budgetary resources. So far no specific pledges have been received to fund GHS capacity development activities in 2004 and beyond.

In response to a question, Mr. Halpaap noted that a robust three-year GHS capacity building programme would require financial resources in the range of US\$ 1 million per year. Such a program would include a number of deliverables including implementation of national GHS Action Plan capacity projects in 10 countries (two per UN region), organization of 5 regional GHS awareness raising workshops and capacity assessments, and preparation and pilot testing of a GHS guidance and training package. Details are described in the UNITAR/ILO GHS Framework Project Proposal of April 2003. He pointed out that not all of these activities would necessarily need to be executed by UNITAR/ILO and individual partners could opt to support activities directly, working closely with the UNITAR/ILO Programme Advisory Group (PAG).

Participants supported the overall programme framework and activities suggested in the UNITAR/ILO Framework Proposal. Several participants stated that the document provides a good entry point for donors to consider possible support of specific activities. It was suggested to divide the global budget for the Programme into more distinct activities in order to provide more flexibility and allow donors to understand the costs of specific activities. In addition, costs of maintaining the services of the Partnership Secretariat should be separated from the costs of individual activities. UNITAR agreed to undertake these tasks.

Several participants highlighted the importance of ensuring sustainable core funding both to support Partnership activities and to provide the functions of the Partnership Secretariat. It was proposed to establish a small informal group (*e.g.* “Friends of the Partnership”) which could identify innovative ways to mobilize financial resources. UNITAR welcomed the establishment of such a group.

Linking GHS with Other International Priorities for Donor Funding

Several participants, in particular from countries which may be in a position to provide support for the Partnership, referred to the importance of linking classification and labelling of chemicals to other core donor priorities. Specific areas that were mentioned include:

- Poverty eradication;
- Protection of marginalized groups, (*e.g.* women and children);
- Protection of water supplies and drinking water;
- Linkages of free trade and environmental protection (*e.g.* the Doha development agenda, NEPAD Environmental Initiative Action Plan);

- Linkages with other international chemicals initiatives (*e.g.* Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions, SAICM);
- The UN Millennium Declaration; and
- The work of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC).

When drafting GHS project proposals the link to and synergies with other technical assistance activities should carefully be considered and documented. In addition, project proposals should ensure broad participation from civil society and ownership by recipient countries.

UNITAR indicated that in preparing the next version of the framework project proposal, comments made by participants would be taken into consideration.

7. Management of the Partnership

Meetings of the Partners

Participants discussed the need for regular Meetings of Partners to take stock of progress made in implementing Partnership activities and discuss other important aspects of the Partnerships. Regarding the need to have separate Meetings of Partners, it was suggested that the PAG might take up the functions of Meetings of Partners. However, several participants supported regular Meetings of Partners at strategic intervals in light of the fact that these meetings bring together a wider range of countries and organizations than those participating in technical GHS activities. The meeting agreed that a Meeting of Partners could take place about every two years, if possible prior to submission of bi-annual progress reports for the Partnership to the CSD Secretariat. The Meeting of Partners:

- takes stock of Partnership activities;
- evaluates progress made against the objectives of the Partnership;
- develops strategies to mobilize additional support for Partnership activities;
- reviews the governance mechanism for the Partnership; and
- adopts Partnership progress reports submitted to the Secretariat of the CSD.

Terms of Reference for the Partnership

Some participants suggested that a formal Terms of Reference for the Partnership should be developed. Following a discussion about the pros and cons, participants agreed that it would be premature to develop a TOR, but that this issue could be taken up again at the next Meeting of Partners. At that point in time, it would be more evident to what extent new resources had been mobilized and Partners would have a better understanding of the degree of formalization that the Partnership would require. For the time being the record of the first meeting, which would be sent to all participants for comments and final approval, will serve as guidance for future work on the Partnership.

Inter-sessional Communication

Participants raised the need for communication among Partners in-between Meetings of Partners. Such communication will mainly take place bi-laterally, through the Partnership Website (which UNITAR is presently developing with financial support of BUWAL and ICCA)⁴ and through the PAG. In order to facilitate communication, the website will provide opportunities for two way interaction, thus allowing Partners to post new developments and to send messages to all Partners. The website will also feature and recognise specific contributions of Partners. In developing the website, UNITAR will ensure full complementarity of its efforts with INFOCAP. Teleconferencing on defined issues was also considered an effective way of dealing with contentious issues in a timely fashion.

Role of the Programme Advisory Group (PAG) for the UNITAR/ILO GHS Programme

The Programme Advisory Group (PAG) for the UNITAR/ILO GHS Programme (which is open to all countries and organizations and meets at least once a year around the UN SCEGHS meetings) will continue to provide technical and co-ordinating support for Partnership Activities. All specific Partnership activities, including those executed by UNITAR/ILO and of other Partners will undergo a technical review, and be co-ordinated by the PAG. Partners interested to support or organize activities contributing towards the Programme Areas are encouraged to contact UNITAR well in advance, so that the issues can be brought forward to PAG meetings in a timely manner.

Secretariat

The meeting suggested that UNITAR should provide the secretariat for the Partnership, working closely with ILO and OECD. Functions of the secretariat include, *inter alia*, to:

- provide for the day-to-day management of the Partnership process;
- develop documents and publications;
- develop and maintain the Partnership website;
- prepare and facilitate Partnership meetings;
- participate in other related meetings (such as the Commission on Sustainable Development, UNECE subcommittee meetings, etc.); and
- facilitate communications between partners.

UNITAR indicated that its role as the secretariat for the Partnership beyond 2003 is dependent on mobilization of adequate resources. One option to provide resources to the Secretariat is that countries or organizations consider seconding staff to UNITAR.

⁴ <www.unitar.org/cwm/ghs_partnership/index.htm>

8. Conclusion and Follow-up

Commitments of Partners

In a concluding discussion, several participants raised concerns regarding the lack of commitment by countries and organizations to provide concrete support for capacity building projects to assist developing and transition countries in their efforts to implement the GHS. Other participants responded that the process of mobilizing funding is long and challenging and that this first meeting of Partners is only a starting point in a lengthy process to secure adequate funding.

The meeting agreed that as a minimum initial commitment, participants take the main messages of the meeting home and explore together with decision-makers in their countries and organizations how additional support could be mobilized for the future. The meeting expressed its hope that by the next time Partners would meet again, resource mobilization efforts will have already borne fruit and that a sustainable resource base for GHS capacity building will be in place at that point.

Next Steps

- UNITAR indicated that a draft meeting report will be made available to all participants for comments and review in due time.
- UNITAR will take steps to develop a Partnership Website and contact participants to provide comments.
- UNITAR will ask the partners to indicate who has interest to work with the small informal group (“Friends of the Partnership”). The answers to the request will be coordinated by UNITAR.
- Partners will be contacted to submit GHS and Chemical Hazard Communication documents for the GHS Capacity Building Library which will be featured as part of the Partnership Webpage.
- Partners will start efforts to look for financial and in-kind support for the proposed and planned partnership activities as appropriate.

The meeting was closed at 6.15 pm.

Annex 1 List of Participants

1. Government Representatives

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1. Welcome and Opening Remarks

- Government of Switzerland
- ILO
- OECD
- UNITAR

2. Introductory Presentation on the Partnership

- UNITAR

3. The Importance of Capacity Development for GHS Implementation in Developing and Transition Countries

- Perspectives of Governments
 - Zambia
 - Senegal
 - Argentina
 - Serbia
 - Thailand
- Perspectives of Industry and Labour
 - Chemical and Allied Industry Association (CAIA, South Africa)
 - International Federation of Chemical, Energy, Mine and General Workers' Unions (ICEM)

4. Statements by Participants/Partners

- Governments
- IGOs
- NGOs

5. Objectives, Activities and Targets

- Presentation – UNITAR
- Discussion – All Participants/Partners

6. Management and Governance of the Partnership

- UNITAR

7. Conclusion and Closure of Meeting

CSD-11 Decision on Partnerships

The text below is an extract from the full CSD-11 decision on the future programme and organization of work of the CSD.

21. Recalls that the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation designated the Commission on Sustainable Development to serve as the focal point for discussion on partnerships that promote sustainable development and reiterates that partnerships, as voluntary multi-stakeholder initiatives, contribute to the implementation of inter-governmental commitments in Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. They are a complement to, but not intended to substitute for, these commitments.

22. Stresses that partnerships in the context of the WSSD process and its follow up should be developed and implemented in accordance with the following criteria and guidelines; in this regard, taking note of the preliminary work undertaken on partnerships during the preparatory process for WSSD, including the Bali Guiding Principles, and General Assembly resolution A/RES/56/76:

- (a) Partnerships are voluntary initiatives undertaken by governments and relevant stakeholders, e.g. major groups and institutional stakeholders;
- (b) Partnerships should contribute to the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and should not divert from commitments contained in those agreements;
- (c) Partnerships are not intended to substitute commitments made by Governments but to supplement the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;
- (d) Partnerships should have concrete value addition to the implementation process and should be new - that is not merely reflect existing arrangements;
- (e) Partnerships should bear in mind the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development in their design and implementation;
- (f) Partnerships should be based on predictable and sustained resources for their implementation, include mobilising new resources and, where relevant, result in transfer of technology to, and capacity building in, developing countries;
- (g) It is desirable that partnerships have a sectoral and geographical balance;
- (h) Partnerships should be designed and implemented in a transparent and accountable manner. In this regard, they should exchange relevant information with Governments and other relevant stakeholders;
- (i) Partnerships should be publicly announced with the intention of sharing the specific contribution that they make to the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;
- (j) Partnerships should be consistent with national laws, national strategies for the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21

⁵ Source: <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/partnerships/csd11_partnerships_decision.html>.

and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, as well as the priorities of countries where their implementation takes place;

(k) The leading partner of a partnership initiative should inform the national focal point for sustainable development of the involved country/countries about the initiation and progress of the partnership, and all partners should bear in mind the guidance provided by Governments; and

(l) The involvement of international institutions and United Nations funds, programmes and agencies in partnerships should conform to the inter-governmentally agreed mandates and should not lead to the diversion to partnerships of resources otherwise allocated for their mandated programmes.

23. Decides that providing information and reporting by partnerships registered with the Commission should be transparent, participatory and credible taking into account the following elements:

(a) Registration of partnerships should be voluntary and be based on written reporting to the Commission, taking into account the provisions above. Reporting by partnerships should focus on their contribution to the implementation of goals, objectives and targets of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

(b) Partnerships should submit a regular report, preferably at least on a biennial basis;

(c) The Secretariat is requested to make information available on partnerships, including their reports, through a database accessible to all interested parties, including through the Commission website and other means;

(d) The Secretariat is requested to produce a summary report containing synthesized information on partnerships for consideration by the Commission in accordance with its programme and organization of work, noting the particular relevance of such reports in the review year;

(e) The Commission, during the review year, should discuss the contribution of partnerships towards supporting implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation with a view to sharing lessons learned and best practice, to identifying and addressing problems, gaps and constraints, and providing further guidance, including on reporting, during the policy year as necessary.

24. Calls for activities aimed at strengthening partnerships in the context of the WSSD process and its follow up and facilitating new ones, including through initiatives such as partnerships fairs and learning centres, mindful of the importance of sharing information on existing activities particularly across the United Nations system.

Annex IV: List of Acronyms

CAIA	Chemical and Allied Industries' Association (South Africa)
CSD	Commission on Sustainable Development
ECOSOC	United Nations Economic and Social Council
ECZ	Environmental Council of Zambia
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GHS	Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals
GTZ	German Technical Cooperation
ICCA	International Council of Chemical Associations
ICSC	international chemical safety card
IFCS	Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOMC	Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals
IPCS	International Programme on Chemical Safety
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NGO	Non-governmental organization
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
PAG	UNITAR/ILO Programme Advisory Group
PIC	Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade
POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SAICM	Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management
SCEGHS	United Nations Sub-committee of Experts on the GHS
SDS	safety data sheet
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
WHO	World Health Organization
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development
WTO	World Trade Organization



The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) was established in 1965 as an autonomous body within the United Nations with the purpose of enhancing the effectiveness of the United Nations through appropriate training and research. UNITAR is governed by a Board of Trustees and is headed by an Executive Director. The Institute is supported by voluntary contributions from governments, intergovernmental organizations, foundations and other non-governmental sources.



The International Labour Organization is the UN specialized agency which seeks the promotion of social justice and internationally recognized human and labour rights. It was founded in 1919 and is the only surviving major creation of the Treaty of Versailles which brought the League of Nations into being and it became the first specialized agency of the UN in 1946. The ILO formulates international labour standards, provides technical assistance and promotes the development of independent employers' and workers' organizations and provides training and advisory services to those organizations. Within the UN system, the ILO has a unique tripartite structure with workers and employers participating as equal partners with governments in the work of its governing organs.



The OECD is a unique forum where governments can pool ideas and expertise to tackle the economic, social and governance challenges of the 21st century globalised economy. It groups 30 market democracies producing 60% of the world's goods and services, but in this era of globalization the OECD does not and cannot work alone. It shares expertise and exchanges views with more than 70 countries worldwide, as well as a vast array of stakeholders and interest groups, on topics of mutual concern from measuring climate change to ensuring transparency and accountability of governments to their citizens.