

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

- 1. AGENDA ITEM ONE – Opening of the session and welcome address by the Deputy Director-General, Ambassador Odette Melono**
- 1.1 The Chairperson, Mr Shahab Ud Din, opened the Thirteenth Session of the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach (ABEO) on 19 July 2022 at 10:06. Noting that the last in-person meeting took place in July 2019, he welcomed all Board members and observers to this session in The Hague. The Chairperson informed Board members that Dr Craig Cormick, Professor Jamil Maah, and Professor Ying Zhou were unable to attend the Thirteenth Session and had conveyed their best wishes to the Board.
- 1.2 He added that the ABEO was honoured to have the Deputy Director-General of the OPCW, Ambassador Odette Melono, deliver opening remarks on behalf of the Director-General, Ambassador Fernando Arias.
- 1.3 The Deputy Director-General welcomed the ABEO members and observers to the Thirteenth Session of the Board in The Hague. The Deputy Director-General highlighted that the Organisation is evolving and adapting to a new era to meet new challenges, where the prevention of the re-emergence of chemical weapons will grow in importance. She added that education and outreach will play a key role in ensuring the ongoing success of the OPCW.
- 1.4 She highlighted the relevance of raising awareness of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”) and the OPCW’s work, particularly among the younger generations, to achieve deeper engagement in disarmament and non-proliferation, thereby upholding the norm against the use of chemical weapons. She added that broadening the availability of more educational resources, both in the OPCW’s official languages and others, would contribute to these outreach efforts.
- 1.5 The Deputy Director-General encouraged the Board to provide ongoing support to National Authorities, upon the request of States Parties, to assist them in connecting with diverse audiences. She stressed the importance of the work of the ABEO on e-learning and noted an initiative of Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México to develop courses for GRULAC¹ States Parties on the OPCW and its mission.

¹ Group of Latin America and the Caribbean.



- 1.6 The Deputy Director-General highlighted some important upcoming events, such as the completion of the construction of the Centre for Chemistry and Technology (ChemTech Centre) scheduled for the end of 2022, the thirtieth anniversary of the signing of the Convention in January 2023, and the Fifth Review Conference,² which will be held from 15 to 19 May 2023.
- 1.7 The Board expressed its appreciation for the Deputy Director-General's consideration of issues that fall within the mandate of the ABEO.
- 2. AGENDA ITEM TWO – Adoption of the agenda and appointment of a drafting committee**
- 2.1 The following agenda was adopted by the Board for its Thirteenth session:
1. Opening of the session and welcome address by the Deputy Director-General, Ambassador Odette Melono
 2. Adoption of the agenda and appointment of a drafting committee
 3. Knowledge Management at the OPCW and update on recent developments from Mr Zaven Hakopov, Knowledge Management Advisor
 4. Update on Review Conference preparations, Mr Szymon Bocheński, Senior Policy Officer in the Office of Strategy and Policy
 5. Refresher on areas of expertise of Board members and observers
 6. Information on the rules and procedures related to the identification cards issued to Board members by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Ms Marion Hamel, Privileges and Immunities
 7. General update on developments at the OPCW and implementation of educational projects since the last session of the Board, Secretary of the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach
 8. Update on the work of the Scientific Advisory Board, Dr Matteo Guidotti
 9. Development of modules for universities and contribution of the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach to the project on lessons learned from digital education and features that ensure wide usage, Mr Shahab Ud Din
 10. Chemistry communication and outreach work, Ms Elisabeth Waechter, Head of Public Affairs Branch and OPCW Spokesperson
 11. Development of modules for universities (continuation): planning peer review of the content of each module in line with areas of Board member expertise

² The Fifth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

12. The Board's contribution to plans for the dissemination of university modules: provision of guidelines for professors and other teaching staff, Dr Daniella Suger
 13. Integration of university modules into academic curricula: common challenges and strategies to achieve integration in each region and subregion, Professor Janefrances Ihedioha
 14. Inspectorate Division—Distance Learning: Current and Future, Mr Davin Carter, Inspector, Capacity-Building and Contingency-Planning Cell, Inspectorate Division
 15. International Cooperation and Assistance work in education and outreach, Mr Li Zhao, Acting Director of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division
 16. Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México's educational project and possible contribution of the Board, Secretary of the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach
 17. Report on the intersessional work of Board members and future areas of focus
 18. Topics identified for further consideration at the Board's Fourteenth Session, and dates for the Fourteenth Session
 19. Election of the Board's Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson for 2023
 20. Remarks by the Chairperson of the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach for 2023
 21. Any other business
 22. Adoption of the report
- 2.2 The Chairperson—together with Professor Christopher Daase, Dr Richard Guthrie, Dr Jason Openo, and Professor Supawan Tantayanon—were appointed as drafting committee members.
- 3. AGENDA ITEM THREE – Knowledge Management at the OPCW and update on recent developments from Mr Zaven Hakopov, Knowledge Management Advisor**
- 3.1 The Knowledge Management Advisor updated the Board on Knowledge Management Strategy at the OPCW and recent developments. He explained that the Organisation relies on the expertise, knowledge, and skills of its staff to achieve a world free of chemical weapons. This knowledge, which is predominantly highly specialised and scarce, needs to be retained in order to ensure that the Organisation is able to carry out its mission efficiently and remain fit for its purpose. Furthermore, he emphasised additional operational challenges, such as those related to the COVID-19 outbreak and business continuity, and highlighted the need for increased efforts in knowledge sharing, transfer, and retention within the Secretariat. Towards this end, over the past three years, the Knowledge Management Advisor office has initiated a number of activities and implemented processes aiming at capturing, preserving, and improving knowledge sharing within the Organisation.

3.2 The Board expressed appreciation for Mr Hakopov's presentation, encouraged the Secretariat to continue the development of knowledge management practices, and expressed its willingness to collaborate further on this issue.

4. AGENDA ITEM FOUR – Update on Review Conference preparations, Mr Szymon Bocheński, Senior Policy Officer in the Office of Strategy and Policy

4.1 Mr Szymon Bocheński, Senior Policy Officer in the Office of Strategy and Policy, briefed the ABEO on the preparatory process for the Fifth Review Conference. The Board was informed that the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) for the Preparation of the Fifth Review Conference (OEWG-RC) had been established and its Chairperson, Ambassador Lauri Kuusing of Estonia, had already presided over two meetings in June 2022. The OEWG-RC adopted its programme of work for the remainder of this year and started the review of verification-related issues. The ABEO Chairperson will be invited to deliver a presentation online during the OEWG-RC meeting devoted to engagement with external partners and education and outreach.

4.2 The Board welcomed the presentation and encouraged engagement with this preparatory process.

5. AGENDA ITEM FIVE – Refresher on areas of expertise of Board members and observers

Board members and observers highlighted their areas of expertise and shared their contributions to the Board. The Chairperson highlighted that the diversity of areas of expertise among the ABEO members would enable the Board to better fulfil its mandate, taking into account the multidisciplinary work involved in educational activities.

6. AGENDA ITEM SIX – Information on the rules and procedures related to the identification cards issued to Board members by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Ms Marion Hamel, Privileges and Immunities

6.1 Ms Marion Hamel of the Organisation's Privileges and Immunities unit provided an update on the identification cards issued to ABEO members by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. This briefing was followed by some questions related to the procedure for issuance of these cards, as well as the privileges provided thereby. Ms Hamel explained that these MFA cards will make it easier for Board members to attend ABEO meetings.

6.2 The Board thanked the Secretariat and the MFA for their assistance.

7. AGENDA ITEM SEVEN – General update on developments at the OPCW and implementation of educational projects since the last session of the Board, Secretary of the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach

7.1 The Secretary of the ABEO presented an update on the most recent developments at the OPCW since the Board's last session. She referred to the financial support received from the European Union for outreach and educational activities and informed the Board that the Secretariat had identified a suitable provider of a new learning management system. The Secretary further added that the Secretariat is in the process of identifying a qualified producer of e-learning modules designed for university use,

relevant both for students of social sciences and the sciences. The implementation of the new learning management system and the development of modules for universities are expected to be ready in the first half of 2023. The Secretary referred to the expected contribution of the Board, particularly regarding the peer review of modules, the dissemination plan, and integration into university curricula once the modules are created. She added that the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) had offered its support, should the ABEO consider it useful in relation to the development of modules.

- 7.2 Thanks to the funds from the European Union, the Office of Strategy and Policy and Public Affairs Branch are cooperating to translate and disseminate educational resources and will make versions of the OPCW Basics videos in all official OPCW languages, following the prioritisation of these videos by the ABEO. This will increase accessibility to the videos by stakeholders and the general public worldwide.
- 7.3 Professor Rocael Hernández Rizzardini suggested organising a meeting of some ABEO Board members and the producer of the modules once work begins to ensure that the expert advice of the ABEO is communicated and taken into account from the start. The ABEO Secretary assured those present that this meeting would be organised once work on the project begins.
- 7.4 The Board noted that the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption by consensus of the United Nations General Assembly resolution commending the Chemical Weapons Convention would fall on 30 November 2022.
- 7.5 The Board thanked the Secretary for her presentation and her support.

8. AGENDA ITEM EIGHT – Update on the work of the Scientific Advisory Board, Dr Matteo Guidotti

- 8.1 Dr Matteo Guidotti, an observer from the SAB, shared a brief presentation on the SAB's current activities and work. The presentation included an overview of the SAB, its responsibilities, as well as an outline of the vast regional and cultural background of the SAB's members and their various professional roles in academia, research, national agencies, and laboratories.
- 8.2 Dr Guidotti commented that the Scientific Report being prepared by the SAB in support of the Fifth Review Conference will include several topics, such as developments in chemical production and discovery, technologies for the delivery of toxic chemicals and drugs, assistance and protection, science and technology relevant to chemical safety and security, and the communication of scientific advice.
- 8.3 One of the main, ongoing tasks of the SAB is horizon scanning, i.e., looking for topics that are attracting increasing attention. The SAB monitors the 'known unknowns', but also works to discover and understand the emergent chemical-related 'unknown unknowns' around the globe.
- 8.4 Lastly, Dr Matteo Guidotti reiterated both the SAB's willingness to collaborate with the ABEO to assist with outreach for scientists and students, and the importance of education, dissemination, and outreach.
- 8.5 The ABEO thanked Dr Guidotti for his presentation and expressed its willingness to continue collaborating with the SAB.

9. AGENDA ITEM NINE – Development of modules for universities and contribution of the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach to the project on lessons learned from digital education and features that ensure wide usage, Mr Shahab Ud Din

9.1 The Chairperson delivered a presentation on lessons learned from digital education based on his experience with chemical safety and security courses.

9.2 Mr Shahab Ud Din shared a curriculum on guidelines for chemical safety and security, including the OPCW's working mechanisms and its international obligations. The Chairperson concentrated on three segments: the historical perspective of chemical weapons, international obligations for chemical safety and security, and different chemical management tiers concerning laboratories, industry, and other stakeholders.

9.3 In the discussion that followed, several ideas were highlighted, such as the importance of identifying the target audience, determining the best way to get academia on board, determining how to best measure the quality of digital courses, and receiving feedback on digital courses.

9.4 The Board thanked the Chairperson for his presentation.

10. AGENDA ITEM TEN – Chemistry communication and outreach work, Ms Elisabeth Waechter, Head of Public Affairs Branch and OPCW Spokesperson

10.1 Ms Elisabeth Waechter, the Head of the Public Affairs Branch and OPCW Spokesperson, delivered a presentation covering the communication of chemistry-related information, awareness-raising, the work of the Public Affairs Branch, and OPCW's online presence. She highlighted the importance of strategic communications in raising the Organisation's profile, as well as in building familiarity with the Convention in particular, and issues pertinent to chemical weapons more generally. ABEO members were encouraged to amplify specific current outreach campaigns, such as the nominations process for the OPCW-The Hague Award and civil society accreditation for the Twenty-Seventh Session of the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter "the Conference"). Ms Waechter also outlined several important milestone events planned for 2023 (the Fifth Review Conference, the opening of the ChemTech Centre, and the completion of the destruction of declared chemical weapons) and encouraged Board members to consider ways in which these might be harnessed to engage target audiences, especially young people. She mentioned the growing concerns in the international community as a whole with regard to disinformation, and referred to the debate that had taken place the previous week at the United Nations Security Council on the potential for disinformation to cause physical harm. In this respect, raising awareness of codes of conduct and ethics plays a key role.

10.2 The Board expressed its appreciation for the presentation delivered by Ms Waechter and acknowledged the value of the concept that she had addressed referred to as 'cause communications'. Ms Waechter had explained cause communications as a means of delivering information that focuses not only on factual and accurate reporting, but on ways in which audiences might be inspired and encouraged to support a given cause; she indicated that this concept is widely embraced by international organisations. The Board noted that the concept of cause communication can be ably implemented as a foundation upon which to base activities.

- 11. AGENDA ITEM ELEVEN – Development of modules for universities (continuation): planning peer review of the content of each module in line with areas of Board member expertise**
- 11.1 The Board decided to organise its work for the peer review of university modules into several working groups, each of which is to be coordinated by one Board member based on their respective areas of expertise, as follows:
- (a) Professor Magda Bauta will coordinate the work on Module 1, which covers the Convention and the OPCW’s mission, with the assistance of Professors Vicente Garrido Rebolledo and Christopher Daase.
 - (b) Dr Richard Guthrie will lead the working group on Module 2 (the history of chemical weapons) with the assistance of Dr Ladislava Navrátilová.
 - (c) Professor Supawan Tantayanon will coordinate the peer review of Module 3 (chemical safety and security, ethics, and environmental aspects) with the assistance of Mr Shahab Ud Din, Professor JaneFrances Ihedioha, Professor Graciela González, and Dr Nezha Barakate.
 - (d) Dr Jason Openo will act as a quality control officer to ensure that the modules are being designed and developed with the inclusion of participatory activities, and to ensure that the end results are successful. He will reach out to Dr Daniella Suger and Professor Rocael Hernández Rizzardini to be part of quality control management.
 - (e) Professor Hernández Rizzardini suggested creating a working group to follow up on the implementation of the recommendations made by the ABEO Temporary Working Group (TWG) on E-learning.
 - (f) The ABEO Secretary will contact other Board members not present to offer them the chance to contribute to one of the modules with other Board experts. It was noted that members of the SAB, as well as members of the ABEO alumni network, have volunteered their assistance if needed.
- 11.2 The ABEO members highlighted important aspects, such as the duration and type of licenses for target audiences. The Board suggested exploring a licensing structure that would allow users to adopt and adapt materials while the OPCW retains its copyright, in addition to requesting that other organisations upload the link to the OPCW on their webpage once these modules are finalised.
- 11.3 During this discussion, a variety of other topics were raised, including the importance of catering the modules towards the educational system, as well as the ability to use existing OPCW educational resources, including the OPCW Basics videos. Additionally, the importance of ensuring that the modules take into account the cultural and regional differences of the OPCW States Parties was highlighted, as well as the need to include the Convention in the first module for universities.
- 11.4 Other aspects were also emphasised, such as the need to discuss how to integrate these modules into university curricula. The Board suggested identifying prominent experts who could potentially facilitate this process by engaging university professors and other teaching staff. Feedback on the courses from professors was also highlighted as necessary in the second stage to ensure the success of the modules and their wide usage.

12. AGENDA ITEM TWELVE – The Board’s contribution to plans for the dissemination of university modules: provision of guidelines for professors and other teaching staff, Dr Daniella Suger

- 12.1 Dr Daniella Suger was a member of the ABEO TWG on E-learning³ and raised some ideas for the dissemination plan for university modules, focusing on the provision of guidelines for professors. She delivered a presentation on the production of guidelines for creating modules, both for students and professors. She highlighted the importance of standardisation, visual aspects, language barriers, and the creation of short quizzes, among other details.
- 12.2 In the discussion that followed, it was mentioned that while universities are independent in some countries, it is still very difficult to modify curricula, since the accreditation process falls under the purview of the relevant ministries. Reaching out to professors to explore if they may be willing to integrate these modules into their existing courses might prove to be an effective approach.
- 12.3 The Board thanked Dr Suger for her presentation and expressed appreciation for the continuity with the past work of the ABEO TWG on E-learning.

13. AGENDA ITEM THIRTEEN – Integration of university modules into academic curricula: common challenges and strategies to achieve integration in each region and subregion, Professor Janefrances Ihedioha

- 13.1 Professor Janefrances Ihedioha provided a presentation that focused on the importance of having modules integrated into the academic curricula of universities. Her presentation covered the common challenges that can often be encountered, as well as strategies and recommendations that could be adopted for effective integration.
- 13.2 The presentation addressed the challenges of integrating modules into university courses, including the approval of the academic senate, the mode of delivery (e-learning), power supply access, network bandwidth, and language. It was noted that these challenges can vary depending on the regional location of each university.
- 13.3 In conclusion, Professor Ihedioha discussed strategies that can be used to counter these challenges and ensure the best possible integration of modules. A select number of universities were chosen for a pilot study; if the pilot is a success, it will be extended to other universities. The selected universities must have solid e-learning policies and must agree to have these modules introduced as core or required ancillary courses in order to encourage participation. Additionally, the modules are to be implemented as mini courses in order to enhance student engagement. Other recommendations include having the modules translated into all six of the OPCW’s official languages, the use of an open-source learning management system (LMS) that is not specific to any one type of device, the utilisation of blended learning (i.e., a combination of online and traditional face-to-face teaching) in regions dealing with energy crises and increasing poverty, and the inclusion of policy development assistance from scientific and professional associations such as the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC).

³ The ABEO TWG on E-learning successfully fulfilled its mandate in August 2021 and is no longer an active body.

- 13.4 The Board suggested the involvement of local and national scientific societies and reaching out to countries with national-level boards of vice chancellors in order to gain support for these modules.
- 13.5 The Board further noted the importance of ethics to be used as a means of explaining the importance of the inclusion of these modules within chemistry degree programmes around the world.
- 13.6 The Board thanked Professor Jane Frances Ihedioha for her presentation and stressed that regional and cultural differences should be taken into account when overcoming the challenges identified in the presentation.
- 14. AGENDA ITEM FOURTEEN – Inspectorate Division: Distance Learning: Current and Future, Mr Davin Carter, Inspector, Capacity-Building and Contingency-Planning Cell, Inspectorate Division**
- 14.1 Mr Davin Carter, Analytical Chemist in the OPCW’s Capacity-Building and Contingency-Planning Cell, provided an update on the Inspectorate’s work focusing on the concept of distance learning.
- 14.2 The Chairperson enquired how the Inspectorate Division measures the success of their training courses and the level of knowledge retention among inspectors. Mr Carter mentioned the use of tests and assignments in order to ensure that inspectors have certain abilities and are able to maintain certain competencies.
- 14.3 Mr Davin Carter added that the Inspectorate is open to the expert advice that the ABEO can provide with regard to training and educational materials.
- 14.4 The Board expressed its appreciation for this presentation and offered its support for the various initiatives related to education and training.
- 15. AGENDA ITEM FIFTEEN – International Cooperation and Assistance work in education and outreach, Mr Li Zhao, Acting Director of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division**
- 15.1 Mr Li Zhao, Acting Director of the International Cooperation and Assistance (ICA) Division, provided an overview of the work carried out by the Division as well as an update on the latest outreach activities, with a particular focus on outreach activities aimed at women and youth. The overview covered activities and workshops held under Articles VI, VII, X, and XI of the Convention.
- 15.2 Mr Li Zhao addressed the subject of online courses and explained that the number of online participants per event increased by 82% in 2021, compared to the average number of in-person participants per event in 2019. Additionally, the Board’s attention was drawn to four ICA initiatives aimed at women and youth: the Women in Chemistry Symposium, the Women First Responders Workshop, the Youth Education and training programmes, and the ICA programmes alumni networks.
- 15.3 Mr Li Zhao highlighted the engagement of the ABEO with National Authorities and the expectation that this cooperation will continue.

- 15.4 The Acting Director commented that the ChemTech Centre will offer an unprecedented opportunity for the OPCW to significantly scale up capacity-building support for the benefit of States Parties, especially those with developing economies.
- 15.5 The Board raised the need for the harmonisation of the curriculum for emergency response training and mentioned the possibility of providing broad guidelines for OPCW partner training institutions in Member States. The Board also encouraged the Secretariat to further enhance coordination with other international organisations in its capacity-building and outreach activities.
- 15.6 The Board appreciated the presentation by the Acting Director of the ICA Division and assured him of its ongoing engagement with National Authorities.
- 16. AGENDA ITEM SIXTEEN – Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México’s educational project and possible contribution of the Board, Secretary of the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach**
- 16.1 The ABEO Secretary provided the Board with a short update on the educational project led by Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM). She explained that the main goal of this project is to stimulate interest among young and mid-career professionals in applying for professional vacancies at the OPCW. This would increase the pool of qualified candidates from the GRULAC region with the goal of spreading the courses to other regions worldwide by tapping into UNAM’s network of partnerships.
- 16.2 The Counsellor of Innovation, Science, and Technology of the Embassy of Mexico in The Hague, Mr Carlos Antonio Tenorio, attended the ABEO session during this agenda item on behalf of the Ambassador of Mexico, José Antonio Zabalgoitia, and answered questions about this project’s modalities.
- 16.3 The Board expressed its support to Mr Tenorio and offered to contribute its expertise and advice to this project.
- 17. AGENDA ITEM SEVENTEEN – Report on the intersessional work of Board members and future areas of focus**
- 17.1 The Chairperson of the ABEO, Mr Shahab Ud Din, participated in the activities related to education and outreach organised by the National Authority of Pakistan, as well as activities within the chemical industry and academia. He acted as a focal point in various online and in-person events both at the international and national levels.⁴ Mr Shahab Ud Din also served as a member of the panel implementing the revision of the national ordinance to implement the Convention at the national level, which encompasses, among other things, chemical safety and security. He also participated in the revision of university curricula on chemical management and chemical safety and security.

⁴ A national online course on Management of Chem-Bio Hazards, 14 – 18 February 2022 (pre-recorded video lecture on the challenges in consequence management and participation in the expert panel for live discussion); OPCW’s Online International Course on Reconnaissance and Sampling Operations in a Highly Contaminated Environment, 14 – 18 March 2022 (pre-recorded lecture on chemical threat perception in a highly contaminated environment); National Level Course on Legislative and Regulatory Issues related to Chemical Security, 25 – 26 May 2022 (in-person talk about the Convention implementing legislation and chemical security risk assessment methodology); Course on Chemical Emergency Response for First Responders, 20 – 4 June 2022; and Chem-Bio Emergency Management for the armed forces of Pakistan, 4 – 7 July 2022;

- 17.2 The Vice-Chairperson of the Board, Professor Graciela González, gave a lecture in May 2022 for chemistry students entitled “A talk on chemistry: from electrochemistry to forensics” per the invitation of the Department of Chemistry of the Faculty of Exact and Natural Sciences of the National University of Asunción (Paraguay). Among other topics, the conference addressed the definition of chemical weapons, the Convention, and The Hague Ethical Guidelines. These issues were also addressed in a presentation delivered during the “INQUIMAE Open Conference” at the University of Buenos Aires in May 2022.
- 17.3 Dr Jason Openo provided a training course on digital education to focal points of relevant Divisions on 18 July 2022 entitled “A model for high-end e-learning at the OPCW”. Dr Openo was also invited to give a number of lectures and peer-reviewed conference presentations: “A time of unprecedented innovation: How Canadian teaching and learning centres served part-time faculty during the pandemic” and “Almost invisible: The marginal appearance of contingent faculty in Canadian academic strategy” (June 2022 conference session at the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education, Ottawa, Canada); “Engineering authentic assessments” (April 2022 at the Lassonde School of Engineering, York University); “The multiple realities of professional development for online contingent faculty”⁵ (April 2022 at the Centre for Innovation in Distance Education Research (CIDER)); and “Authentic assessments: What they are and why we need them” (February 2022 at Northern College, Learning and Innovation Department).
- 17.4 Professor Magda Bauta worked on the preparation and creation of a programme on YouTube entitled “Chemical weapons, a threat to human survival”.⁶ The programme was first broadcast on 29 April 2022 on Cuba’s national television and several times afterwards.
- 17.5 Dr Ladislava Navrátilová provided support to the Assistance and Protection Branch of the ICA Division in collaboration with the Population Protection Institute of the Fire Rescue Service of the Czech Republic. She participated as a course leader, coordinator, and lecturer at the assistance and protection online course for instructors held from 15 to 17 February 2022, and at the assistance and protection course for instructors held from 1 to 9 June 2022. She also visited the OPCW to discuss educational strategies related to the East African Project on 26 and 27 April 2022.
- 17.6 Professor Christopher Daase together with Una Jakob, wrote a help-desk paper entitled “Chemical Weapons Disarmament and the Future of the OPCW Beyond 2023”. He participated in several discussions and workshops with the German Foreign Ministry to determine the future role of arms control, non-proliferation, and disarmament in light of the situation in Ukraine. He strengthened the role of arms control education in the recent application for Phase IV of the European Union Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Consortium, which was approved in May 2022.
- 17.7 Professor Nezha Barakate presented a poster entitled “Improving chemical safety in biological laboratories at Institut National d’Hygiene in Rabat (Morocco)” at the Twenty-Third Annual Conference of the European Biosafety Association, which took place in Ghent, Belgium, in May 2022. She participated in various events, such as chemical neutralisation—online materials for North Africa training courses May – June 2022 and the online workshop on “Enhancing Laboratorians Ability to Identify, Safely Handle, and Control Biological Toxins such as Ricin, Abrin, and Botulinium” (May 2022).

⁵ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l2zILzYTA7U>.

⁶ “Justo en la Diana: Armas químicas, un peligro para la supervivencia humana”.

- 17.8 Professor Jane Frances Ihedioha participated as a coordinator of IUPAC's 2022 Global Women's Breakfast meeting, the theme of which was 'empowering diversity in science' (February 2022), at University of Nigeria, Nsukka. She participated in the biennial general meeting and scientific conference of the Organisation for Women in Science for the Developing World (March 2022, University of Nigeria, Nsukka). She also served as chairperson of a technical session on basic and applied research, which covered topics such as environmental contaminants, climate change, digital education, and green chemistry, among others. In addition, Prof Ihedioha co-authored a workshop report entitled "Intervention to reduce pesticide exposure from the agricultural sector in Africa: a workshop report" in May 2022. The workshop report will be published by the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health.
- 17.9 Professor Vicente Garrido Rebolledo has been teaching courses that cover the Convention, the OPCW, and its activities in the Syrian Arab Republic—in particular the work of the Investigation and Identification Team and the Fact-Finding Mission. Many of his courses and seminars are designed for professors, parliamentarians, diplomats, and government and military officials. He taught several courses and seminars on defence, intelligence, non-proliferation, arms control, and disarmament in 2022, including at the NATO Defence College (Rome, January and June 2022), and a number of different educational institutions throughout Spain: Camilo José Cela University (Madrid, February 2022); CESEDEN-Ministry of Defence (Madrid, February 2022); Rey Juan Carlos University (Madrid, February 2022); Comillas-ICADE University (Madrid, April 2022); Basque Country University (Bilbao, April 2022); Complutense University (Madrid, July 2022); and the Spanish Diplomatic School (Madrid, May 2022).
- 17.10 Professor Supawan Tantayanon organised a workshop on chemical security fundamentals as one session of the required course on chemical hazard management of the applied chemistry bachelor's degree programme at Chulalongkorn University (Bangkok, Thailand), in collaboration with Sandia National Laboratories and the United States Department of State Chemical Security Programme, in which the OPCW was mentioned. She also led a half-day workshop on chemical hazards and management for the Scientific Crime Detection Center in Thailand, and made a video recording in Thai on the properties and hazards of flammables, reactive chemicals, and toxic chemicals.
- 17.11 Dr Richard Guthrie attended the Preparatory Committee for the Ninth Review Conference of the Biological Weapons Convention and produced daily reports of the proceedings on behalf of the BioWeapons Prevention Project. The Preparatory Committee met in Geneva from 4 to 11 April and discussed the overlap between the Biological Weapons Convention and the Chemical Weapons Convention. Dr Guthrie attended a virtual meeting of the Chemical Weapons Advisory Committee of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on 14 April, during which he discussed the outreach activities of the National Authorities. It was agreed at the meeting that opportunities should be explored to reach out to similar advisory bodies of other States Parties for the purpose of networking and exchanging knowledge and ideas. He also continued to work with the Targeted Initiative, funded by the European Union, concerning chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear dual-use export controls. At the Pugwash Conferences, he supported outreach for Student/Young Pugwash activities aimed at encouraging responsible practices in science. Currently, Dr Guthrie is preparing a video on strengthening the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention and

the Biological Weapons Convention as part of a series. This series will be hosted and funded by London Metropolitan University within the context of the forthcoming Fifth Review Conference of the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Ninth Review Conference of the Biological Weapons Convention.

18. AGENDA ITEM EIGHTEEN – Topics identified for further consideration at the Board’s Fourteenth Session, and dates for the Fourteenth Session

18.1 The Board agreed to include an agenda item under which it could review progress on earlier conclusions and recommendations.

18.2 The Board agreed to hold its Fourteenth Session from 7 to 9 February 2023.

19. AGENDA ITEM NINETEEN – Election of the Board’s Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson for 2023

19.1 The Chairperson of the ABEO informed Board members that Prof Magda Bauta Solés had offered her availability to chair the Board in 2023, and Prof Supawan Tantayanon offered to serve as Vice-Chairperson in 2023. The Board subsequently elected Professor Magda Bauta Solés and Professor Supawan Tantayanon as Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson for 2023, respectively.

19.2 The current Vice-Chairperson, Prof Graciela González, offered to serve as ABEO Chairperson in 2024.

20. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY – Remarks by the Chairperson of the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach for 2023

20.1 Prof Magda Bauta Solés thanked the members of the ABEO for their confidence and support for her serving in this role and noted that she would strive to meet the Board’s expectations in fulfilling the mandate of the Chairperson. She thanked Prof Supawan Tantayanon for her availability to serve as Vice-Chairperson in 2023 and further noted that Prof Graciela González had expressed her interest in serving the Board as Chairperson in 2024.

20.2 Professor Magda Bauta referred to the ABEO’s role in challenging times, when decisions need to be crystalised and the Board should offer concrete contributions. The Board could identify potential partners to multiply its impact, noting in particular that the UNAM initiative is very inspiring.

21. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-ONE – Any other business

21.1 The Secretary to the ABEO raised the topic of gender and diversity in education and outreach at the request of Canada. The Secretary highlighted the various initiatives and measures adopted at the OPCW to ensure that gender balance is taken into consideration in capacity-building activities, the composition of the staff (almost half of senior leadership positions are currently held by women), and the adoption of tools that take gender equality into account in staff performance assessments, among others. She also noted that the Director-General has championed gender parity issues at the OPCW and that there is now a network of gender focal points across the Organisation’s divisions to ensure that gender parity is taken into consideration across all activities.

- 21.2 Canada has requested the circulation of the following preliminary questions for reflection among ABEO members and observers:
- (a) Is the OPCW's current theory and practice in education and outreach gender responsive, i.e.: are its approaches developed with the consideration of gender norms and inequalities in mind, and do they include measures to address these norms and inequalities in final products?
 - (b) Are there opportunities to make the OPCW's theory and practice in education and outreach more gender responsive, and what processes, tools, and resources are required to improve the level of gender responsiveness?
 - (c) Can the ABEO suggest a portfolio of education and outreach activities that the Secretariat and States Parties should pursue to promote greater gender equality and diversity within the OPCW's main activities?
- 21.3 The Board took note of the preliminary questions raised by Canada; it agreed to consider them over the course of the intersessional period and to include these considerations as an agenda item for the ABEO's Fourteenth Session.
- 21.4 The members of the ABEO agreed on the importance of further strengthening its strategic plan, based on a SWOT⁷ analysis adopted by the Board in 2021 (Annex 2 of ABEO-10/1, dated 10 February 2021). The Chairperson requested that Board members identify their areas of interest and provide necessary input, which can be further discussed at the ABEO's Fourteenth Session.
- 21.5 The Board stands ready to offer its experience and advice to all divisions of the Secretariat towards further improving working methodologies and training techniques.
- 21.6 The Board noted the challenges involved in the retention of knowledge and training new staff, which are further impacted by the high turnover of personnel in the Secretariat.

22. AGENDA ITEM TWENTY-TWO – Adoption of the report

The report of the Thirteenth Session of the ABEO was adopted by the Board on 21 July at 14:25.

Annex: List of Participants at the Thirteenth Session of the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach

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SWOT: Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats

Annex

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS AT THE THIRTEENTH SESSION
OF THE ADVISORY BOARD ON EDUCATION AND OUTREACH**

1. Prof Graciela González
2. Dr Jason Openo
3. Prof Magda Bauta Solés
4. Dr Ladislava Navrátilová
5. Prof Christopher Daase
6. Prof. Rocael Hernández Rizzardini
7. Dr Nezha Barakate
8. Prof. Janefrances Ihedioha
9. Mr Shahab Ud Din
10. Prof Vicente Garrido Rebolledo
11. Prof Supawan Tantayanon
12. Dr Richard Guthrie
13. Prof Jan Apotheker (IUPAC, observer)
14. Dr Matteo Guidotti (SAB, observer)
15. Prof Daniella Suger (observer, expert on e-learning)
16. Mr Carlos Antonio Tenorio, Counsellor of Innovation, Science and Technology,
Embassy of Mexico in The Hague
17. Mr Li Zhao, Acting Director International Cooperation and Assistance Division
18. Ms Elisabeth Waechter, Head of Public Affairs Branch and OPCW
Spokesperson
19. Mr Zaven Hakopov, Knowledge Management Advisor
20. Mr Szymon Bocheński, Senior Policy Officer, Office of Strategy and Policy
21. Mr Davin Carter, Inspector, Analytical Chemist at the Capacity-Building and
Contingency-Planning Cell
22. Ms Marion Hamel, Privileges and Immunities

23. Ms Eva Pérez, Privileges and Immunities
24. Ms Luisa Sánchez-Bravo, Senior Policy Officer and Secretary to the ABEO,
Office of Strategy and Policy

Apologies: Dr Craig Cormick
 Prof Jamil Maah
 Prof Ying Zhou

Absent: Mr William Garcia (observer, European Chemical Industry Council)

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