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**STATEMENT BY PROFESSOR ALASTAIR HAY, MEMBER OF THE OPCW
ADVISORY BOARD ON EDUCATION AND OUTREACH, TO THE FOURTH REVIEW
CONFERENCE OF THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION
THE HAGUE, 23 NOVEMBER 2018**

Mr Chairperson,
Director-General,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour to address the Fourth Review Conference on behalf of the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach (ABEO). At the 20th Session of the Conference of the States Parties (2015) you decided to establish the ABEO as one of the subsidiary bodies of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). The ABEO received a mandate to advise the Director-General or States Parties on matters of education, outreach and awareness-raising, and public diplomacy concerning the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and its international and domestic implementation in relation to States Parties and key stakeholder communities. Put differently, it seeks strategies to assist the OPCW with deepening the involvement of the stakeholder communities in preventing the re-emergence of chemical weapons.

The Director-General appointed 15 members to the Board based on the principle of equitable regional distribution. ABEO members represent a broad range of expertise. The International Union for Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) and the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA) participate as permanent observers.

In February 2018 the ABEO submitted its first substantive report to the Director-general, entitled 'Report on the Role of Education and Outreach in Preventing the Re-Emergence of Chemical Weapons'. Earlier this month, it also published a practical brochure aimed primarily at National Authorities, 'Education and Outreach for a World Free of Chemical Weapons Role of States Parties'.

Education and outreach, including public diplomacy, are increasingly important tools employed by the OPCW to engage with States Parties and with a wide variety of stakeholder communities on the international, regional and local levels. The three principal approaches are Outreach, Education and Public Diplomacy. Forgive the following, but just to be clear we say that:

Outreach maximises awareness of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), the core obligations in Article I of the Convention, and the policies and processes in pursuit of the prevention of the re-emergence of chemical weapons.



Education deepens the understanding of policy processes and challenges posed by scientific and technological developments, as well as by the dual-use potential of many activities, processes, and products. (Education also assists the Technical Secretariat, States Parties (in particular through their National Authorities) and stakeholder communities to better communicate and engage with their respective target audiences and membership).

An integrated **Public Diplomacy Strategy** supports the systematic communication with multiple audiences around the world and offers opportunities of targeted engagement with them with a range of communication tools (whenever specific opportunities to promote the goals and operation of the OPCW present themselves).

It is the view of the ABEO that the stakeholder communities are both targets of E&O or partners in the design and implementation of E&O activities. Among the principal stakeholders are members of the academic, scientific and professional communities and associations, as well as the chemical industry. Divisions and Branches of the Technical Secretariat are partners in this process and should actively seek out opportunities to directly engage with stakeholder communities closest to their activities and develop specific E&O strategies (including in the context of public diplomacy) to inform, improve work routines, or even to be deployed for the occasional recruitment campaigns.

States Parties and their National Authorities occupy a special position in any E&O strategy. Not only are they key to active engagement with stakeholders on the local level, but they have central roles in effective implementation of the CWC. And the Technical Secretariat needs to focus on outcomes (i.e. be more results-based) and develop a good understanding of existing local capacities and needs to stimulate sustained engagement at local and regional levels by National Authorities.

Based on the above general background, the ABEO strongly believes that embedding E&O as a fundamental element in activities involving key stakeholders would greatly benefit the work of the OPCW and its Technical Secretariat. More specifically, States Parties may wish to consider the following recommendations for adoption at the Fourth Review Conference:

1. To support the role of the States Parties as primary implementers of E&O. This could include the following elements:
 - (a) make E&O a regular part of the regional and annual meetings of National Authorities, with opportunities to share lessons learned and best practices; and
 - (b) identify between 2019 and the Fifth Review Conference (2023), one or two nationals ‘champions’ in each region who could play a leadership role to supplement the work of the OPCW in developing and implementing appropriate E&O activities. Such initiatives could support and enhance the implementation of initiatives pursued under Article XI of the CWC.
2. To develop and implement between 2019 and 2023 models for training OPCW staff in the most effective methods of communication involving active learning approaches so that these become standard across the organisation after the Fifth Review Conference. Regular opportunities to share good practices and lessons learned should be part of this process.

3. To draw on well-established evaluation approaches from education to develop an assessment approach for E&O that is compatible with the Results-Based Management framework currently used by the Technical Secretariat.
4. To continue and to expand interaction with key stakeholder groups. In particular:
 - (a) The ABEO should work with International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA) Joint Steering Committee, and the Chemical Industry Coordination Group (CICG) to develop outreach activities for industry, particularly with small and medium enterprises and those not routinely subject to inspections.
 - (b) The ABEO should continue its co-operation with the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) and other chemistry associations to increase its E&O activities and increase the incorporation of ethics training in chemical curricula.
5. With a view to raising awareness and educating future generations, to encourage States Parties to support the introduction of the principles of responsible conduct in secondary education and specific modules on dual-use research, chemical safety and security, and responsible science in technical and university education.
6. To take advantage of the newer, more interactive approaches to online learning with a view of enhancing its capacity-building activities. The new web platform of the OPCW comes at an opportune moment to enable the organisation to become a leader in this approach to E&O.
7. To take advantage of the new OPCW website to provide resources (in addition to those already present) for use by the National Authorities and others for E&O activities with a variety of audiences.
8. Given the growing concern about possibilities of using current unscheduled toxic chemicals or future toxic chemicals as weapons in armed conflict or terrorism by non-state actors, the ABEO members view it as essential to increase awareness of the so-called General Purpose Criterion in E&O activities in order to avoid inadvertent contributions to the re-emergence of chemical weapons.
9. As appropriate, the OPCW should make clear how its E&O activities support the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

To maintain and possibly expand the OPCW's E&O activities, States Parties should ensure sufficient resources are available to design, develop and implement E&O strategies (including public diplomacy).

Equally important is for States Parties to allocate the necessary funds to maintain educational tools (especially e-learning modules), and update their content, underlying technology and educational strategies. In the effort to engender and sustain E&O on the regional and local levels (including in support of Article XI goals), this resource support should also include the translation of educational materials into the six official languages (at a minimum) and wherever possible, direct support to provide materials in other national languages upon request.

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I request that the full text of this statement be considered as an official document of the Conference and published on the OPCW public website.

I thank you for your attention.

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