

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

Second Meeting of the Partners
12 July 2007

Report of the Meeting



About WSSD Partnerships for Sustainable Development



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

Additional information about Partnerships can be found at:
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UNITAR would like to thank the Government of Switzerland for their support of the GHS Partnership Secretariat.

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Executive Summary

The *WSSD Global Partnership for Capacity Building to Implement the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)* was created in 2002 through collaboration between UNITAR, ILO and OECD to support global implementation of the GHS. Despite the significant momentum gained since then, resources are currently not sufficient to satisfy the growing demand for GHS capacity building and to maintain the level of activities and services that the GHS Partnership needs to support worldwide implementation. To address this need, the Second Meeting of the GHS Partnership was held in Geneva, Switzerland on 12 July 2007 bringing together representatives of governments, business and industry groups, public interest and labour organizations, and international organizations.¹

The meeting provided an opportunity for participants to take stock of progress to date and consider ways to strengthen and expand the GHS Partnership and its network. Partners and other relevant stakeholders provided presentations regarding the importance of the GHS from their perspective, existing efforts and initiatives for GHS capacity building, and areas of need and demand for GHS implementation. Through the presentations, discussions and working groups, a number of recommendations were agreed for a range of important issue areas related to strengthening the Partnership (including ways to improve mobilization of resources, strengthen the reach and effectiveness of the Partnership, integrate the GHS into international chemicals management and development planning efforts, and development of further GHS capacity building and knowledge management), as well as some recommendations that could be addressed in the context of the UNITAR/ILO Global GHS Capacity Building Programme.

This report summarises the meeting results and highlights the key issues and recommendations made to address the identified gaps and needs. The recommendations and conclusions of this report will serve as a general structure and course of action for follow-up activities to strengthen the Partnership. UNITAR will widely distribute this report of the meeting to all relevant and interested parties. Further information and all documentation from the meeting can be found on the meeting website at: <http://www.unitar.org/cwg/ghs/ghs13.html>.

¹ The first Meeting of the Partners was held on 10 July 2003 – a report is available from the Partnership Secretariat (UNITAR).

1. Overview

The 2008 target date for global implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS), agreed at the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in 2002, is around the corner. Despite the significant momentum gained, resources are currently not sufficient to address the growing demand for GHS capacity building and to maintain the level of activities and services that the GHS Partnership needs to support worldwide implementation.

In order to take stock of progress to date and consider ways to strengthen and expand the GHS Partnership and its network, the Second Meeting of the WSSD Global Partnership for Capacity Building to Implement the GHS was held in Geneva, Switzerland on 12 July 2007. The meeting brought together 25 representatives of governments, five representatives of business and industry groups, six representatives of public interest and labour organizations, and 15 representatives of international organizations; and was organized through collaboration between UNITAR, ILO and OECD, the founding members of the Partnership.² The meeting consisted of opening and introductory presentations and remarks, stakeholder presentations, working groups and discussions in plenary. Throughout the meeting there were active discussions and engagement of all participants. Copies of presentations and other meeting materials are available on the meeting website at: www.unitar.org/cwg/ghs/ghs13.html.

The *Global Partnership for Capacity Building to Implement the GHS* was launched at the WSSD in 2002 to mobilize resources and implement a number of specific support activities to strengthen the capacities of developing and transition countries to implementing the GHS. Since 2002 the Partnership has facilitated, in particular through the *UNITAR/ILO GHS Capacity Building Programme*, national GHS implementation pilot projects in 12 countries, GHS awareness raising and capacity building in 6 regions (in the Southern African Development Community (SADC), Mercosur and the Andean Community, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Arab region, and Central and Eastern Europe), and supported the development of a range of GHS guidance and training materials.³

UNITAR/ILO currently have 83 country requests for national GHS capacity building still outstanding, as well as 4 concrete requests for GHS awareness raising and capacity building activities at the regional level. While current resources allow maintaining a robust programme in 2007, sufficient funding for 2008 and 2009 is not yet secured.⁴

A growing number of industrialized countries have taken steps to implement the GHS, and many developing and transition countries are recognizing the value of the GHS in developing and strengthening a basic system for chemical hazard communication.

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

³ Yearly progress and results of the Partnership can be found in the Annual Reports at: http://www.unitar.org/cwg/ghs_partnership/annualreports.htm.

⁴ A framework proposal outlining products and services available to assist countries in the context of the UNITAR/ILO GHS capacity building programme during 2007-2009 is available from UNITAR. The list of 83 countries requesting support is found in Annex 3.

Other important benefits of the GHS include support of sustainable industrial and agricultural development objectives, facilitating implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and facilitating trade in chemicals and chemical products. The GHS also contributes to the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), as well as other international agreements such as the Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions. In light of these multiple benefits, capacity building for GHS implementation has emerged as one of the top priorities for sound chemicals management capacity building in developing and transition countries.

2. Introductory Presentations

The introductory session to the meeting featured opening remarks from representatives of the founding partners (UNITAR, ILO, OECD) and an overview presentation by the Partnership Secretariat (UNITAR) regarding progress made to date and outstanding requests for support.

Opening remarks

The meeting was opened by Mr. Achim Halpaap, **UNITAR**, who highlighted that the main objectives of the meeting were to take stock of progress since the inception of the Partnership and to develop new ideas and innovative approaches for action towards strengthening the Partnership in the future. He noted the diversity of participants both in terms of the range of countries and sectors of society represented, including government, industry, NGOs, labour, academia, and international organizations, indicating that the GHS is an issue that involves a worldwide spectrum of stakeholders. He gave special thanks to the Government of Switzerland and the European Union for their commitment of support to the Partnership and specific capacity building projects in developing countries. Mr. Halpaap informed participants that while consensus has emerged that the GHS is a basic building block or foundation of sound chemicals management, political attention given to the GHS is relatively low as it is often still seen as a technical issue. Nevertheless, the GHS is a top priority in many countries and UNITAR has more than 80 requests on file from countries interested in assistance for GHS capacity development. The international resources available for capacity building on GHS implementation are insufficient to meet current and future demand; therefore the issue of implementing the GHS needs to be raised at the highest political levels in order to ensure that the resources required to ensure effective GHS capacity building are mobilised.

Mr. Pavan Baichoo, **ILO**, noted that the second Meeting of the Partners was timely in view of the upcoming 2008 target for worldwide GHS implementation. He looked forward to reviewing progress since the first meeting of the Partners and to explore ways to further strengthen this Partnership. Since the last meeting, there have been a number of key decisions in the field of international chemicals management, in particular SAICM. All of these focus on the GHS as a key tool for implementing chemicals management agreements and for protecting human health and the environment. As such, demand for capacity building from developing countries has increased and a key role of the Partnership and of the meeting will be how to meet this demand.

Ms. Laurence Musset, **OECD**, highlighted the contributions of the OECD as a founding partner. She emphasised that the aim of the GHS is to provide a system that is useful for and used by OECD and non-OECD countries. The OECD has been involved for more than 10 years within the UN Subcommittee of Experts on the GHS (UN SCEGHS) and serves as the contact point for certain expert groups and task forces for technical review of the GHS. She noted that most OECD countries plan to implement the GHS in 2008 and in support of these efforts, OECD develops tools for countries to use to implement the GHS. She concluded by reaffirming the OECD contribution to the Partnership and capacity building through ensuring the scientific quality of guidance materials.

Overview Presentation

Mr. Jonathan Krueger, **UNITAR**, provided an overview of the Partnership, activities undertaken, and results achieved since the first meeting of the Partners in July 2003.⁵ He provided a background to the development of the Partnership and its context as one of over 300 “Partnerships for Sustainable Development”. He reviewed progress made and gaps remaining in the four programme areas of the Partnership:

- Programme Area 1: Support of GHS Capacity Development at the Regional and Sub-regional Levels
- Programme Area 2: Support of GHS Capacity Development at the National Level
- Programme Area 3: Development of GHS Awareness Raising, Capacity Building Guidance and Training Materials
- Programme Area 4: Supporting Activities and Services for GHS Capacity Development

Highlights in each of the programme areas included the completion of six regional workshops, 12 country-based pilot projects, and the development of a range of training and awareness raising materials in support of GHS capacity building. All of the progress to date is due to the generous contributions of a few key donors. He noted that while much had been accomplished in the years since the establishment of the Partnership, there remains significant demand for GHS capacity building. New entry points for accessing resources for meeting this demand need to be identified, and possible areas to consider include mainstreaming the GHS into development planning, a greater engagement of industry, and linking GHS to the implementation of international conventions. He concluded by encouraging meeting participants to actively engage in discussions on how resources could best contribute to Partnership objectives and to propose next steps and identify further opportunities for GHS capacity building and implementation (*e.g.* through action plan development) to expand and strengthen the Partnership.

⁵ A report of the first meeting is available at: www.unitar.org/cwg/ghs/ghs13-1.html.

3. Presentations on Strengthening the Global GHS Partnership

During this session, participants from donors and international organizations, government, business and industry, and public interest and labour organizations provided their perspectives regarding how to strengthen the GHS Partnership.

Strengthening the Global Partnership: Perspectives of Donors and International Organizations

Mr. Georg Karlaganis, Federal Office for the Environment, **Switzerland**, provided an overview of Swiss involvement as a core supporter of the GHS Partnership, including support for national and regional activities, guidance material development, and supporting services (*e.g.* for the Partnership website and side-events). Mr. Karlaganis emphasized the need for a continued strengthening of the Partnership, especially in efforts for regional capacity building due to trade-related issues. He noted the need to continue to diversify sources of support for the Partnership, as demand currently exceeds supply. The GHS Partnership should be promoted as a model partnership in other fora (*e.g.* CSD, SAICM, Global Compact, GEF). He concluded by reviewing Switzerland's plans for GHS implementation.

Mr. Lennart Dock, **Swedish Chemicals Agency** (KEMI), noted that the overall aim of KEMI's work in chemicals management was to make it possible for partners to strengthen their situation in relation to the MDGs and to promote sustainable development. He outlined KEMI's chemicals management training programmes, designed for relevant government officials in order to assist them in developing national strategies for chemicals management and sustainable development. The aim of these programmes is for participants to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to improve the control of chemicals in their countries. Based on KEMI's experience, he noted for a programme to be successful it must be a political priority, it must include dedicated and committed individuals, and there should be sustainable support and funding.

Ms. Mary Frances Lowe, **United States Environmental Protection Agency** (USEPA), noted the US contribution to the Partnership, such as support for the 2004 South American regional workshop, support for GHS enabling activities in Nicaragua, and the current development of a broad SAICM program under CAFTA which will include the GHS. However, as access to direct financial support has been limited, the US has relied mainly on in-kind technical support and expertise. She noted that based on US experience, successful GHS implementation depends on investment of a country's own resources and commitment to make GHS a priority.

Ms. Maristella Rubbiani, **FAO**, noted that the FAO had undertaken a survey on pesticide labelling and GHS implementation and that a panel of experts was revising the labelling guidelines for pesticides to take account of the GHS. This document should be available by the end of 2007. She explained that there will likely be a transitional period where GHS and existing systems based on FAO/WHO tools will co-exist, and this had been taken into account in the revised guidelines. She concluded that FAO would support training activities based on formal requests from countries.

Ms. Lesley Onyon, **WHO**, highlighted that the GHS is the global system for standardized chemical hazard identification and hazard communication and that an effective and engaged health sector is a vital part of international chemicals management activities. In support of the Partnership, the WHO focuses on updating the International Chemical Safety Cards (ICSC), which provide essential health and safety information on chemicals, to include the GHS, and the WHO Classification of Pesticides by Hazard, which are widely used to assist in safe management of pesticides. She noted that the IOMC could provide assistance during a transition phase.

Strengthening the Global Partnership: Identifying Opportunities and Action for Government

Ms. Gillian Guthrie, Ministry of Local Government and Environment, **Jamaica**, stressed that GHS implementation is a priority for Jamaica, as recognized in their integrated national programme for chemicals management. She noted that because Jamaica is a small country in terms of human and technical resources, it is important to make the link between the GHS and other international chemicals agreements. Existing challenges include industrial chemicals that are not well regulated and the inadequate monitoring and enforcement of existing labelling and transport standards. The GHS Partnership could be further strengthened to include regional organisations such as CARICOM.

Ms. Abiola Olanipekun, Federal Ministry of Environment, Housing & Urban Development, **Nigeria**, explained the challenges of GHS implementation in Nigeria, including the cultural diversity and size of country which make it difficult to reach all key stakeholders. In addition, as the GHS is seen as voluntary by industry, there are significant challenges in obtaining their full engagement. She highlighted the need for an integrated regulatory framework to address the entire chemicals lifecycle, in contrast to the piecemeal approach that is currently used. In addition, it is important to have a simple explanation and translation of GHS elements into different languages, as well as appropriate training materials on GHS symbols to help align national activities with international standards.

Ms. Kim Headrick, **Health Canada**, explained that Canada had been involved in the GHS since the beginning and that development of the system received a high priority within Health Canada and the government overall. She stressed the importance of engaging top management across government agencies, citing that in Canada, resources for the GHS have been mobilized for these efforts because GHS received support of senior management. Moreover, there is recognition of the example GHS can provide of international regulatory cooperation, and this is also being pursued at a regional level in the NAFTA context.

Strengthening the Global Partnership: Identifying Opportunities and Action for Business and Industry

Ms. Teresita Corpuz, **Chemical Industries Association of the Philippines (SPIK)**, explained that the GHS was important because it provides a basis for chemicals management, allowing Philippine industries to compete in an international market. Within the local market, customers prefer products that are labelled appropriately so

that they can understand the possible hazards. She highlighted that the GHS also saves costs on labelling because products do not need to be tested; however, from SPIK's experience they found significant difficulties in labelling and preparing SDS for mixtures. Therefore, she requested that the GHS Partnership consider ways of strengthening guidance and support for SMEs in implementing the GHS.

Mr. Johan Breukelaar, **European Chemical Industry Council (CEFIC)**, commented that for business and industry, the main purpose is to make a profit but this should be done in a responsible way in relation to human health and the environment. From his experiences attending environmental meetings, he found there is a lack of understanding in the international community about industry and what companies are doing in relation to chemicals management and SAICM. Therefore, the private sector should take a more active role in communicating with other stakeholders to strengthen cooperation in areas of chemical management and one such area of collaboration could be in relation to GHS implementation.

Strengthening the Global Partnership: Identifying Opportunities and Action for Public Interest and Labour Organizations

Ms. Rachel Kamande, **International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN)**, presented the proposals of the IPEN GHS Working Group and began by highlighting that the challenges faced in developing countries in relation to GHS implementation cannot be met without significant NGO involvement. She noted that NGOs can participate in national GHS implementation processes in a number of ways, including comprehensibility testing, participation in international events, and internal capacity development (*e.g.* formation of networks and working groups). Ms. Kamande stressed the human and financial constraints faced by many NGOs to participate effectively, and proposed a number of possible ways to overcome these constraints, including pursuing creative methods of resource mobilisation, strengthening existing networks to include chemicals and GHS issues, and inclusion of NGOs in international initiatives such as the GHS Partnership and UN SCEGHS.

Ms. Ratna Devi Nadarajan, **Federation of Malaysian Consumers Association (FOMCA)**, introduced the activities and workplan of the Southeast Asian Public Interest and Labour Organization Chemical Network (SEApChemNet), whose mission involves being a leading network for the promotion of chemical safety and effective GHS implementation in Southeast Asia. She reviewed the proposed activities of the network, which include training for network members and local public interest and labour organizations, linking to other regional and international NGO networks (*e.g.* to the IPEN GHS Working Group), and mobilizing funds from regional foundations and international organizations.

Mr. Rafael Mapalo, **Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP)**, proposed that GHS issues be mainstreamed throughout regional and international labour organizations by including GHS in trade union policies, providing wider support for GHS implementation at the workplace, and promoting the enhanced responsiveness of unions to GHS and chemical safety issues. He suggested that the capacities of national labour centres and enterprise-level labour representatives need to be enhanced in relation to GHS implementation. Mr. Mapalo concluded by suggesting that a communication mechanism for GHS-related issues be established to improve labour

union access to information, to share experiences and to allow for communication with other networks.

4. Meeting Discussions and Recommendations

Throughout the meeting a number of important issues were presented and discussed by participants, both during plenary sessions and in working groups. Recommendations were made on ways forward to strengthen the Partnership in a range of areas. Key recommendations fall generally into the categories of “Strengthening Operational Activities and Partnership Services”, “Mobilization of Financial Resources to Support Partnership Activities”, and “Recommendations for UNITAR/ILO”.

4.1 Strengthening Operational Activities and Partnership Services

Broadening the Global Partnership

The need to strengthen the Partnership and broaden its reach was specifically discussed by meeting participants. It was recommended that at the international level:

- The labour and/or environment components of regional free trade agreements may be considered an additional entry point for support of related projects
- Cooperation between international and national efforts could be strengthened in GHS capacity building, for example by forming cooperative partnerships with other chemicals capacity building efforts and existing training programmes such as those undertaken by Sweden and Japan
- A global collaboration of technical experts, including health practitioners and poisons centres should be created.

At the regional and national level, it was recommended that:

- Government representatives should communicate and coordinate with national trade, industry and development agencies to encourage them to make GHS capacity building a priority, both domestically and internationally
- Organizations such as FAO and WHO could increase participation in training activities on the ground and promote GHS-based labelling for agriculture and consumer products within their existing pesticide efforts
- The involvement of regional organisations such as CARICOM and ECOWAS should be considered as a means for coordinated GHS implementation within and among regions.

To strengthen private sector engagement in the Partnership:

- Consideration should be given to inviting senior management from major chemical companies to a forum to discuss more coordinated industry involvement in GHS implementation
- Companies could take steps to integrate the GHS into Global Responsible Care and the Global Project Strategy
- Private sector industry associations (at the international, regional and national levels) should approach member companies to explore the development of possible public-private partnerships for GHS capacity building.

Participants also suggested that there should be further engagement of public interest and labour organisations in the Partnership through:

- Increased financial support of activities to strengthen the capacities of NGOs in GHS implementation
- Utilisation of the experience and energy of public interest groups in outreach and public education
- Linking regional and international NGO and labour union networks (e.g. to the IPEN GHS Working Group) for GHS information dissemination, access to information, to share experiences in GHS implementation and to allow for communication with other networks
- Further involvement of public interest groups in international GHS fora, such as the UNSCEGHS.

Integrating the GHS into International Chemicals Management and Development Planning Efforts

In order to “scale-up” GHS implementation and capacity building and broaden the international reach of the Partnership, participants stressed that further emphasis should be given on linking GHS to SAICM and the MDGs. A number of concrete actions and suggestions for further integration of the GHS into existing international efforts were agreed, including:

- Integrate the GHS into international and national chemicals management and development planning processes, as countries may have chemicals issues more formally on their list of overall development priorities
- Support GHS capacity building efforts in the context of SAICM implementation
- Support the GHS as an enabling activity of SAICM
- Link the GHS as a tool for implementing other chemicals agreements, such as the Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions
- Promote the GHS through trade agreements and the objectives of development banks as a means to support environmental protection as well as trade.

Knowledge Management and Demand for GHS Capacity Building

Although much has been accomplished for GHS capacity building, there is still great demand for further activities in support of GHS implementation. As such, participants emphasised the continued need for training and awareness raising for GHS capacity building. A number of GHS capacity building and training activities were requested at the meeting, including:

- Training for national labour centres and enterprise-level labour representatives on GHS in relation to workers health and safety
- Design of specific training for local public interest and labour organizations,
- Emphasis in training SMEs and the agriculture and consumer sectors
- Continued development of networks such as IPEN’s GHS Working Group or SEApChemNet

- Further development of networks, databases and listserves for disseminating information on the GHS, and sharing information and experiences
- Consider possible development of a database of substances classified according to GHS standards
- Further means of sharing information worldwide should be developed by the Partnership in order to ensure that uniformity and consistency are applied.

Specific for the private sector, it was requested that companies and associations work with the Partnership to:

- Share information on classified chemicals
- Train their customers and buyers on their products, including appropriate safety and precautionary measures.

4.2 Mobilization of Financial Resources to Support Partnership Activities

Participants agreed that financial resource mobilization was a key issue for GHS capacity building and implementation. In order to mobilize the resources necessary for meeting worldwide demand for GHS capacity building, participants recommended that:

- The Partnership should consider diversifying sources of financial support, including engagement of:
 - multinational corporations
 - foundations
 - regional development banks
- Members of the Partnership representing government should:
 - Work with development, planning and finance ministries to explore opportunities for GHS funding
 - Work to make the GHS a national priority in order to obtain sustained funding for capacity building and implementation
 - Ensure that national development agencies represented on the ground in host countries understand that GHS is a national priority for development funding
- Business and industry should seek funding for the GHS Partnership through not only the foundations and charity arms of their companies, but also as a core part of their business planning and development
- Public interest and labour organisations should approach international, regional and national foundations, endowments and other “non-traditional” sources of potential support for their chemical safety and GHS-related activities.

4.3 Recommendations for UNITAR/ILO

Participants also made a number of suggestions that could be addressed in the context of the UNITAR/ILO GHS Capacity Building Programme. These include:

- Develop proposals for funding of chemical labelling and GHS capacity building activities for distribution by partners to potential donors

- Coordinate with donors and all relevant stakeholders to maximize efficiency and effectiveness
- Consider the development of a “training portal” within the existing Partnership website
- Make capacity building materials available for stakeholders, for example, ICCA indicated that guidelines related to GHS implementation for SMEs were under development and that these guidelines would be shared with UNITAR
- Development of uniform training on the GHS, available to all stakeholders, including the use of multimedia resources
- Consider the development of a train-the-trainers course on the GHS for further knowledge management and dissemination
- Create a briefing package which would include a simplified explanation of the GHS and its benefits, as well as information on how the GHS can be used as a tool for achieving the environmental and health objectives to be disseminated to relevant parties, including:
 - representatives of organizations interested in sound chemicals management, such as the GEF Council
 - regional SAICM representatives
 - potential donors
 - private sector representatives
 - public interest and labour organisations working on related issues.

5. Conclusions and Follow-up

In the concluding discussion, participants stressed that there is a need to move GHS capacity building and implementation issues “outside the box” if the required resources and expansion of the Partnership are to be realised. Participants agreed that given the volume of requests for further GHS capacity building, the Partnership will need to mobilize resources beyond the 2008 implementation target. Lastly, in order to “scale-up” Partnership resources, activities, and engagement, it was strongly emphasised that GHS capacity building and implementation needs to be mainstreamed within the context of chemicals management related activities and development priorities.

Agreed Items for Immediate Action

- The Partnership Secretariat will examine where it can directly address some of the recommendations made by the meeting within the limited resources available.
- Partners from government will take the main messages of the meeting home and explore together with decision-makers in their countries and organizations if there are additional new ideas to be proposed and how support could be mobilized to strengthen and expand the GHS Partnership.
- ICCA agreed to approach companies through its network of member associations to explore possible public-private partnerships for GHS capacity building.
- Public interest and labour representatives agreed to inform other organisations through their networks of the importance of further capacity building for GHS implementation.

In closing, UNITAR indicated that a draft meeting report will be made available to all participants for comments and review in due time. Once finalised, the report would be widely distributed, including to the SAICM Quick Start Programme Executive Board and all relevant international organizations, via the IOMC. The founding partners concluded the meeting by thanking all participants for their valuable input and ideas in strengthening and sustaining the future of the GHS Partnership.

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Annex 2: Meeting Agenda

09.00 Welcome and Opening Remarks

- Mr. Achim Halpaap, Principal Programme Coordinator, UNITAR
- Mr. Pavan Baichoo, Technical Officer, ILO
- Ms. Laurence Musset, Administrator, OECD

09.15 Introduction of Participants

09.30 Background Presentation on the GHS Partnership: Progress Made and Challenges Encountered - UNITAR

09.45 Strengthening the Global Partnership: *Perspectives of Donors and International Organizations*

Representatives of donors and international organizations will provide their perspectives regarding past and ongoing support provided to assist countries and regions in implementing the GHS. The session will also initiate a discussion on ways to strengthen international support for GHS capacity building and implementation.

- Mr. Georg Karlaganis, Federal Office of the Environment, Switzerland
- Mr. Lennart Dock, Swedish Chemicals Agency (KEMI)
- Ms. Mary Frances Lowe, US EPA
- Ms. Maristella Rubbiani, FAO
- Ms. Lesley Onyon, WHO

10.30 Break

10.45 Strengthening the Global Partnership: *Identifying Opportunities and Action for Government*

This session will provide an opportunity for government representatives to share views regarding the importance of the GHS from a government perspective and to identify steps and measures for government to mobilize sufficient resources for national and regional GHS implementation.

- Ms. Gillian Guthrie, Ministry of Local Government and Environment, Jamaica
- Ms. Abiola Olanipekun, Federal Ministry of Environment, Housing & Urban Development, Nigeria
- Ms. Kimberley Headrick, Health Canada

Discussion

11.30 Strengthening the Global Partnership: *Identifying Opportunities and Action for Business and Industry*

This session provides a forum for industry representatives to outline existing initiatives to support GHS implementation and to identify opportunities for industry to participate actively in GHS implementation and in strengthening the global GHS Partnership.

- Ms. Teresita Corpuz, Chemical Industries Association of the Philippines (SPIK)
- Mr. Johan Breukelaar, European Chemical Industry Council (CEFIC)
- Mr. Rainer-Kurt Koch, International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA)

Discussion

12.15 Strengthening the Global Partnership: Identifying Opportunities and Action for Public Interest and Labour Organizations

This session provides an opportunity for public interest and labour organisations to present their ongoing activities and to outline specific suggestions towards building capacities in civil society to support effective GHS implementation.

- Ms. Rachel Kamande, International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN)
- Ms. Ratna Devi Nadarajan, Federation of Malaysian Consumers Association (FOMCA)
- Mr. Rafael Mapalo, Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP)

Discussion

13.00 Lunch

14.00 Introduction to Working Groups (Plenary)

Working groups focusing on the issues related to government, business and industry, and public interest and labour organizations will develop plans of action including specific measures aimed at strengthening the global GHS Partnership from the perspectives of all three groups.

(coffee will be available for the working groups starting at 15.30)

16.30 Presentation of Working Group Results in Plenary

17.30 Defining Next Steps

18.00 Conclusion and Meeting Closure

Annex 3: Countries Requesting GHS Capacity Building Assistance from UNITAR/ILO

AFRICA	ASIA & THE PACIFIC	CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPE	LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN
Angola	Bahrain	Belarus	Argentina
Benin	Brunei Darussalam	Bosnia & Herzegovina	Barbados
Burkina Faso	Cambodia	Croatia	Bolivia
Burundi	Fiji	Georgia	Brazil
Central African Republic	Indonesia	Macedonia	Chile
Chad	Iran	Moldova	Colombia
Congo, Republic of	Iraq	Russia	Costa Rica
Egypt	Jordan	Turkey	Dominican Republic
Ethiopia	Kiribati		Ecuador
Gabon	Kuwait		El Salvador
Gambia	Kyrgyzstan		Haiti
Ghana	Lao PDR		Honduras
Guinea-Bissau	Malaysia		Jamaica
Ivory Coast	Micronesia		Mexico
Lesotho	Mongolia		Suriname
Liberia	Myanmar		Trinidad & Tobago
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Nepal		Uruguay
Madagascar	Oman		Venezuela
Mali	Pakistan		
Mauritius	Philippines		
Morocco	Qatar		
Niger	Syrian Arab Republic		
Nigeria	Thailand		
Rwanda	Vietnam		
Sao Tome and Principe			
Senegal			
Seychelles			
Sudan			
Tanzania			
Togo			
Uganda			
Zambia			
Zimbabwe			

Annex 4: List of Acronyms

ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CAFTA	Central American Free Trade Agreement
CSD	Commission on Sustainable Development
EC	European Commission
ECOSOC	United Nations Economic and Social Council
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GHS	Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals
GTZ	German Technical Cooperation Agency
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
IPEN	International POPs Elimination Network
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
NAFTA	North American Free Trade Agreement
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
SEApChemNet	Southeast Asia Public Interest and Labour Organization Chemical Network
SDS	safety data sheet
SME	small and medium sized enterprises
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UN SCEGHS	United Nations Subcommittee of Experts on the GHS
WHO	World Health Organization
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development
WTO	World Trade Organization



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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.