UNITAR/ILO Series of Regional and Sub-regional GHS Awareness Raising Workshops

# SADC Sub-regional Workshop on Chemical Hazard Communication and GHS Implementation

Livingstone, Zambia
1-4 September 2003

Final Report

ECZ

UNITAR

The SADC GHS workshop was part of a series of regional and sub-regional GHS workshops which are co-ordinated and supported through the UNITAR/ILO GHS Capacity Building Programme, subject to availability of extra-budgetary resources. The event is also a contribution to the *Global Partnership for Capacity Building to Implement the GHS* which was initiated at the WSSD in 2002.

Special thanks is extended to GTZ, IFCS, the Governments of Switzerland and The Netherlands, and ICCA for their financial contribution to the SADC workshop. Countries and organizations interested in supporting GHS workshops in other regions are encouraged to contact UNITAR at the address below.

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## Executive Summary

The *Subregional Workshop on Chemical Hazard Communication and GHS Implementation* for countries of the SADC region took place in Livingstone, Zambia, from 1 to 4 September 2003.[1] It was the first in a series of regional and sub-regional GHS awareness raising workshops, co-ordinated and supported through the UNITAR/ILO GHS Capacity Building Programme. The event brought together over forty representatives from SADC governments, industry and labour organizations, international organizations and GHS resource persons.[2] The workshop was supported by UNITAR and organized in collaboration with ECZ, with resources provided by the Governments of Switzerland and The Netherlands, GTZ, IFCS and the ICCA.

During the four days, participants exchanged GHS-related country experiences, examined existing regional structures relevant to GHS implementation (e.g. SADC Chemicals Code, NEPAD GHS initiative), discussed challenges and opportunities regarding GHS implementation at the regional and national levels, and developed practical recommendations for GHS implementation for industrial chemicals, agricultural chemicals, chemicals in transport, and consumer product chemicals.

The workshop concluded that implementation of the GHS at the regional level and in SADC member countries would be of great benefit for the region, both from an economic and environment and health protection perspective.

One of the key outcomes of the workshop was a commitment to initiate the development of a SADC regional strategy with the goal to ensure SADC-wide harmonization of GHS implementation by 2007. Activities proposed to assist achieving this goal include:

- completion of a regional GHS assessment and implementation report in 2003;
- SADC countries, with the assistance of UNITAR, should develop a regional GHS implementation strategy by 2004;
- submit the SADC implementation proposal for Ministerial approval to the next relevant meeting of the Council of Ministers;
- ensure integration of SADC subregional GHS efforts into the GHS related activities of the NEPAD Health and Environment Initiative and initiatives of other relevant organizations; and
- initiate 12 additional national GHS implementation projects in SADC countries by 2005.

In order to support the regional implementation strategy, the workshop also proposed a number of national-level activities, including:

[1] SADC includes: Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

[2] The text of the GHS may be viewed and downloaded at <www.unece.org/trans/danger/publi/ghs/ghs.html>.

- countries should raise awareness about the GHS and its importance within all relevant national ministries and among NGOs, and encourage others to do so;

- GHS implementation at the national level should ensure harmonisation to the greatest extent possible between and among those sectors affected by the GHS;

- countries should strengthen information exchange on GHS activities for and among all stakeholders;

- GHS-related activities should consider possible synergies with other initiatives/agreements (e.g. Stockholm, Rotterdam and Basel Conventions and Montreal Protocol) to assist with GHS implementation; and

- countries should ensure the incorporation of chemicals management into national poverty alleviation strategy development processes, national sustainable development strategies (where they exist), or similar tools.

In summary, participants concluded that the workshop provided a valuable opportunity to reflect on experiences, discuss key issues and suggest concrete next steps in the area of chemical hazard communication and GHS implementation. UNITAR and the other workshop organizers were encouraged to widely distribute the report of the workshop, both electronically and on paper, to all interested parties.[3]

[3] Electronic copies of this report are available on the UNITAR website at <www.unitar.org/cwm>.

# 1. Introduction

An important aspect of protecting human health and the environment from potentially toxic chemicals is the development of national systems which ensure that chemicals are properly classified and labelled and that safety data sheets are made available, in particular at the workplace. These communication tools provide workers, consumers and the public with important information about the hazards of chemicals (hazard communication) and thus help to trigger precautionary protective behaviour, if messages are comprehensible and accompanied by appropriate supporting measures. The Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) is a new internationally-agreed tool for chemical hazard communication.

As part of the UNITAR/ILO series of regional and subregional GHS awareness raising workshops, Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries met in Livingstone, Zambia, from 1 to 4 September 2003, to discuss their experiences with chemical hazard communication and consider concrete measures related to GHS implementation in the region.

## 1.1 The GHS: An Important Tool for Protecting Human Health and the Environment

The GHS provides a comprehensive and universal tool for chemical hazard communication, and countries around the world are taking an interest to develop national action plans to implement the GHS and to build capacities for effective chemical hazard communication. Responsibility for the maintenance, updating and promotion of the system, adopted in 2002, rests with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Subcommittee of Experts on the GHS (SCEGHS).

Countries can draw upon to the GHS to develop national chemical hazard communication systems. Additionally, implementation of the GHS may require strengthening, updating or establishing appropriate national legislation compatible with other international instruments such as the ILO Chemicals Convention 170 and Rotterdam Convention. Global implementation of the non-binding GHS will be undertaken through a strategic yet flexible approach in Member States, through collaboration between government and other interested and affected parties including industry, labour, consumer and public interest groups across the agriculture, industrial production, transport and consumer sectors.[4] The GHS therefore represents an important step in harmonizing national chemical hazard communication systems worldwide and has a great potential to improve chemical safety across all relevant sectors.

[4] Use of the terms “multistakeholder” and “multisectoral” in subsequent sections of this report denote inclusion of the above mentioned stakeholders and sectors.

Specifically, the System is expected to:

- enhance the protection of people and the environment by providing an internationally comprehensive system for chemical hazard communication;
- provide a recognised framework for those countries without an existing system;
- reduce the need for duplicative testing and evaluation of chemicals; and
- facilitate international trade in chemicals whose hazards have been properly assessed and identified on an international basis.

According to the report of the IFCS Forum III meeting held in October 2000 in Brazil, the GHS will become a practical and coherent global standard for chemical hazard communication at the workplace, for those involved in work-related activities, for the transportation system and for consumers. Forum III specifically recommended that "all countries subject to their capacities and capabilities, should take account of the development of the GHS in any proposed changes to existing systems for classification and labelling, and in the implementation and enforcement of their chemicals legislation". The IFCS also recommended that guidance and other tools necessary for the implementation of the GHS be made available by 2003 and that all countries should implement the GHS as soon as possible with a view to have the system fully operational by 2008, a target endorsed at the 2002 WSSD held in Johannesburg, South Africa (WSSD Plan of Implementation, paragraph 23(c), A/CONF.199/20).

***Challenges for Capacity Building in Developing Countries***

One of the key factors that will ultimately determine the success of the GHS worldwide is the extent to which countries both recognise the potential benefits of chemical hazard communication and develop capacities to establish the necessary infrastructures to implement and operate the System. Developing countries and countries with economies in transition face particular challenges with regard to trying to limit and reduce the negative effects of chemical use in various sectors through appropriate hazard communication. Frequent mis-labelling of chemicals, lack of understanding of labels on chemicals in use, and infrequent training in chemical safety are only some of the challenges specifically faced by countries with limited or non-existent national hazard communication infrastructures.

Widespread adoption of the GHS and effective chemical hazard communication is therefore only likely to occur if countries demonstrate a strong commitment to its implementation and if adequate support and technical assistance is made available to countries needing to build appropriate legal and technical infrastructures. Suitable training and education will be required to ensure the proper use of GHS tools in

different national contexts. This will be of particular importance to the developing countries and countries with economies in transition that did not take a direct part in the technical work of harmonization. Moreover, lessons learned from ongoing GHS pilot projects indicate the practical value of GHS capacity building activities for chemical safety at all levels and more than 60 countries have already indicated to UNITAR their interest in participating in a GHS capacity development project.

## 1.2 Workshop Objectives

The main goal of the workshop was to raise awareness about the GHS amongst SADC countries and develop elements of a SADC strategy for GHS implementation, consistent with national circumstances and priorities. Experiences to-date, existing guidance and other resources were discussed, as were current capacity building activities. Gaps and weaknesses were identified and solutions suggested.

Other objectives of the workshop included, *inter alia*:

- reflecting on GHS implementation issues across key sectors;
- evaluating the importance of GHS implementation in SADC in relation to economic and social impacts and its benefits, including development of a subregional GHS implementation assessment report;
- exploring the usefulness of existing structures and possible partnerships with other African countries and beyond (such as linkages with NEPAD agenda);
- exploring capacity building needs for GHS implementation across the transport, consumer, industrial chemicals and agriculture sectors at national and regional levels; and
- examining and developing possible approaches to GHS implementation and identify practical ways and means regarding implementation within SADC.

## 1.3 Opening Statements

**Mr. Edward Zulu**, Acting Director of the Environmental Council of Zambia (ECZ), welcomed participants to Zambia and introduced the main purpose of the workshop as creating awareness, reviewing GHS implementation status and developing the way forward.

**Ms. Kim Hendrick**, Health Canada and Chair of the UN Subcommittee of Experts on the GHS, emphasised the role of the GHS in the safe management of chemicals and protection of human health and the environment. She remarked upon the high level of workshop attendance and concluded that she anticipated a successful meeting.

**Mr. Craig Boljkovac**, UNITAR, emphasised the importance of adopting a harmonised system for chemical classification and labelling.

He provided an overview of the workshop program and the importance of identifying appropriate ways and means for a SADC-wide approach to GHS implementation, taking into account all relevant sectors (agriculture, industry, consumers, transport) and chemical hazard communication tools. He also gave brief welcoming remarks on behalf of **IFCS**.

**Ms. Laurraine Lotter**, ICCA, highlighted the capacity building and partnership activities of ICCA and said that the GHS is a foundation for national and regional approaches to the sound management of chemicals. She indicated ICCA's support for the workshop and hoped that it would assist SADC countries to prepare the basis for a sound project proposal for GHS implementation.

**Mr. Erich Kristof**, German Ambassador to Zambia, stated that German development assistance was focussed on helping society's vulnerable groups in areas such as poverty reduction, water supply and sanitation, rural development and capacity building for civil society. He emphasised the importance of environmental protection as a key aspect of economic development and highlighted the benefits of the GHS in overcoming the barriers of multiple languages and systems for safe chemicals management at the global level.

**The Honourable Severine Chilufya Kazenene**, Deputy Minister of Zambia's Southern Province, emphasized the importance of the workshop and the sound management of chemicals. He noted that the workshop was aimed at raising awareness and developing a SADC project proposal on the GHS and outlined the work already undertaken in Zambia. He encouraged other countries to follow suit as a way of contributing to the meeting the objectives of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

## 1.4 Working Groups and Development of Workshop Recommendations

In the second part of the workshop, after a number of presentations, important themes and challenges that emerged were further addressed through working groups focusing on identifying appropriate ways and means to develop a regional GHS implementation strategy and identify key supporting national activities. Working groups discussed these issues across four key sectors (agriculture, industry, transport and consumers) and prepared a summary report for examination in Plenary in the final afternoon of the workshop. Summaries of the working group results are found in section 4 and the recommendations of the workshop in section 5.

## 2. International Initiatives and Programmes for GHS Development, Implementation and Capacity Building

This section of the report provides more detail regarding the existing international initiatives and programmes for GHS development, implementation and capacity building.

### 2.1 Overview of the GHS

**Ms. Kim Headrick** presented the GHS to workshop participants, beginning with its structure and importance. She highlighted that no single country can effectively manage chemical hazards without international co-operation due to the global nature of trade and hence the need for the GHS, which covers all chemicals. Countries, international organizations and chemical producers and users will all benefit from the GHS as it will enhance the protection of human health and the environment, facilitate trade, and reduce the need for duplicative testing and evaluation. She outlined the key elements of the GHS, including its classification criteria and hazard communication provisions, in particular the use of labels and safety data sheets (SDS).

**Mr. Reiner Arndt** (Germany) discussed the benefits of the GHS and its role in national chemical safety (presented by Kim Headrick) and emphasized that the system provides the underlying infrastructure for the establishment of comprehensive national chemical safety programmes. He noted that the GHS provides a modular system of "building blocks" for the target audiences (e.g. consumers, workers, transport) and can assist with the provision of information for the entire chemical supply chain. The GHS can therefore provide all countries with a structure to classify and label hazardous chemicals and help ensure that coherent information is provided on all imported and exported chemicals worldwide.

In response to questions from the participants, it was further highlighted that:

- proprietary business information remained protected but should not be used as a bar to the provision of vital chemical safety data;
- while the GHS is not a rigid document and could be amended, it is anticipated that other international tools will be adjusted to come into line with the GHS (*e.g.* WHO and FAO classification and labelling schemes); and
- industry had already endorsed the voluntary GHS, though national governments are advised to consider incorporating the GHS into national laws to make it mandatory if they choose to do so.

In conclusion it was noted that the GHS document was currently available in English and French but was in the process of being

translated into the other UN languages.

Mr. Arndt also presented the ILO Chemical Control Toolkit, a scheme designed for workplace chemicals control for SMEs in developing countries with the aim to provide simple and practical means to prevent and reduce the risks of chemicals.

## 2.2 Existing Capacity Building Initiatives

**Mr. Craig Boljkovac** provided an overview of the *UNITAR/ILO GHS Capacity Building Programme*, initiated in 2001, and available draft guidance materials designed to assist countries to develop and implement chemical hazard communication systems which contribute to the legal and institutional measures needed to implement the GHS. He indicated that a total of 65 countries had so far expressed interest to join the programme, and that Zambia and the Republic of South Africa were the two pilot countries in the SADC region (with Senegal undertaking related work). He also highlighted the regional component of the GHS Capacity Building Programme, such as co-ordinating and supporting regional workshops, including the present meeting.

Mr. Boljkovac described the *WSSD Global Partnership for Capacity Building to Implement the GHS*, initiated by UNITAR, ILO and OECD in 2002. The goal of the Partnership is to mobilize support and catalyze partnerships for concrete activities at the global, regional and national levels to strengthen capacities in developing countries and countries in transition towards effective implementation of the GHS for industrial chemicals, agricultural chemicals, chemicals in transport and consumer chemicals.

**Mr. Wolfgang Schimpf**, GTZ, presented the GTZ International Technical Assistance Programme – Pilot Project on Chemical Safety. The programme, started in 1997, aims to assist countries with complying with the Stockholm, Rotterdam and Basel Convention requirements in the safe management of chemicals. He indicated that the program was active in Africa, Asia and Latin America and was supporting projects such as the development of PCB inventories, the establishment of chemical poison centres, and the development of safe chemical use guidelines.

## 3. Challenges and Opportunities of GHS Implementation in the SADC Region

To provide a starting point for discussions, countries presented their experience to date regarding GHS implementation. In particular, countries participating in the UNITAR/ILO GHS Capacity Building Programme – Zambia, South Africa and Senegal – discussed their activities, progress to date and lessons learned.

### 3.1 Experiences of Pilot Countries in Africa (Zambia, South Africa and Senegal)

**Mr. Felix Mwangala**, Chair of the Zambian National Programme Coordinating Committee (NPCC), presented the Zambian pilot programme on chemical hazard communication and GHS implementation, begun in 2001. He outlined the 24-month UNITAR/ILO supported initiative, implemented under the guidance of the ECZ. He outlined the three phases of the project, beginning with a situation analysis and project inception including a national workshop on the GHS. He described the project management structure, including a National Project Co-ordinating Committee, working groups for the transport, consumer, agriculture and industrial sectors, and secretariat (ECZ). The second phase focussed on developing a National Action Plan for GHS implementation and undertaking comprehensibility testing. The third and final phase focuses on the development/amendment of legislation to support GHS implementation. Other supporting activities include awareness raising, establishing a database on chemical incidents, and initiation of training programmes.

**Mr. Samuel Banda**, University of Zambia, presented the results of the Zambian GHS situation analysis, undertaken in 2001. The analysis revealed that:

- several labels from outside the country are used in Zambia;
- tools such as Safety Data Sheets rarely reach workers on the floor;
- label elements are generally poorly understood; and
- institutional structures and political will relating to chemical hazard communication are generally inadequate.

The findings of the analysis assisted the NPCC in making appropriate recommendations in the national action plan.

**Mr. Kwenga Sichilongo**, University of Zambia, presented the results of the comprehensibility testing undertaken to establish to what extent existing labels and SDSs were understood by the target users across four key sectors. Generally there was a low level of comprehension of existing hazard communication tools in Zambia, thus reinforcing the need for training and a harmonized labelling system.

**Ms. Laurraine Lotter**, CAIA, presented an overview regarding project implementation in South Africa, coordinated by the National Economic Development and Labour Council (NEDLAC). She noted that the

situation analysis revealed a lack of consistency among the current regulations on classification and labelling and a lack of uniformity in SDS. This highlights the need to harmonise national laws, improve access to information, harmonise at the regional level, ensure hazard communication along the value chain and ensure product stewardship beyond the initial customer.

**Ms. Andrea Rother**, University of Cape Town, presented the results of the comprehensibility testing undertaken in South Africa. The results included:

- SDSs are not readily available or understood;
- labels are more widely used than SDSs;
- illiterate populations are least likely to understand chemical hazard communication tools; and
- labels are mainly used for product use purposes rather than for safety and health.

She concluded by highlighting the great importance of training to ensure successful GHS implementation and effectiveness.

**Mr. Ousmane Sow**, Senegal, presented the results of the UNITAR-assisted project in his country. He said the situation analysis revealed that labels and SDS were not fully understood, though workers in the agricultural sector had a better understanding but rarely took precautions in response to the information. This reinforces the need for putting in place an awareness and capacity building program, part of the GHS implementation action plan developed by Senegal in 2002.

### 3.2 Experiences of Other SADC Countries

Brief reports from the other SADC countries revealed a number of commonalities in the region in the assessment of current hazard communication systems and preparation for GHS implementation:

- many countries have legislation relating to chemical classification and labelling, at least for some sectors (e.g. agriculture), but these regulations are often contradictory and do not address all relevant issues;
- where regulations do exist, there is often weak implementation and enforcement;
- in some cases, no special provisions for classification and labelling of chemicals exist in national law;
- some countries highlighted the challenge of needing to communicate in multiple local languages;
- several countries reported the use of labels in languages not understood in the country;
- the critical importance of chemical hazard communication and usefulness of the GHS was stressed by all countries;
- most countries reported that financial and technical assistance, in particular for training and awareness raising, would be necessary to ensure effective GHS implementation.

# 4. Summary of Working Group Discussions

As a key component of the workshop, participants were asked to discuss priority issues in working groups for the four key sectors (agriculture, transport, industrial production, and consumers) relating to national and regional GHS implementation issues. The outcome was a summary of the issues and observations for presentation to and examination in Plenary in order to inform the development of a regional GHS implementation strategy and provide a basis for workshop recommendations. This section provides a brief summary of the working groups' deliberations.

## 4.1 National GHS Implementation Issues

After a brief introduction to the key issues by Mr. Reiner Arndt, the sectoral working groups on national GHS implementation considered existing national situations regarding chemical classification and hazard communication, gaps and capacity needs, and key steps required for initiating GHS implementation.

All working groups noted that benefits of GHS implementation would include enhancing trade, providing countries without legislation a basis for developing regulations, and standardizing the provision of chemical information thereby leading to an improvement in the protection of human health and the environment. Identified driving forces include economic benefits (cost savings), the need to address existing labelling problems and poisonings, and the need to improve information provision.

Regarding existing infrastructures, there was variation across the sectors. For agriculture, most countries have some legislation or build upon existing regional (*e.g.* the SADC Code of Practice on the Safe Use of Chemicals) and international (*e.g.* the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions) instruments. In the industry sector, there is variation regarding the types of authorities responsible for legislation (*e.g.* Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labour, etc.). In the transport sector, most countries had regulations for road and air transport, but few for marine and rail transport. Several countries noted the existence of multiple regulations requiring harmonization. The consumer sector had the weakest existing infrastructure, with no existing legislation in most countries.

The working groups identified the need to increase capacity by broadening participation in the industry-initiated (CropLife) SEARCH program (Southern and Eastern African Regulatory Committee on Harmonisation) for pesticides, increasing awareness on the GHS across all sectors, and intensifying relevant training programmes. However, resource constraints were identified by all groups as a significant obstacle.

All groups also identified a need to form multisectoral and multistakeholder bodies to examine and promote GHS implementation, including designating lead agencies. In the consumer sector, establishing tripartite Consumer Protection Councils in all countries was proposed. Ensuring synergies with existing regional and international initiatives was also stressed.

## 4.2 Regional GHS Implementation Issues

After a brief presentation on existing regional structures by Mr. James Phiri, the sectoral working groups on regional GHS implementation issues examined existing regional structures for chemical classification and hazard communication, gaps and capacity needs, and key steps required for a regional GHS implementation strategy.

All working groups agreed that there would be significant regional benefits of GHS implementation, including providing a basis for strengthening existing regional instruments, optimizing the use of resources, increasing country-to-country cooperation and facilitating trade. Particular existing sub-regional instruments that could be amended to take the GHS into account include the SADC Code of Practice on the Safe Use of Chemicals and the SADC Transport and Trade Protocols, while the regional mechanism of the NEPAD Health and Environment Initiative, which already references GHS implementation, should also be engaged. However, all these items face barriers regarding limited available resources, different levels of capacity within the region regarding classification and labelling, and lack of harmonization and enforcement of existing instruments.

At the international level, the groups proposed a continuing engagement with international organizations such as the UN SCEGHS, UN SCETDG, UNITAR, ILO, FAO, WHO and potential donors (such as GTZ). In order to increase synergies with other donor priorities, it was proposed that the links between the GHS and other issues such as trade and environment, protection of marginalized groups and protection of water supplies, be emphasised.

The working groups also stressed the importance of securing high-level political endorsement to move the regional process forward. To assist this process, the development of a regional GHS implementation project for submission to SADC Ministers was proposed.

## 5. Workshop Conclusions and Recommendations

Based on the deliberations in the working groups and further discussion in the Plenary, participants agreed to a number of recommendations, subject to the availability of financial resources, including the development of a regional strategy with the goal to ensure SADC-wide harmonization of GHS implementation by 2007.

The general agreements reached at the workshop are summarised below, while the elements of the regional strategy and supporting national activities are listed in sections 5.1 and 5.2.

Workshop participants agreed on the following conclusions and recommendations:

1. There are clear benefits to regional GHS implementation.

2. A regional needs assessment based on a questionnaire, input from the workshop and limited follow up would be beneficial (particularly for countries not at the workshop). The assessment should be used to prepare a project proposal for the development of a regional implementation strategy for SADC.

3. GHS implementation should be integrated with regional initiatives (e.g. the SADC Chemicals, Transport and Trade Protocols) and other relevant international initiatives.

4. Where regional implementation would optimise resource use, this should be pursued.

5. National GHS implementation projects, like those currently ongoing in Zambia and South Africa with support of UNITAR, should be undertaken in other countries.

6. A preliminary list of implementation tools, existing or under development, should be presented to relevant forums for consideration.

7. Multisectoral and multistakeholder approaches are important for implementation.

8. GHS projects undertaken in the context of the NEPAD Health and Environment Initiative should be monitored to ensure synergy with subregional efforts.

9. Consideration should be given to applying a skills development approach like the one developed in South Africa and other countries.

10. Funding for the development of national implementation plans under the Stockholm Convention should be considered to develop national chemical profiles, with a detailed chapter on current chemical classification and labelling infrastructure, where this has not already been done.

11. GTZ and other donors should be solicited for support for further GHS awareness raising and other implementation activities.

12. Countries should identify funding opportunities related to chemical management and submit applications for GHS awareness raising and other implementation projects.

## 5.1 Development of a Strategy for Regional Harmonization of GHS Implementation

During the workshop, participants developed and agreed to elements of a regional strategy to harmonise implementation of the GHS in all SADC countries by 2007.

Elements of the regional strategy are:

- Completion of a draft regional needs assessment and implementation report by 30 October and circulated to meeting participants for review.

- Ensure presentation of workshop results to IFCS Forum IV meeting in November 2003.

- SADC countries, with the assistance of UNITAR, will develop a project proposal by January 2004 for SADC on regional implementation of the GHS.

- UNITAR should engage with the SADC secretariat on a mechanism to develop a regional approach to GHS implementation.

- Submit the SADC implementation proposal for Ministerial approval to the next relevant meeting of the Council of Ministers.

- Ensure integration of SADC subregional GHS efforts into the GHS activities of the NEPAD Health and Environment Initiative and initiatives of other relevant organizations.

- Commencement of 12 additional national GHS implementation projects in SADC countries by 2005, taking into account the experiences and lessons learned in pilot projects supported by UNITAR in Zambia and South Africa.

- Countries should report on progress with these activities in response to a request from UNITAR in October 2004. Report to be compiled by UNITAR as information for participant countries and for submission to the December 2004 Programme Advisory Group meeting.

## 5.2 Recommendations on National GHS Follow-up Activities

In order to support the regional implementation strategy, the workshop also recommended a number of national-level activities, including:

- Countries that have not commenced national-level GHS implementation projects are encouraged to do so, resources permitting, and are encouraged to explore synergies with other funding mechanisms.

- Countries should raise awareness about the GHS and its importance within all relevant national ministries and among NGOs, and encourage others to do so.

- Countries are encouraged to ensure the incorporation of chemicals management into national poverty alleviation strategy development processes, national sustainable development strategies (where they exist), or similar tools.

- Participants should ensure that the workshop report and recommendations are disseminated to all relevant institutions and stakeholders in their country.

- Countries that are developing National Chemicals Management Profiles (*e.g.* as part of a Stockholm Convention National Implementation Plan development process) are encouraged to include a chapter on chemicals classification and labelling, that could serve as the basis for a detailed Situation Analysis for a future national GHS project.

- Tools to assist with GHS awareness-raising should be developed and widely disseminated, including, for example, a model power point presentation aimed at decision-makers.

- Those engaged in GHS-related activities should consider possible synergies with other initiatives/agreements (*e.g.* Stockholm, Rotterdam and Basel Conventions and Montreal Protocol) to assist with GHS implementation.

- It is recommended that countries strengthen information exchange on GHS activities for and among all stakeholders.

- Those who undertake GHS implementation at the national level are strongly encouraged to ensure harmonisation to the greatest extent possible between and among those sectors affected by the GHS.

## Annex A: Workshop Agenda

### Monday, 1 September 2003

**Opening Session**

09:00 Welcome remarks by the Director, Environmental Council of Zambia
09:05 Statement by German Ambassador
09:10 Statement by the GHS UN Subcommittee representative
09:15 Statement by UNITAR
09.20 Statement by IFCS
09.25 Statement by SADC Secretariat
09.30 Statement by ICCA
09:35 Official Opening by the Deputy Minister of Southern Province, Zambia

*09:45 Tea break*

**Session 1: International Initiatives and Programmes for GHS Development, Implementation and Capacity Building**

10:15 The GHS: overview presentation
11:00 Benefits of the GHS and its Role in National Chemical Safety
11:40 Discussion
12:10 UNITAR/ILO Capacity Building Programme and WSSD Global Partnership
12:20 GTZ International Technical Assistance Programme – Pilot Project Chemical Safety
12.30 Discussion

*12:45 Lunch*

**Session 2: Challenges and Opportunities for Implementation of GHS Capacity Building Programs in the SADC Region**

**Experiences of Pilot Countries in Africa (Zambia, South Africa and Senegal)**

14:00 Zambian CHC/GHS pilot programme (set up and coordination mechanisms) and GHS implementation status
14:15 Zambian situation analysis
14:30 Zambian comprehensibility testing report, lessons learned and recommendations
14:45 South Africa GHS pilot programme
- Project review and progress
- Comprehensibility testing

15:15 Senegal GHS project activities

**Experiences of Other SADC Countries**

15:30 Presentations (5-10 minutes per country)

*16:00 Tea break*

16:30 Other Country presentations continued

17:15 Discussion

18:00 Close of Day 1

*18:30 Reception (hosted by Germany)*

## Tuesday, 2 September 2003

**Session 3: National GHS Implementation Issues**

09:00 Introduction to Session and Working Groups

09:30 Session 3 Working Groups (Part I):

(A) Industrial Chemicals

(B) Agricultural Chemicals

11:00 Presentation of Working Groups A & B in Plenary

11:30 Session 3 Working Groups (Part II):

(C) Chemicals in Transport

(D) Consumer Product Chemicals

13:00 Presentation of Working Groups C & D in Plenary

*13:30 Lunch*

14:00 Livingstone border post field visit

17:00 Return and Close of Day 2

## Wednesday, 3 September 2003

**Session 4: Regional GHS Implementation Issues**

09:00 Institutional Background
- SADC
- NEPAD

09:30 Introduction to Session and Working Groups

09:45 Session 4 Working Groups (Part I):

(A) Industrial Chemicals

(B) Agricultural Chemicals

11:45 Presentation of Working Groups A & B in Plenary

*12:30 Lunch*

14:00 Session 4 Working Groups (Part II):

(C) Chemicals in Transport

(D) Consumer Product Chemicals

16:00 Presentation of Working Groups C & D in Plenary

17:30 Close of Day 3

## Thursday, 4 September 2003

**Session 5: Workshop Conclusions and Follow-up Activities**

09:00 Summary of Workshop Results

09.30 Agreement on National GHS Follow-up Activities

*10:15 Tea Break*

10:30 Development of a Strategy for Regional Harmonization of GHS Implementation

12:00 Close of the Workshop

## Annex B: List of Participants

### 1. Country Representatives

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## Annex C: List of Acronyms

| | |
|---|---|
| AU | African Union |
| CAIA | Chemical and Allied Industries' Association (South Africa) |
| 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 |
| ISO | International Organization for Standardization |
| NEDLAC | National Economic Development and Labour Council (South Africa) |
| NEPAD | New Partnership for Africa's Development |
| NGO | Non-governmental organization |
| 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 |
| SCEGHS | United Nations Sub-committee of Experts on the GHS |
| SCETDG | United Nations Sub-committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods |
| SDS | safety data sheet |
| SME | Small and medium sized enterprise |
| 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 |

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