



DANGEROUS GOODS PANEL (DGP) WORKING GROUP MEETING (DGP-WG/19)

Montréal, 1 to 5 April 2019

Agenda Item 10: Other business

PARTICIPATION OF OBSERVERS IN A CONSULTATIVE CAPACITY

(Presented by D. Pfund)

SUMMARY

This paper invites the Panel to discuss developing a mechanism for the Dangerous Goods Panel (DGP) to review and provide a recommendation to the Air Navigation Commission related to participation of individuals, such as representatives of non-government organizations, as advisors.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Directives for Panels of the Air Navigation Commission (Doc. 7984) outline the process for the Air Navigation Commission to invite States and international organizations to participate in the work of the DGP. The DGP is currently composed of members nominated by sixteen States and three international organizations. Advisors from States and non-governmental organizations may also be invited to attend meetings and offer contributions.

1.2 Selection of members and international organizations is made by the Air Navigation Commission (ANC) on the basis that their participation is expected to contribute to the panel's work. Aside from the broad guidelines offered in Doc. 9784 there is no documented mechanism for the panel to review or advise the Air Navigation Commission on the participation of non-governmental organizations at individual meetings.

1.3 Recent discussions on competency based training, undeclared dangerous goods and managing the risks posed by lithium batteries in air transport illustrate the variety of dangerous goods transport issues that might benefit from technical expert contributions. The increasingly complex global supply chain for dangerous goods now involves many entities besides shippers and operators and technological advancements present new challenges to the air transportation system not previously identified. Collectively this requires the DGP to work collaboratively with not just other panels, but with stakeholders impacted by the panel's recommendations. Several non-governmental organizations with

activities at an international level are already represented on the panel in an advisory capacity. These organizations provide the DGP with specific data and an expectation of potential safety impacts to global supply chains on various matters within their expertise. These organizations serve a useful advisory capacity and their continued participation in the work of the panel should be encouraged.

1.4 Recognizing the need for preserving the efficiency and effectiveness of the panel, requests for participation by non-governmental organizations are considered on a case-by-case basis. This paper suggests a discussion concerning a set of criteria in which the DGP can advise the ANC in determining the appropriate level of participation from non-governmental organizations. One model for consideration could be the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) practices for evaluation of non-governmental organizations to request a consultative status. Criteria include a confirmation that the interests of the organization are relevant to the goals and objectives of the conference and their activities apply to regional or international level.

2. **FUTURE WORK**

2.1 The DGP-WG is invited to consider the process for review and recommendation for consultative participation. To facilitate the discussion, the DGP is invited to review the ECOSOC Resolution 1996/31 concerning consultative relationship between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations and consider if this could serve as a model for advising the ANC on participation of non-governmental organizations in the work of the panel.

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APPENDIX
ECOSOC RESOLUTION 1996/31

ECOSOC RESOLUTION 1996/31

Consultative relationship between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations

Part VII

PARTICIPATION OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCES CONVENED BY THE UNITED NATIONS AND THEIR PREPARATORY PROCESS

Operative Paragraph 44

44. All such applications must be accompanied by information on the competence of the organization and the relevance of its activities to the work of the conference and its preparatory committee, with an indication of the particular areas of the conference agenda and preparations to which such competence and relevance pertain, and should include, inter alia, the following information:

- (a) The purpose of the organization;
- (b) Information as to the programmes and activities of the organization in areas relevant to the conference and its preparatory process and the country or countries in which they are carried out. Non-governmental organizations seeking accreditation shall be asked to confirm their interest in the goals and objectives of the conference;
- (c) Confirmation of the activities of the organization at the national, regional or international level;
- (d) Copies of the annual or other reports of the organization with financial statements, and a list of financial sources and contributions, including governmental contributions;
- (e) A list of members of the governing body of the organization and their countries of nationality;
- (f) A description of the membership of the organization, indicating the total number of members, the names of organizations that are members and their geographical distribution;
- (g) A copy of the constitution and/or by-laws of the organization.

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