

# Twenty-second Meeting of the UNITAR/ILO GHS Capacity Building Programme Advisory Group (PAG)

7 December 2016, 8.00 a.m. – 10.00 a.m. Room S1, Palais, Geneva

## Meeting Report

### 1. Welcome and overview of agenda

The meeting opened shortly after 8 a.m. on 7 December 2016. Fourteen participants joined the meeting (see Annex 1), in addition to Ms. Ester Hermosilla and Mr. Oliver Wootton (both representing UNITAR).

The agenda was adopted as presented.

### 2. e-Learning courses

The representative of UNITAR presented results of the fifth and sixth editions of the e-Learning course, the latest status of the seventh edition, and plans for 2017. The outlined plans included:

- an eight course (to run from 6 March to 17 May 2017).
- a ninth course to run in the September to December 2017 period. PAG members recommended starting this as early as possible during the period.
- a Spanish translation of the course. This translation has already been initiated and the first draft is expected to be delivered by the end of January 2017. It will then be reviewed by a Spanish-speaking senior expert (contract being developed to deliver final product by the end of March 2017), with a view to opening the course in the second half of 2017.

In discussing the presentation and the course, one participant asked what the general cause of non-completion is. The representative of UNITAR commented that participants tend to fall behind the schedule and struggle to catch up. UNITAR and the tutors provide feedback where possible and have been able to extend deadlines to facilitate completion. However, in some cases, participants fall behind and also discontinue communication, which results in non-completion of the course.

In discussing a possible new course specific to Safety Data Sheets (SDS), there was general support for the concept, but interest to know how comprehensive the course would be and how it would take into account the differences across countries and regions. One participant suggested that a course on SDS and labels would be suitable as a separate course and it should be taught at the UN level.

The group also suggested to bring forward the traditional September round of the course as much as possible, given the competing demands for time in the final quarter of the year.

One participant from Japan requested information on how to initiate a new course in a new language, specifically Japanese, and UNITAR committed to continue discussing this option directly. Furthermore, in terms of languages and broader engagement, one group member suggested the inclusion of a representative from China. Ms. Vida Feng has indicated her willingness to join the group and UNITAR will add her to the list of invitees.

### 3. Development of GHS guidance, training, and resource materials

UNITAR presented the status of the current guidance materials, and made a request for financial or in-kind support to update these. Some group members indicated a willingness to assist with this, and would revert to UNITAR if this is possible.

### 4. Capacity development at the national level

UNITAR provided an update on activities on the GHS at the national level, highlighting projects in Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Guatemala, Mexico, and Uzbekistan, supported by the Quick Start Programme. Uzbekistan is in the initial planning stages and will be initiating the project in February 2017; a Russian-speaking expert has been engaged and it is planned for her to support training workshops in May 2017. The remaining projects are close to completion.

(Since the PAG meeting, UNITAR has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Republic of Guinea to start another project on GHS and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management.)

### 5. Supporting activities and services for GHS capacity development

#### 5.1 IOMC Toolbox

New toolkits included in the IOMC toolbox are:

- UNIDO Toolkit on Chemical Leasing (ChL) - April 2016.
- OECD Environmental Risk Assessment Toolkit - 2015
- FAO Pesticides Toolkit - May 2016
- WHO Human Health Risk Assessment Toolkit - planned for early 2017
- UNIDO toolkit on innovative, safe and resource efficient application of chemicals in industry - planned for early 2017

#### 5.2 GHS online platform

UNITAR presented information on a planned GHS online platform. The plan for this platform would be to serve as a hub of information for GHS stakeholders, most notably including PAG members, project stakeholders and e-Learning course participants. The platform would include forums, connections to experts and a list of experts, and information-sharing.

#### 5.3 Training programme at Universidad de la República, Uruguay – Training Programme on Chemical Safety in Latin America

UNITAR presented information from the training programme, which was made available in advance of the meeting as an information document. Four participants attended the training, from Argentina, Venezuela, Colombia and Costa Rica, representing academia (two), the private sector (one) and government (one). A further participant from a university in Cuba was ultimately unable to attend. The four participants will undertake follow-up projects on the following topics:

- i. System of comprehensive management in superior and basic organic chemistry laboratories
- ii. Importance of the application of chemical safety in the development of teaching and research activities
- iii. Programme of strengthening chemical safety in member companies of Responsabilidad Integral Colombia
- iv. Capacity Building in aspects of chemical safety

More information can be found at: <http://stp-la.fq.edu.uy/>

#### 5.4 Future training projects – 2017 and onwards

UNITAR presented project concepts and proposals that had been submitted during 2016. These included to the United States Department of Labor, the International Labour Organization, and the American Chemistry Council. UNITAR will keep working with these stakeholders, and others in 2017, to increase the level of capacity building available to countries.

## 6. Update of the GHS Roster of Experts

UNITAR noted that the list of experts was no longer up to date, nor generally available on the UNITAR website. While it was reasonable that such a list would be useful to stakeholders, it was also the case that no stakeholders had requested access to the list during 2016. The PAG was therefore requested to provide input into the criteria to be on the list and editing those names on the list, to ensure it is up-to-date. Group members considered the roster of experts a good idea, and some members committed to assisting UNITAR in updating the list.

In early 2017, UNITAR will work with volunteering members to establish a criteria and publish the list.

## 7. Other business, conclusion and closure

The member from Sweden introduced its recent training activities (as outlined in information document *UN/SCEGHS/32/INF.38 - (Sweden) Recent international GHS capacity building and training activities*). The update focused on the International Training Programme on Strategies for Chemicals Management and a workshop in Zambia in October 2016 on GHS-implementation in the East Africa region.

Furthermore, he introduced a planned document analyzing GHS-implementation around the world, to be published by the Stockholm Environment Institute in 2017 (latest proposed date is at the end of April 2017).

Group members agreed to recommend only one in-person PAG meeting per year, with a second meeting more appropriate as part of a teleconference. Thus, a teleconference would be planned for the July 2017 session of the ECOSOC Sub-Committee of Experts on the GHS, and an in-person meeting for the December session.

UNITAR closed the meeting by thanking PAG members, donors and supporters for their commitment to capacity building as part of the UNITAR/ILO GHS Capacity Building Programme.

Annex 1 – List of Participants

	<b>Participants</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Country/ Org</b>
1	Ms. Maureen Ruskin	<a href="mailto:Ruskin.Maureen@dol.gov">Ruskin.Maureen@dol.gov</a>	Department of Labor, USA
2	Mr. Edmund Baird	<a href="mailto:Baird.Edmund@dol.gov">Baird.Edmund@dol.gov</a>	Department of Labor, USA
3	Mr. Paul Brigandi	<a href="mailto:p.brigandi@me.com">p.brigandi@me.com</a>	Consultant (Department of Labor), USA
4	Ms. Kathy Landkrohn	<a href="mailto:Landkrohn.Kathy@dol.gov">Landkrohn.Kathy@dol.gov</a>	Department of Labor, USA
5	Mr. Helmut Fleig	<a href="mailto:helmutfleig@t-online.de">helmutfleig@t-online.de</a>	Consultant (International Paint and Printing Ink Council), Germany
6	Ms. Liz Anderson	<a href="mailto:liz@rpmasa.org.za">liz@rpmasa.org.za</a>	Responsible Packaging Management Association of Southern Africa, South Africa
7	Mr. Lennart Dock	<a href="mailto:Lennart.Dock@kemi.se">Lennart.Dock@kemi.se</a>	Swedish Chemicals Agency, Sweden
8	Ms. Amira Sultan	<a href="mailto:amira.sultan@hc-sc.gc.ca">amira.sultan@hc-sc.gc.ca</a>	Health Canada, Canada
9	Ms. Rosslynn Miller-Lee	<a href="mailto:rosslynn.miller-lee@hc-sc.gc.ca">rosslynn.miller-lee@hc-sc.gc.ca</a>	Health Canada, Canada
10	Mr. Hiroshi JONAI	<a href="mailto:jonai.hiroshi@nihon-u.ac.jp">jonai.hiroshi@nihon-u.ac.jp</a>	Nihon University, Japan
11	Ms. Ruriko Nakamura	<a href="mailto:nakamura-ruriko@nite.go.jp">nakamura-ruriko@nite.go.jp</a>	National Institute of Technology and Evaluation, Japan
12	Mr. Fabriciano Pinheiro	<a href="mailto:fabriciano.pinheiro@oswaldocruz.br">fabriciano.pinheiro@oswaldocruz.br</a>	Brazilian Toxicology Society, Brazil
13	Mr. Jose Antonio Galves	<a href="mailto:galves@jagalves.com">galves@jagalves.com</a>	Industrial Federation Paints and Coats of Mercosul, Brazil
14	Ms. Elize Lourens	<a href="mailto:Elize.Lourens@labour.gov.za">Elize.Lourens@labour.gov.za</a>	Department of Labour, South Africa

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Male 7