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**Open-ended Working Group of the Parties to
the Montreal Protocol on Substances that
Deplete the Ozone Layer**
Twenty-fourth meeting
Geneva, 13–16 July 2004
Item 9 of the provisional agenda*

**Update on the consideration of the use of the United Nations
Globally Harmonized System for the Classification and Labelling
of Chemicals for substances that deplete the ozone layer
(decision XIV/8 (b) and paragraph 124 of the report of the
Fifteenth Meeting of the Parties (UNEP/OzL.Pro.15/9))**

**Excerpt from the report of the Sub-Committee of Experts on the
Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of
Chemicals on its meeting of 10-12 December 2003**

Note by the Secretariat

In response to a request by the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals of the Economic and Social Council, at its meeting held in Geneva from 10 to 12 December 2003, decided to set up a correspondence group to classify ozone-depleting substances and mixtures into the globally harmonized system based on the criteria of the Montreal Protocol. The annex to the present note contains an excerpt on this agenda item from the Report of the Sub-Committee of Experts (document ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/12).

* UNEP/OzL.Pro.WG.1/24/1/Rev.1.

Annex

Excerpt from the report of the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals on its meeting of 10-12 December 2003

43. “The representative of the Ozone Secretariat introduced document ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2003/3 from the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, requesting the Sub-Committee in their Decision XIV/8 of 2002 to “evaluate the possibilities for and feasibility of including ODSs on its work programme”. He also mentioned that, at the last meeting of the Parties, concerns were expressed that the process would develop without proper directions if an agreed position by the Parties was not preliminarily reached.
44. A group of countries also submitted a proposal in favour of classifying ozone depleting substances and mixtures into the GHS (ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2003/6) based on the criteria of the Montreal Protocol.
45. A number of experts supported the proposal. Other expressed the view that it was premature to decide this issue and suggested that on-going collaboration with the Montreal Protocol was essential.
46. However, some experts expressed reservations regarding the proposed cut-off value for mixtures, the hazard communication elements of the label and the fact that, for the first time in the GHS, the classification would address a list of chemicals.
47. It was also recognized that, while the Sub-Committee was fully entitled to decide on its own what classes and criteria were to be added to the GHS, it was felt important to coordinate closely with the ODS Secretariat and the Montreal Protocol.
48. Due to the number of issues raised, the Sub-Committee decided to pursue work on this issue and set up a correspondence group with this aim (see membership in Annex 1). The Sub-Committee agreed on not setting a precise time frame for this work.”
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