MINUTES OF THE SADC GLOBALLY HARMONIZED SYSTEMS (GHS) WORKING GROUP.

Venue: Sheraton
Date: 17-18 January 2011
Time: 09:00 – 16:00

1.	**OPENING AND WELCOME** The SADC TRLC Chairperson (Zimbabwe- Mr Petros Ndanga) opened the meeting and welcomed all present.
2.	**ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA** The Agenda was accepted with no additional items. **LIST OF ATTENDEES** **-** Petros Ndanga (SADCTRLC Chairperson) - Charles Celestine (SADCTRLC Vice Chairperson) - Dr. Elsabe Steyn (SADCTRLC Regional Coordinator) - Belinda S Kancheya (SADCSTAN) - Kopano Bogopa (SADCSTAN) - Allen S De L'Etourdie (Industry Specialist) - Naniki Moeketsi (SADCTRLC Secretariat) APOLOGIES - Martin Kaizer -PTB
3.	**DISCUSSION** The SADC TRLC Regional Coordinator (South Africa – Dr. Elsabe Steyn) summarised the objectives of the WG meeting re to prepare for the SADC GHS meeting of 20 and 21 January 2011. The International Chemical Management Committee monitors progress in countries with regard to the

SAICM Agreement. The target is 2020 for implementation of the SAICM Agreement. The SAICM agreement identified the implementation of the UN Globally Harmonised System for the Classification of Chemicals (GHS) as a key intervention. The African Core Group also agreed that it is a priority for African states. Current targets for GHS in Africa are 2013 for substances and 2015 for mixtures. SADCTRLC also approved that SADC GHS work should be priorities.

OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

- To finalise a Policy Proposal on SADC GHS and submit to the SADC Secretariat for approval and forward to the relevant Ministries in all SADC Countries
- To develop a Model Regulation that will serve as an Annex to the Policy paper
- To have an agreement from the regulators (per country) on the used of harmonised SADC GHS standards text which will be adopted as national standards and which is in line with the UN GHS version one as the technical basis for their regulations
- The regulators to start a process of developing regulations taking into consideration the time frames, the consensus process and comment process

The task of the working group is to prepare for the Workshop.
The working group developed the following for the workshop:
Agenda
Draft policy paper
Draft model regulations
Presentations re the background, policy proposal and the SADC GHS standards process

4.	**QUESTIONS/ COMMENTS**

QUESTIONS/ COMMENTS

* Seychelles:
- Are the HNS (Harsardous substances) related to the GHS and what is the impact caused?
- Is the standard a UN Standard and who is allowed to make the changes to the standard?
- Is the South Africa's Regulations based on the UNGHS Standards?
- Does other countries uses the UN principles for Harmonization?
- Does the SDS carry a catalogue number and a serial number on the identification of classifications?
- Does member states have to identify their own regulations referencing the SADCSTAN

* Response:
- Yes, it is a UN Standard, the UNGHS Committee makes changes and therefore allows other countries (SADC) to amend their standards. The link to the UNGHS system is through the Orange Book focusing on Transport and the Purple Book focusing on Chemicals and/or substances.
- The numbering of Standards depends on the country and only the technical contents remains the same

* **Zambia:**
- Why is the GHS work important for SADCTRLC

* Response:
- Because of the decision made on the Resolutions and the recommendations made with regard to the development of common regulations for SADC Countries.
- Because of Harmonization
- Facilitate regional integration in terms of trade and protect the health and safety of the public and the environment

5.	**WORKSHOP ARRANGEMENTS FEEDBACK** All SADC member countries were invited. The workshop is sponsored by **the dti,** South Africa and PTB. The invitation was for Government representatives responsible for Occupational Health and Safety and Transport. We expect about 40 to 45 people. All countries responded except Angola and Tanzania. The venue for the workshop is Hotel 224, Schoeman Street, Pretoria.
6.	**WAY FORWARD** • Hosting of the workshop on 20 and 21 January 2011
8.	**Closure**