



**REPORT OF THE NINTH SESSION
OF THE ADVISORY BOARD ON EDUCATION AND OUTREACH**

1. AGENDA ITEM ONE – Opening of the session

- 1.1 The Advisory Board on Education and Outreach (ABEO) met for its Ninth Session on 11 December 2020 via the Microsoft Teams platform. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting was conducted in a virtual format.
- 1.2 The session was opened by the Vice-Chairperson of the ABEO, Dr Adriana Bernacchi, at 14:05.
- 1.3 The Vice-Chairperson informed the Board that the spouse of Dr Jo Husbands, Chairperson of the ABEO, had passed away the previous week, and that she could therefore not attend. The Board expressed its condolences and decided to send Dr Husbands a letter.

2. AGENDA ITEM TWO – Programme of work, adoption of the agenda, and appointment of drafting committee

- 2.1 The ABEO adopted the following agenda for its Ninth Session:
 1. Opening of the session
 2. Programme of work, adoption of the agenda, and appointment of drafting committee
 3. Collaboration with the Scientific Advisory Board and next steps
 4. ABEO presentation at the Twenty-Second Annual Meeting of National Authorities
 5. Election of the ABEO Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson for 2021
 6. Statement by the elected Chairperson
 7. Temporary Working Group on e-Learning: Taking stock of the first meeting
 8. Strategic Plan
 9. Tentative dates for ABEO sessions in 2021
 10. Any other business
- 2.2 The Board appointed Dr Johannes Georg Weinig, Dr Craig Cormick, Dr Jean Pascal Zanders, and Mr Shahab Ud Din to the drafting committee.



3. AGENDA ITEM THREE – Collaboration with the Scientific Advisory Board and next steps

- 3.1 The ABEO discussed ongoing and future collaboration with the OPCW’s Scientific Advisory Board (SAB). In the past, collaboration had been channelled through the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) and through the practice of sending an observer from each Board to participate in the other Board’s sessions.
- 3.2 This year, Dr Craig Cormick attended (virtually) the Thirtieth Session of the SAB, held from 10 to 12 November 2020, to provide an update on the work done by the ABEO over the past year, in animated presentation form. At this session of the SAB, its members expressed their willingness to continue collaboration with ABEO members, with a view to deepening it. At the same session, one SAB member praised the Chemistry in Conflict educational resource and mentioned to Dr Cormick that he uses it in a course he teaches in Austria, adding that any such resources would be very helpful. SAB members are very keen to learn about the work and outcomes of the Temporary Working Group (TWG) on e-Learning, as a means of enhancing education and outreach.
- 3.3 The Secretary to the SAB, Mr Peter Hotchkiss, introduced himself and further conveyed the interest of SAB members in deepening collaboration with ABEO members. This opened a discussion on the matter.
- 3.4 Some ABEO members expressed a wish to also attend SAB sessions as observers, if this was agreeable to all ABEO members.
- 3.5 The Secretary to the SAB explained that, although virtual meetings allow more room to invite observers without extra budgetary costs, the situation regarding in-person meetings in The Hague could be explored in the future, to see if this would be feasible using available funding.
- 3.6 The ABEO Vice-Chairperson, Dr Bernacchi, thanked the Secretary to the SAB for kindly having accepted the invitation to attend the Ninth Session of the ABEO and added that, following the exchange between Dr Cormick and SAB members, and given the mutual interest of the ABEO and SAB in collaborating further and in channelling communications between the two Boards, a practical outcome would be to appoint two focal points among ABEO members. The appointment of Professor Alastair Hay, as a former SAB member, and of Dr Craig Cormick, was suggested.
- 3.7 As there were no objections raised, Professor Alastair Hay and Dr Craig Cormick were appointed as the primary points of contact on the ABEO side. In turn, the SAB will soon be nominating two primary points of contact. In addition, the liaison will be facilitated by the ABEO and SAB Secretaries.

4. AGENDA ITEM FOUR – ABEO presentation at the Twenty-Second Annual Meeting of National Authorities

Dr Craig Cormick informed the participants that he had prerecorded a video for the Twenty-Second Annual Meeting of National Authorities, which was held this year in virtual mode due to COVID-19 travel restrictions. The video was presented to the ABEO members, who thanked Dr Cormick for his efforts and discussed further

opportunities to disseminate the video. Dr Cormick added that the Secretary to the Board had conveyed to responsible colleagues in the International Cooperation and Assistance Division the interest of the ABEO in having closer collaboration with the Division.

5. AGENDA ITEM FIVE – Election of the ABEO Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson for 2021

5.1 The Board elected by consensus Dr Johannes Georg Weinig as its Chairperson and Mr Shahab Ud Din as Vice-Chairperson.

5.2 Diversity plays a major role for the Board, and the Board agreed, in line with OPCW policies, to continue to work on achieving balanced pools of candidates to draw from for future elections of its Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons, taking into consideration geographical diversity and gender balance.

6. AGENDA ITEM SIX – Statement by the elected Chairperson

6.1 Dr Weinig expressed his gratitude to the Board members for their confidence and support and assured them of his commitment to leading the Board to fruitful results and fostering effective work.

6.2 Mr Shahab Ud Din thanked the members for their confidence and stressed the importance of disarmament in education for the next generation.

7. AGENDA ITEM SEVEN – Temporary Working Group on e-Learning: Taking stock of the first meeting

7.1 The Chairperson of the TWG on e-Learning, Professor Rocael Hernández Rizzardini, briefed the members on the first meeting of the TWG, held on 10 and 12 November 2020.

7.2 Information on the outcomes of the meeting and the updated document on steps to be taken by TWG members to further develop the provision of e-learning by the OPCW was shared with the Board. The Board was also informed that the review of current modules had already started. In the discussion that followed, the Board stressed the importance of correlating the work with the different relevant OPCW target audiences.

8. AGENDA ITEM EIGHT – Strategic Plan

Dr Craig Cormick shared with the Board the recommended next steps on the Strategic Plan agreed by members. As an action item, members are to identify in Section 4 the activities that they are working on, or would like to work on. Priority will be given to short-term activities. This is the next step necessary for the transition of the Strategic Plan to an operational plan. Focus should be on easy-to-realise activities, given the circumstances.

9. AGENDA ITEM NINE – Tentative dates for ABEO sessions in 2021

The Board discussed possible dates for its sessions in 2021. Given the current challenges with travel and in-person meetings posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board considered it best to schedule two meetings in 2021: a virtual meeting in the week of 8 to 12 February, and a second one early in August, in the hope that the latter could be an in-person meeting in The Hague. To ensure profound discussions, the virtual session in February should be stretched, with several shorter sittings over two or three days.

10. AGENDA ITEM TEN – Any other business

- 10.1 The Board agreed that, at its future sessions, its Secretary would provide members with a short update on the most recent OPCW developments.
- 10.2 The Board thanked Dr Jo Husbands and Dr Bernacchi for their leadership of the Board under difficult circumstances throughout 2020.
- 10.3 The Secretary to the Board informed the participants that the Secretariat would send a letter of condolence to Dr Jo Husbands.
- 10.4 The Chairperson closed the Ninth Session of the Board at 16:03 on 11 December 2020.

Annex: List of Participants in the Ninth Session of the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach

Annex

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS* IN THE NINTH SESSION
OF THE ADVISORY BOARD ON EDUCATION AND OUTREACH**

1. Prof. Tatsuya Abe
2. Dr Adriana Bernacchi
3. Prof. Mohd Jamil Bin Maah
4. Dr Craig Cormick
5. Prof. Alastair Hay
6. Prof. Rocael Hernández Rizzardini
7. Prof. Fatima Lamchouri
8. Mr Shahab Ud Din
9. Dr Johannes Georg Weinig
10. Dr Anna Zalewska
11. Dr Jean-Pascal Zanders
12. Dr Mark Cesa (observer, IUPAC)¹

- * Apologies: Dr Jo Husbands, and Prof. Krishnaswamy Vijay Raghavan
Absent: Ms Gaukhar Mukhatzhanova, Dr Austin Ochieng Aluoch, and
Mr William Garcia (observer, Cefic)²

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¹ IUPAC = International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry.

² Cefic = European Chemical Industry Council.