

**REPORT OF THE THIRD 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 Third Session from 14 to 16 March 2017 at the OPCW Headquarters in The Hague, the Netherlands.
- 1.2 The Chairperson of the ABEO, Dr Jean Pascal Zanders, opened the session at 09:30 on 14 March 2017.
- 1.3 A list of participants is contained in Annex 1 to this report.

2. AGENDA ITEM TWO – Adoption of the agenda, designation of a rapporteur

- 2.1 The agenda was adopted with minor modifications in the form of additional reports to be submitted under agenda items 9(a) and 9(b). The Board established a Drafting Committee composed of Dr Jean Pascal Zanders, Dr Edith Valles, Dr Thirumalachari Ramasami and Dr Jo Husbands.
- 2.2 The ABEO adopted the following agenda for its Third Session:
 1. Opening of the session
 2. Adoption of the agenda, designation of a rapporteur
 3. Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson for 2017
 4. Address by the Director-General
 5. Overview of developments at the OPCW since the last ABEO session
 - (a) General update
 - (b) The ConfChem online conference and subsequent IUPAC publication
 6. Status of ABEO recommendations
 - (a) Publicising condemnations of the use of toxic chemicals as weapons
 - (b) The OPCW's twentieth anniversary
 - (c) Public diplomacy strategy
 - (d) European Union-funded project on youth outreach



7. New request from Director-General to the ABEO
8. Reports by coordination groups:
 - (a) Longer-term strategies
 - (b) Outreach at the regional and national levels
 - (c) Youth outreach
 - (d) Assisting National Authorities
 - (e) Immediate challenges
 - (f) International organisations
 - (g) The overarching theme
 - (h) Stakeholder communities
 - (i) Themes and coordination groups for the next intersessional period
9. Presentations by ABEO members
 - (a) Activity reports
 - (b) New issues and initiatives for consideration
10. Presentations
 - (a) Observers
 - (b) Experts
11. Any other business
12. Discussion and adoption of the session report
13. Closure of the session

3. AGENDA ITEM THREE – Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson for 2017

The Board confirmed Dr Jean Pascal Zanders as Chairperson of the ABEO and Dr Edith Valles as Deputy Chairperson of the ABEO for 2017.

4. AGENDA ITEM FOUR – Address by the Director-General

- 4.1 The Director-General of the OPCW Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) welcomed the ABEO members to the Third Session of the Board. He noted that the Organisation had entered a period of transition, where its focus would increasingly move from the verified elimination of declared chemical weapons stockpiles to preventing the re-emergence of chemical weapons. In this context it would be important for the Organisation to enhance its education and outreach activities with a view to reaching a broader, more diverse group of stakeholders.
- 4.2 The Director-General noted that 2016 provided ABEO members with an opportunity to familiarise themselves with the work of the Organisation, and now the Board should address a set of more targeted and interrelated questions. He specifically

requested the Board to produce a substantial report by the end of 2017. This report should:

- (a) identify best practices and the latest advances in education and outreach theory and practice relevant to our education and outreach activities;
- (b) relate the relevant education and outreach theory and practice to the OPCW's mandate and its main areas of work, as the Organisation will move to focus on preventing the re-emergence of chemical weapons; and
- (c) develop on this basis a portfolio of specific education and outreach activities and projects that the Organisation, States Parties, and the ABEO and its individual members should pursue as a matter of priority from 2018 onward. (The full text of the Director-General's request is contained in Annex 2 of this report.)

4.3 Professor Benjamin Ruiz Loyola presented the Director-General with two letters from the Mexican Chemical Society endorsing The Hague Ethical Guidelines, and condemning the use of chlorine as a chemical weapon, respectively. The Director-General thanked Professor Ruiz Loyola for the two letters and assured him that they would be published on the OPCW website.

5. AGENDA ITEM FIVE – Overview of developments at the OPCW since the last ABEO session

Subitem 5(a): General update

5.1 Mr Alexander Kelle, the Secretary of the ABEO, updated the Board on the most important developments in the Organisation's work since the Board's last meeting in October 2016. Regarding chemical weapon destruction, he informed the Board that the rate of overall destruction had surpassed 94% of declared stockpiles and that the elimination of Libyan Category 2 chemical weapons was still ongoing in Germany. Furthermore, Iraq had submitted a plan for the destruction of its chemical weapons remnants, which was approved by the Executive Council at its March 2017 session. Concerning Syrian chemical weapons, the ABEO Secretary noted a decision that the Executive Council had taken last November, requiring additional inspections to be conducted by the Secretariat. In addition, there are still outstanding issues related to Syria's initial declaration, the continuation of the Fact-Finding Mission's (FFM) work to investigate alleged use of chemical weapons, and continued cooperation with the UN-OPCW Joint Investigative Mechanism, part of which will be located at OPCW headquarters.

5.2 The ABEO Secretary further informed the Board about the work of the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism (OEWG-T). Since the last ABEO meeting, the priorities of the OEWG-T had been partnerships and the need to cooperate with the United Nations and other relevant international and regional organisations. This included practical aspects such as the role and use of standing legal arrangements for swift cooperation when time is of the essence in an emergency situation, and raising awareness and looking to enhance partnerships and cooperation with specific organisations.

- 5.3 The update on developments at the OPCW also addressed the work undertaken by the Organisation's Open-Ended Working Group on Future Priorities (OEWG-FP). Here, the ABEO Secretary elaborated on the three sessions of the OEWG-FP in November 2016, and January and February 2017. While the former focused on the OPCW's future relevance in broad terms, the latter two meetings dealt with verification—the first of the Organisation's four result areas. After an initial meeting with four presentations on different aspects of the verification regime, the second meeting provided an opportunity for States Parties to exchange views on future priorities relating to the verification regime. Several States Parties showed interest in ideas that had been put forward by the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB). In conclusion, the ABEO Secretary noted that the OEWG-FP planned to move on to the area of capacity development during its next session, which is scheduled for the first half of April.
- 5.4 In the subsequent discussion, the following points were raised:
- (a) The importance of the issue of central nervous system-acting chemicals, as discussed at the November meeting of the OEWG-FP. It was noted that fentanyl and some of its derivatives have become a major problem in the illicit drug scene in some countries. With more widespread knowledge about the production of such toxic chemical compounds, the risk of misuse would also increase and could present a challenge for the full and effective implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”).
 - (b) The question of other “result areas” (beyond verification) and under which one of these Education and Outreach (E&O) issues were addressed. It was clarified that E&O was an integral part of the engagement area, which also covered universality and collaboration with other international and regional organisations. It was noted that based on the OEWG-FP's current work programme, one could expect the result area of engagement to be taken up by the summer of 2017.
 - (c) The relationship of the OEWG-FP's work with the report put forward in 2011 by the so-called Ekéus Panel of experts (S/951/2011, dated 25 July 2011). In this context, the difference between their respective mandates was clarified: while the Ekéus Panel was set up by the Director-General, the OEWG-FP derives its mandate from an Executive Council decision taken at the Eighty-Second Session of the Executive Council in July 2016. However, some elements of the Ekéus Panel report were still relevant and as a result, the report was one of the documents proposed for consideration by the OEWG-FP Co-Chairs.
 - (d) Areas of cooperation with the Global Partnership programme. The Science Policy Advisor briefed the Board on a recent meeting organised by Italy as the new Chair. At this meeting, the need for enhanced coordination was identified as a key challenge. Interest was also voiced in engaging with more subject matter experts. In the context of chemical weapons, this might lead to intersessional meetings of the Global Partnership at OPCW headquarters.

Subitem 5(b): The ConfChem online conference and subsequent IUPAC publication

- 5.5 The Science Policy Advisor of the Organisation, Mr Jonathan Forman, updated the Board on the 2016 ConfChem online conference and subsequent publication of conference contributions. In May 2016, coinciding with the start of the 2016 OPCW Day event, the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) sponsored an open access online conference organised by the American Chemical Society Division of Chemical Education's Committee on Computers in Chemical Education and the OPCW. The conference, entitled "Science, Disarmament, and Diplomacy in Chemical Education: The Example of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons"¹ was launched using the ConfChem system, running from 2 May to 17 June 2016. Over these seven weeks, a paper was posted each week and readers asked questions and engaged the authors in discussion through the online platform. After the conference, the papers were revised and peer-reviewed for publication in a special edition of the IUPAC Journal *Pure and Applied Chemistry (PAC)*.² The Spring 2016 ConfChem is the second conference in the 23 year history of the system to be sponsored by IUPAC and the first chemistry education conference to be published in a special edition of *PAC*.
- 5.6 The seven papers included an overview of the importance of outreach and raising awareness of achieving the goals of universal chemical disarmament, three papers on the role of responsible science and ethics in chemistry education, a report on the use of sensors as educational tools for supporting scientific cooperation, a review of the chemistry and history of riot control agents, and a description of the analytical chemistry that identified sarin in the 2013 United Nations-led mission in the Syrian Arab Republic. Over the course of the event, the authors of the papers interacted with the 881 ConfChem system subscribers (primarily chemistry educators) and the conference received over 15,000 views (the number of views has since exceeded 21,000, as papers are still available online, however they are no longer open for discussion). Points that emerged from the online discussion included a debate on terminology used to describe chemicals with both peaceful and weapons-related purposes, and dual-use or multiple-use chemicals, and a discussion about the relevance of toxicology and understanding chemical toxicity by chemistry students, as this is a subject area often not included in the coursework required to receive a first-level chemistry degree.
- 5.7 The following points were raised in the subsequent discussion:
- (a) the importance of at least basic scientific and technical literacy for policy-makers, diplomats, and the wider public; and

¹ 2016 Spring ConfChem: Science, Disarmament, and Diplomacy in Chemical Education: The Example of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.
<http://confchem.ccece.divched.org/2016SpringConfChem>

² "Science, disarmament and diplomacy in chemical education: the example of the organisation for the prohibition of chemical weapons – The Spring 2016 Confchem"; R. E. Belford, J. E. Forman; *Pure and Applied Chemistry*. 20161115, ISSN (Online) 1365-3075, ISSN (Print) 0033-4545, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1515/pac-2016-1115>, January 2017.

- (b) the OPCW is already working on a number of innovative E&O activities using appropriate tools and materials.

6. AGENDA ITEM SIX – Status of ABEO recommendations

Subitem 6(a): Publicising condemnations of the use of toxic chemicals as weapons

- 6.1 The ABEO Secretary briefed the Board on this issue and noted that a press release was issued on 29 November 2016 containing all statements received up to that date.³ Additional statements will be added online after receipt (one from the Chemical Society of Japan is the latest currently available online). The most recent supporting statement transmitted by Professor Ruiz Loyola on behalf of the Mexican Chemical Society was to be added in due course (see paragraph 4.3 above).

Subitem 6(b): The OPCW's twentieth anniversary

- 6.2 Mr Chen Kai, Director of the External Relations Division (ERD), briefed the Board on his coordination of the celebration of the OPCW's twentieth anniversary year in 2017. He noted that the preparation of the programme has developed substantially since his last briefing in October 2016.
- 6.3 The ERD Director discussed the status of preparations for the twentieth anniversary of the OPCW. A commemorative ceremony will be held on 26 April 2017, for which the programme has been finalised and consultations concerning invitations and other logistical matters with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs are ongoing. The main anniversary event will include an official ceremony followed by six speakers who will address an invited audience. The audience will include NGOs, victims, staff members, and heads of States.
- 6.4 The ERD Director further noted that the Director-General sent a letter to Permanent Representatives of Member States regarding the twentieth anniversary. The Secretariat has also liaised with the Municipality of The Hague for advertising purposes to commemorate the anniversary of the OPCW.
- 6.5 Mr James Pentland from the Public Relations Branch (PAB) briefed the Board on the new twentieth anniversary microsite to be launched soon. Among other content, it will highlight 20 of the OPCW's achievements over its 20 years of existence. A demo of the microsite, which highlights sections of achievements, events, and resources, was presented to the ABEO. Mr Pentland also pointed out special accessibility features of the site, such as texts that are accessible for disabled persons and the google translate feature for access using different languages.
- 6.6 In the subsequent discussion, the following points were raised:
 - (a) continuity of the microsite: The microsite was to be launched in the coming weeks and remain live until the end of 2017. The site and its contents are to be preserved and remain accessible after 2017;

³ See <https://www.opcw.org/news/article/chemical-industry-councils-and-scientific-societies-condemn-use-of-chlorine-as-weapon/> for details.

- (b) the language to be used on the site: It was noted that the site will be available in the English language. The Board suggested considering the other official languages, but was informed that due to resource constraints, it would be challenging for the Secretariat to offer the site in different languages. However, closed captioning will be available for videos; and
- (c) expanded use of the twentieth anniversary theme: it was suggested that branded merchandise like ties, scarfs and badges could be produced for purchase, with proceeds to be donated to the victims fund, or a similarly worthy cause.

Subitem 6(c): Public diplomacy strategy

- 6.7 The ABEO was informed that this recommendation forms part of the strategic plan of the Public Affairs Branch of the External Relations Division, and will be taken up in 2017. For further discussion of this subitem, see Agenda Item 8(e).

Subitem 6(d): European Union-funded project on youth outreach

- 6.8 Mr Pentland (PAB), and Mr Alexander Kelle (ABEO Secretary) updated the Board on developments related to a European Union-funded project for youth outreach. They informed the members that intersessional consultations in the Secretariat had led to the conclusion that the recommendations for the project produced during the Board's October 2016 meeting could not be implemented. The Secretariat had therefore decided to revise the project and transfer it to PAB, which has the relevant expertise for its implementation.
- 6.9 The new project would recruit video-bloggers to create a number of short (3 to 4 minutes) YouTube videos illustrating aspects of the Convention and the OPCW's work. The PAB is to identify the subject matter experts to assist the vloggers. The appeal of the project is that these types of videos can attract tens or even hundreds of thousands of views, enabling the OPCW to reach significant numbers of people who would otherwise not be exposed to this information. This is also an approach more likely to engage younger people. The discussion of the new project idea is reflected in subitem 8(c) below.

7. AGENDA ITEM SEVEN – New Request from the Director-General to the ABEO

- 7.1 Following from the Director-General's opening remarks, the ABEO Secretary provided additional information on the "Director General's Request to the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach to Provide Advice on the Incorporation of Education and Outreach (E&O) Theory or Practice into E&O Activities of the OPCW, as the Organisation Transitions to a Focus on Preventing the Re-emergence of Chemical Weapons", as contained in Annex 2 of this report.
- 7.2 He noted the importance of demonstrating the connection of the Board's activities to the changing focus of the Organisation's work and emphasised that all elements of the Board's mandate needed to be addressed. Given the Organisation's limited expertise in the latest advances in educational theory and practice, this assumed high relevance in the advice the Board would be able to provide to the Organisation. Building on

these more conceptual considerations it was equally important that the advice from the Board be practicable, including concrete actions and projects.

- 7.3 In terms of a process and timeline for the production of the report requested by the Director-General, the ABEO Secretary suggested initially focusing on identifying best practices and the latest advances in educational theory and practice and relate these to the different areas of the Organisation's work. In addition to the Board's intersessional work the next ABEO meeting in August 2017 could benefit from inviting both internal and external experts to address these two elements. The remainder of 2017 could then be utilised to formulate concrete activities and educational tools for development and implementation from 2018 onward, as per the third component of the Director-General's request.
- 7.4 In the subsequent discussion, the following points were raised:
- (a) the utility of some of the ABEO's work to date in addressing the Director-General's request;
 - (b) the need to identify relevant expertise that the Board does not possess, in order to invite the relevant experts in a timely manner;
 - (c) the value of capturing the richness of regional diversity in E&O approaches and activities;
 - (d) the need to take stock of already existing E&O activities and programmes within the Organisation, including training; and
 - (e) the benefits of including earlier E&O initiatives, conferences and seminars undertaken by the OPCW in the Board's deliberations.
- 7.5 The SAB Chairperson, Dr Christopher Timperley, shared his experience with the ABEO members on how the SAB has dealt with similar requests it has received from the Director-General in the past.

8. AGENDA ITEM EIGHT – Reports by coordination groups

Subitem 8(a): Longer-term strategies

- 8.1 Ambassador Sa'ad Abdul Majeed Ibrahim Al-Ali briefed the Board on intersessional work related to longer-term strategies for the Organisation's E&O work. A discussion note prepared earlier was revised to take into account the Director-General's request to the ABEO.
- 8.2 The Working Group identified four stages for effective implementation of longer-term objectives:
- (a) studying current practices and reports, and establishing a framework for cooperation among States Parties and stakeholders;
 - (b) advocating the need for the strategic enrolment of stakeholders and target audiences, including curriculum developers into issues relating to the

Convention within their own cultural contexts. This stage might be valuable in preparing the next generation of stakeholders and audiences;

- (c) identifying best practices and devising institutional mechanisms and international cooperation for sharing best practices, complete with a reporting system; and
- (d) leveraging public diplomacy strategy to mobilise advocates for the Convention in civil society through new approaches in outreach.

8.3 The Working Group on Longer-Term Strategy recognised the need to take into account the differences in the time frame for taking actions and the timeline from action to impact. The impact of some actions focused on long-term priorities identified by the ABEO might well go beyond 2018. This was contrasted with the need to provide input for the substantive report by the end of 2017.

8.4 A list of priorities was identified by the Working Group:

- (a) study previous reports and tools;
- (b) capture best practices on E&O at both the national and regional levels;
- (c) locate regional advocates;
- (d) publish peer-reviewed reports on recent advances and best practices with a focus on adult learning;
- (e) contribute to ongoing E&O activities;
- (f) develop tools for public diplomacy; and
- (g) fine-tune and develop alternative strategies for knowledge networks.

Subitem 8(b): Outreach at the regional and national levels

8.5 Dr Anna Zalewska briefed the Board on regional, national, and local outreach. She noted that the Working Group aligned its work with the ABEO's common understanding of outreach strategies.

8.6 The outreach strategy needs to focus on engaging population segments that might not enjoy prior knowledge on matters relating to the Convention. The Working Group also recognised that future target audiences for outreach could in fact extend beyond the groups currently familiar with Convention issues and could include civil society and non-governmental organisations.

8.7 Regional meetings and surveys conducted by the Working Group on National Authorities have revealed broad diversity among regions, National Authorities, and other target audiences in terms of understanding issues relevant to the Convention. For some National Authorities, the outreach component of E&O may actually be more relevant than education.

- 8.8 In light of this diversity, different messages for the various target groups should be developed. The Board recognised that target audiences for outreach could be international and national communities of students, chemical associations and societies, chemical industries, national educational institutions, professional societies, civil society, non-governmental organisations and law enforcement. Furthermore, the specialised cultural organisations such as museums and others dedicated to children's education and permanent learning can be approached as potential vehicles for OPCW outreach. It was recommended that a list of institutions that address important OPCW issues be drawn up in each of the regions so that those potentially interested may contact them.
- 8.9 Sensitisation of stakeholders with different levels of knowledge about the Convention and the responsible use of chemistry and prevention of re-emergence could become the focus of the outreach strategy. To achieve satisfactory outreach results in different cultural milieu, the use of audio-visual and active learning tools was suggested with an aim to boost awareness among wider audiences.
- 8.10 Designing outreach strategies to match the local needs of target audiences from different regions and nations will likely require customisation. In particular, overcoming language barriers and the need to take cultural diversities into account would be central in developing relevant materials. Local needs and experiences would be key to using recent and historical experiences with chemical weapons and abuses of chemistry as teachable moments for raising interest in the OPCW's mission and goals.
- 8.11 In the subsequent discussion, the following points were raised:
- (a) Similar to the discussions under other subitems, the question of translation of materials in official and local languages was raised.
 - (b) In order to enhance the potential of E&O activities, the Board considered in particular whether the OPCW should seek to raise special funds, for which National Authorities or interested stakeholders could apply to support the translation of materials into additional national languages. This effort might also be undertaken by interested National Authorities. The Secretariat, with support from the ABEO, could compile a list of potential sources of funding to support such efforts. It would also be useful to have the Secretariat develop a short statement of support for and a policy on encouraging additional translation and provide some basic guidelines.
 - (c) The desirability of including additional funding for translation when new E&O projects are conceptualised, including by Secretariat units.
- 8.12 Recommendations:
- (a) The Board recommends that the OPCW seek to raise special funds for which National Authorities or interested stakeholders could apply to support the translation of materials into additional national languages.
 - (b) The Board requested the Secretariat, with support from the ABEO, to compile a list of potential sources of funding to support additional translation efforts.

Subitem 8(c): Youth outreach

- 8.13 Professor Benjamin Ruiz Loyola briefed the Board on the intersessional work in this area. He noted that even though the original project idea would not be implemented, he was of the opinion that the model could be applied at the regional or national levels.
- 8.14 Board members expressed support for the revised project introduced in subitem 6(d). However, it was also noted that the change in the project design eliminated the core idea of fostering a network of young people, the type of “next generation” initiatives undertaken in support of several disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation treaties. This led to the suggestion that such an initiative be considered as part of planning for the new task assigned by the Director-General.
- 8.15 In the subsequent discussion, the following additional points were raised:
- (a) collaborating with other international organisations in engaging youth including through networks, think tanks, and youth societies, so as to target a wider audience; and
 - (b) introducing educational video games for children aged 12 years and over. It was discussed that videos would be handy and informational for students. However, a distinction should be made as to which content would be appropriate for different age groups, such as university students; teens aged 16 and up, and those between the ages of 12 and 16.

Subitem 8(d): Assisting National Authorities

- 8.16 Dr Edith Valles briefed the Board on the work of the Coordination Group on assisting National Authorities, which was able to draw on the reports of meetings on E&O activities held in conjunction with four regional meetings of National Authorities in 2016. A number of ABEO members took part in these meetings and offered their own insight. In addition, the Secretariat conducted a follow-up survey of National Authorities that had participated, with a strong response rate of 66%. Taken together, this information provided the basis for the Coordination Group’s discussions and recommendations. The Coordination Group formulated two recommendations for immediate implementation by the Director-General through the Secretariat.
- 8.17 Based on evidence and experience, the Coordination Group members agreed on a number of conclusions on the current state of E&O activities:
- (a) Even though there is a certain level of awareness among National Authorities about the importance of E&O activities, there are those who do not yet recognise E&O as part of their mandate or consider it a priority.
 - (b) On the other hand, there are National Authorities in every region that are aware of the significance of E&O. Some have implemented activities at the national level, so there are experiences and lessons that could be shared among the National Authorities.

- (c) According to the results of the survey conducted by the Secretariat, a number of National Authorities cited the lack of resources as a barrier to undertaking E&O activities. In addition to financial resources, they also cited the need for OPCW materials translated into additional languages, the limited availability of capacity building for National Authorities, and a general lack of human resources.
- (d) The OPCW has materials that can be used by National Authorities, but there is a need to provide accessible and practical guidance in how to use them, including interactive methods that are most effective for engaging individuals and groups.
- (e) Training-for-trainers workshops could provide a foundation for building and sustaining the capacity of National Authorities to undertake E&O activities. Workshops could be adapted for particular purposes, such as special training needs for outreach targeting specific audiences.

In the subsequent discussion it was noted that in order to achieve maximum impact and effectiveness with the resources available, a follow-up, tracking, and assessment of the organised activities should be undertaken jointly by the Secretariat and National Authorities. These assessments can also help identify best practices.

8.18 Recommendations:

- (a) The Secretariat, with guidance and participation from the ABEO, is requested to organise a basic set of instructions to provide guidance for National Authorities on how best to use the materials provided by the OPCW on education and outreach, such as the “Fires” documentary series, the Multiple Uses of Chemicals website, and The Hague Ethical Guidelines. Additionally, new items in this area could be developed. It is important to highlight that in order to make the most of this initiative, newly developed educational materials should be presented in the OPCW’s official languages. English-only materials already posted to the OPCW website should also be translated into all official languages. All educational sets should be available via the OPCW web site, for example, in the form of a microsite developed for this purpose. They could also be available as print-outs for use at E&O events.
- (b) The Secretariat, with guidance and participation from the ABEO, is requested to organise a workshop that would bring together National Authorities from across the regions (including the WEOG) that have been active in E&O, along with additional experts, to share experiences and lessons learned and to provide practical guidance for future activities. If the necessary resources could be made available, it would be highly desirable to hold this workshop in November 2017 in conjunction with the annual meeting of National Authorities.

Subitem 8(e): Immediate challenges

- 8.19 Dr Jean Pascal Zanders presented a paper on immediate challenges in the field of E&O, in which he discusses how the OPCW could improve its public diplomacy strategy with a view to better informing and engaging key stakeholder communities

and the public about its responsibilities and objectives. He welcomed the communication from the ERD that, based on a previous recommendation from the Board, the Secretariat will be reviewing the document entitled “Public Diplomacy Strategy” (S/1215/2014, dated 23 September 2014). A thorough review and optimisation of this document would establish a firm basis for interacting with key stakeholder communities, which the OPCW is in the process of enhancing.

8.20 The paper also discusses the OPCW’s public communication concerning challenges facing the integrity of the regime under the Convention. It states that such communication can be improved through the development of a number of tools (such as a series of issue briefs highlighting different facets of the OPCW’s operations, decision-making processes, and institutional aspects) to be published on the website along with some specific public diplomacy initiatives (including, for example, regular webinars with specific stakeholders). The desired outcome of these combined efforts is to enhance the OPCW’s position as an authoritative source of fact-based information about the objectives and purposes of the Convention.

8.21 In the subsequent discussion, the following points were raised:

- (a) challenges with the public diplomacy strategy in terms of embracing the use of proactive communication with key stakeholders (through webinars, press meets, etc.);
- (b) the need to use neutral and carefully prepared issue briefs (in which the ABEO could assist the Secretariat if and when needed);
- (c) the need to address the specific needs of National Authorities, such as maintaining a balance in the communication chain; and
- (d) the ABEO appreciates that external communication about challenges facing the integrity of the Convention may be delicate; therefore it is crucial to freely and in a transparent manner provide stakeholder communities (both on the international and national levels) and the general public sufficient background information on key aspects of the OPCW’s activities.

8.22 Recommendations:

- (a) The ABEO recommends developing a series of issue briefs for publication on the OPCW’s updated website. These briefs could then be referred to in response to any queries. It is suggested that the series be launched as part of the twentieth anniversary activities highlighting different facets of the OPCW’s activities, decision-making processes, and institutional aspects. ABEO members could assist the Secretariat with the drafting and review of such issue briefs with respect to educational and outreach criteria.
- (b) The Board requests the Secretariat to initiate a systematic process of public diplomacy initiatives involving key stakeholder communities, including the press and opinion makers, with a view to build mutual trust and enhance understanding of the OPCW’s responsibilities and objectives.

- (c) With respect to key stakeholder communities, the ABEO recommends establishing a network, which might be called 'Friends of the Convention', involving at least one stakeholder in each State Party willing to convene with national and local stakeholders to facilitate informal briefings by and exchanges with OPCW officials during their visits to the State Party as part of the public diplomacy strategy.
- (d) The Board recommends that the public diplomacy strategy make efficient use of National Authorities as partners in engaging with key stakeholders and communicating in a proactive manner to cultivate common values.

Subitem 8(f): International organisations

- 8.23 Dr Johannes Georg Weinig briefed the Board on intersessional work on interaction with other international organisations. He noted that the Intersessional Coordination Group on Engagement with other International Organisations was established to launch cooperation with international organisations other than those directly connected to the field of chemistry with an aim to develop joint education and outreach strategies. During the ABEO intersessional period, national and international organisations were contacted and possible joint education and outreach strategies were discussed.
- 8.24 The discussion with the German Commission for UNESCO opened up an opportunity to anchor relevant OPCW E&O aspects that are already in secondary school textbooks and that could help reach informed and educated individuals and society members with increased awareness of the dual-uses of chemicals and the prevention of the re-emergence of chemical weapons, among other things, in the long term. Following the recommendation by UNESCO, the initiative should ideally include all larger disarmament treaties (the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, the Treaty on Non-Proliferation, and the Ottawa Convention). For that reason, ABEO members intensified existing contacts and engaged in establishing new contacts with relevant international organisations, such as the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, and the Chemical Heritage Foundation, among others.
- 8.25 UNESCO (Germany) is ready to take a leading position in this joint initiative with the OPCW as a major partner. Since textbook publishers cannot focus on a single organisation, OPCW could collaborate with other organisations on the development of comprehensive content.
- 8.26 In the subsequent discussion, the following points were made:
- (a) Board members suggested a number of ideas to support or expand the initiative, such as exploring other ways to work with UNESCO, establishing contacts with other international organisations involved in the responsible use of chemistry, and seeking similar opportunities for chemistry textbooks. It was noted that the Sustainable Development Goals are one important source of common ground for such engagement.
 - (b) The ABEO suggested that this joint initiative be considered in the deliberations of the Director-General's request.

- (c) The ABEO should identify bodies with similar mandates of other international and relevant organisations to explore common interests and potential collaboration.
- (d) The ABEO should explore the current status of activities in disarmament education by the UN Office of Disarmament Affairs to understand whether there are opportunities to increase the focus on chemical weapons disarmament and non-proliferation.

8.27 Recommendation:

With regard to engaging other international organisations and in line with the Director-General's request to ensure that the Organisation's education and outreach activities benefit from the latest advances in education and outreach theory or practice, the OPCW should intensify its cooperation with UNESCO in a joint initiative dedicated to implement dual use, peace and disarmament education in secondary school textbooks.

Subitem 8(g): The overarching theme

- 8.28 Dr Jean Pascal Zanders briefed the board on intersessional activities conducted on the overarching theme for the Organisation's E&O work. An overarching theme could be useful as part of the OPCW's education, outreach, public diplomacy, and training activities to communicate to stakeholders a sense of common purpose shared among all OPCW activities currently in progress and envisaged for the future.
- 8.29 Dr Zanders suggested the adoption of the phrase 'prevention of the re-emergence of chemical weapons' as the overarching theme. He stated that the proposed phrase needs more substance, while retaining sufficient flexibility to be applied in different functional contexts (training of national authorities, outreach to key stakeholders) and to address different topics (international cooperation, prevention of terrorism, and the responsibilities of scientists and industry).
- 8.30 Dr Zanders therefore proposed letting the phrase 'prevention of the re-emergence of chemical weapons' develop organically. To this end, he suggested that the phrase be adopted in every public discourse and that the speaker systematically elaborate the term in relation to the theme of the discourse and the audience.
- 8.31 Adoption of an overarching theme would not preclude the use of additional sub-themes for specific audiences and stakeholders, such as 'Responsible science' or 'Women in chemistry'.
- 8.32 In the subsequent discussion, clarification of the phrase 'prevention of the re-emergence of chemical weapons' was sought with a view to make it more accessible for the general public. It was suggested that definition of the overall underlying meaning of this theme be developed, but it was then noted that it is not the ABEO's role to define the meaning of this theme. Rather, its meaning could be portrayed in a variety of ways depending on the circumstances and the audiences.

8.33 Recommendations:

- (a) The Board recommends that the OPCW adopt the phrase ‘prevention of the re-emergence of chemical weapons’ as the overarching theme in its interactions with stakeholders to communicate a sense of common purpose to all OPCW activities currently in progress and envisaged for the future.
- (b) The ABEO strongly encourages that OPCW staff members systematically dedicate one or more paragraphs to this concept in every public discourse (speech, introduction, seminar, training activity, outreach event, public diplomacy, online educational modules, or publications, etc.) and provide an outline of the theme in relation to the audience, illustrating how the various aspects or objectives of a specific activity contribute to the overarching goal suggested by the phrase.
- (c) The microsite created for the OPCW’s twentieth anniversary could introduce an explanatory text on the meaning of ‘prevention of the re-emergence of chemical weapons’.

Subitem 8(h): Stakeholder Communities

- 8.34 The Board was briefed on the successful activities aimed at increasing the number of chemical societies supporting the condemnation of the use of chlorine as a weapon, and encouraged Board members who are active in this area to continue their activities.

Subitem 8(i): Themes and coordination groups for the next intersessional period

- 8.35 The ABEO noted the suggestions for longer-term strategies (subitem 8(a)) that could guide the work in support of the Director-General’s request, as contained in Annex 2 to this report. These are:
- (a) study previous reports and tools available at the OPCW of relevance to E&O activities;
 - (b) compile best practices on ongoing E&O activities in the framework of the OPCW at both national and regional levels;
 - (c) locate advocates to promote E&O activities among States Parties, former OPCW Alumni and other target audiences;
 - (d) publish peer-reviewed best practice reports on E&O actions based on recent advances;
 - (e) enhance of ongoing training-for-trainers activities;
 - (f) develop interventional tools for public diplomacy for larger outreach, and
 - (g) fine-tune and develop alternative strategies for establishing knowledge networks.
- 8.36 The ABEO Chairperson and Secretary will discuss next steps to move forward on the Director-General’s request and will inform Board members via the Yammer

discussion platform. A call for members to lead activities in preparation of the report will also be communicated via Yammer.

9. AGENDA ITEM NINE – Presentations by ABEO members

Subitem 9(a): Activity reports

- 9.1 The ABEO Chairperson, Dr Jean Pascal Zanders, briefed the Board on his presentations to the Eight-Third Session of the Executive Council and the Conference of the States Parties at its Twenty-First Session. He mentioned that the presentation to the States Parties was sent to the ABEO and was published on the OPCW website.
- 9.2 Dr Zanders also briefed the Board on his presentation at the Twenty-Fourth Session of the Organisation's Scientific Advisory Board on 25 October 2016.
- 9.3 In the subsequent discussion, the following points were raised:
- (a) It was noted that there is an overlap in a number of areas in terms of how the SAB has successfully engaged diplomats via education in chemistry and why this knowledge is important.
 - (b) In some specific areas, closer collaboration between the ABEO and SAB may be useful, while recognising the ABEO's specific mandate and scope of activities.
 - (c) Following from the above point, concern was expressed as to whether the ABEO was focusing too much on possible 'convergence' with the SAB. The mandate of the ABEO clearly provides for going beyond engagement with scientists. The ABEO Chairperson noted that in any future collaborative initiative with the SAB, the terms of the ABEO's mandate would be preserved, and those of the SAB respected.
- 9.4 Professor Fatima Lamchouri reported to the Board on the Thematic School Biosafety/Biosecurity – Chemical Safety/Chemical Security, which she organised, including the administration and technicalities of the course.
- 9.5 In the subsequent discussion, the following points were raised:
- (a) issues related to laboratory biosafety;
 - (b) the combination of theory and practical research in the course; and
 - (c) the differentiation between biosafety and biosecurity and how that is communicated to students.
- 9.6 Dr Aluoch informed the Board about the project on Chemical Safety and Security spearheaded by the Kenya Chemical Society. The project focuses on raising awareness of chemical security. He highlighted the workshops and outreach programmes conducted in Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia and Somalia in 2015–2017, as well as conferences scheduled in 2017—specifically the Ninth International Conference of the Kenya Chemical Society that will have a session dedicated to Convention and chemical security. Dr Aluoch also informed the Board of sources of funding related to chemical security. He further noted that some outreach activities

were underway at high schools, with additional activities planned for the future. Members of the project have participated in some active learning.

9.7 In the subsequent discussion, the following points were raised:

- (a) engaging Africa in the activities of the OPCW: The SAB Chairperson, Dr Christopher Timperley, noted the SAB's attempts to engage Africa in its work. He proposed that Dr Aluoch could involve the SAB in one of his outreach projects;
- (b) Dr Zanders drew the Board's attention to the wide range of stakeholder communities (chemical and distribution supply line, waste management, chemical engineers, and law enforcement) to which the project was reaching out and the different methodologies used. He suggested that it might be useful for local points of contact to draw up lists identifying specific stakeholder communities when planning and preparing activities. Within the context of recurring discussions on funding, he further noted that the Kenyan initiative had been able to tap into a variety of funding sources. He therefore suggested that Board members consider the possibility of drafting a list of potential sources of funding to which National Authorities or other local stakeholders might apply in support of E&O activities.

Subitem 9(b): New issues and initiatives for consideration

9.8 The ABEO Chairperson informed the Board Members of exploratory talks about setting up a trust fund for the ABEO. Since the October meeting, he enquired with staff members of the Secretariat about the necessary steps to set up a trust fund, which would be administered by the Organisation. Dr Zanders further noted that the Director-General would consider the option once firm commitments were in place to support such a fund by States Parties or other international organisations. To take this initiative forward, the next step would be to approach representatives of States Parties and international organisations. The Board encouraged the ABEO Chairperson to continue this initiative.

9.9 Dr Zanders discussed holding a seminar on the centenary of the first use of mustard agent. He stated that the seminar could address the history of the use of mustard agent in order to make people understand its implications for the future. Dr Zanders noted that there is a certain degree of political sensitivity associated with this topic. Also, an initial proposed date for the seminar of 12 July had proven impractical, as it would have coincided with the Eighty-Fifth Session of the Executive Council. He also reported that the Director-General had suggested Ieper as a suitable venue for such a seminar and suggested organising the event alongside a commemoration planned in Ieper on 11 November 2017.

9.10 In the subsequent discussion, the following points were raised:

- (a) Concern was raised as to the scope of the ABEO and differentiation of the Board's activities from those of individual members. The SAB Chairperson, Dr Timperley, noted how the seminar could be a collaboration between the ABEO and the SAB. The proposal could also be adjusted to be better aligned with the twentieth anniversary theme.

- (b) After consideration and discussion by the Board members, it was agreed that the ABEO will not pursue a seminar on the centenary of the first use of mustard agent, and it was suggested that possibilities for an ABEO-supported E&O activity related to the commemoration on 11 November 2017 be discussed with the Secretariat.
- 9.11 Dr Zanders briefed the Board on a discussion with representatives from the Islamic Republic of Iran about the ABEO's objectives and activities. The Islamic Republic of Iran would like to send a request to explore some aspects with the ABEO, such as how the Islamic Republic of Iran could organise and enhance its outreach and education activities, primarily with respect to academics and art initiatives.
- 9.12 As this was the first time a State Party approached the ABEO in accordance with the ABEO mandate, Dr Zanders noted that any ABEO member could be approached in a similar way. Following consultation with the Secretariat, he proposed while ABEO members can offer immediate informal advice, any formal request to the ABEO should be transmitted by the State Party to the ABEO Secretary for further action. After the agreement of the Board, Dr Zanders communicated this decision to representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran and further noted it during the briefing to States Parties at the Third Meeting of the ABEO on 16 March 2017.
- 9.13 Dr Jo Husbands briefed the Board on an e-learning proposal. Following a presentation made by the Human Resources Branch in October 2016 there was a need to explore further opportunities to strengthen the Organisation's e-learning offerings. One current limitation lies in the platform used, which was originally acquired for limited internal training purposes and expanded in an ad hoc manner as demands grew over time. In the context of the Director-General's recent request to the Board, it was agreed that further exploration of the scope of the Organisation's approach to and content of e-learning should be undertaken. There was consensus that the discussion would further benefit from a presentation by an invited expert on a recent e-learning initiative undertaken by the EU Non-Proliferation Consortium (see paragraphs 10.11 to 10.13 below for further details).

10. AGENDA ITEM TEN – Presentations

Subitem 10(a): Observers

- 10.1 The SAB Chairperson, Dr Christopher Timperley, presented an overview of the history, role, and activities of the SAB. This included details of the four workshops of the SAB to inform its science and technology report to the Fourth Review Conference of the Convention in 2018 (the main focus of the SAB's work at present).
- 10.2 The first two SAB workshops, held in 2016, addressed chemical forensics (in Helsinki) and medical countermeasures to chemical agent poisoning (in France). Two workshops are scheduled for 2017: one on emerging technologies (Brazil), and another on chemical production technologies (Croatia). These workshops seek to engage international experts to informing the SAB of the latest developments in science and technology.

- 10.3 Two cases of the SAB's outreach were highlighted: an interactive Science for Diplomats presentation on riot control agents, and the SAB's address to the Conference of the States Parties which included information on chlorine gas.
- 10.4 The SAB was able to successfully communicate scientific issues to policy-makers and the wider scientific community in a clear, easy-to-understand manner through the publication of peer-reviewed papers. The SAB's reach has been extended by communication of its work in visually attractive posters developed by the Secretariat. The presentation ended with suggestions for areas of potential collaboration between the SAB and ABEO.

Subitem 10(b): Experts

- 10.5 Mr Jonathan Forman (OPCW Science Policy Adviser and Secretary to the SAB) provided the Board with an overview on the convergence of chemistry and biology. He reviewed the 2014 report on convergence from the Scientific Advisory Board and what has transpired across the field since its publication. The presentation provided insight into the nature of scientific development and how it advances through ideas and methods shared across disciplines, noting that scientific disciplinary boundaries are themselves dynamic. An important aspect of understanding why there appears to be a "convergence" between chemistry and biology is that the science of biology does not exist without chemistry, making it natural that there is an overlap of activity between these two scientific areas. Likewise, converging sciences with relevance to chemistry are not limited to the chemical and biological interface.
- 10.6 Mr Forman explained that the concept of scientific convergence continues to raise questions and bring uncertainty into discussions on scientific and technological implications for both the Chemical and Biological Weapons Conventions. Adding to that uncertainty, many reports (including that of the SAB) note that many developments should continue to be monitored, but no immediate action is required. Noting that many high-visibility threats involve easily accessible chemicals, known chemical agents, and naturally occurring diseases, Mr Forman stressed the need to be practical and not lose sight of biochemical threats with low barriers for misuse, especially within the context of "what if" scenarios based on intriguing new scientific research.
- 10.7 From the perspective of convergence and its implications for non-technical Convention stakeholders, practical advice and recommendations are needed. In this regard, a productive discourse on science and policy is essential. New developments will always pose challenges to established regulatory frameworks, and with convergence this can be observed in relation to bio production methods and Article VI declarations. However, it should be recognised that there has not been a new chemical and life science discovery that—if used in a manner that violates the Chemical or Biological Weapons Conventions—would fall outside the respective general-purpose criteria. Considerations would also benefit from a holistic view of what drives technological development and where it finds application (the capabilities of the technology, regardless of the specific field of science). There is also a need to be able to recognise opportunities from across scientific disciplines enabling more effective implementation of the Convention, rather than taking a reactionary approach to scientific change.

- 10.8 In terms of education and outreach, Mr Forman suggested that the complexity of scientific developments and where they intersect with the Convention are important topics to discuss with non-technical stakeholders to ensure there is a dimension of scientific literacy in policymaking. It also provides a forum for technical stakeholders to appreciate the nuances and critical aspects of communicating their work to non-technical partners. Convergence offers many opportunities for such discussions and raising awareness of the importance of science in disarmament.
- 10.9 The following points were raised in the discussion that followed:
- (a) ways and means through which the ABEO could provide education on the concept of convergence: Mr Forman noted that it is important to understand that multidisciplinary science is the natural way for scientific progress to occur and is not a threat; and
 - (b) the best way for the ABEO to act on the information provided: Mr Forman noted that scientific dimensions should be included in the Convention awareness programmes. It is important to acknowledge the beneficial contributions of science in disarmament and of sufficient scientific literacy to make decisions requiring technical considerations.
- 10.10 Dr Giorgio Franceschini (Chairman of the EU Non-Proliferation Consortium and Senior Researcher at the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt, (PRIF)) provided the Board with an overview on the activities of the European Union (EU) in non-proliferation and disarmament education. He highlighted the fact that since 2014, the EU has subsidised 48 internships in European think tanks specialising in non-proliferation and disarmament research. Furthermore he drew attention to the launch of the EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament e-learning course to begin in late March 2017. This course consists of 15 learning units and is the only comprehensive e-learning course on the market covering both non-conventional and conventional weapons. It has dedicated learning units on the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear terrorism, compliance and enforcement, and export controls, and targets a broad audience of both practitioners and scholars. It can be reached through the Consortium's webpage (www.nonproliferation.eu) or directly at www.nonproliferation-elearning.eu.
- 10.11 Dr Franceschini highlighted the challenges of and opportunities for promoting non-proliferation and disarmament education through distance learning and e-learning. On the one hand, e-learning offers the possibility of disseminating knowledge broadly and reaching high numbers of course participants. It allows junior diplomats or journalists to enter a new field on the arms control agenda quickly and to remain up to speed easily, as e-learning material—unlike written publications—can be easily updated. On the other hand, empirical data show alarmingly high drop-out rates for all e-learning courses, and therefore special attention must be devoted to the didactical aspect of these types of courses, which should maintain high levels of student motivation and online engagement over a prolonged period of time. This can only be achieved by keeping the learning units relatively short, thus limiting the competence transfer to a number of core issues. E-learning is therefore an ideal tool for entering into a new field of study in the non-proliferation and disarmament

domain and to get acquainted with the key issues. For a more in-depth analysis of an arms control regime, traditional classroom training or more extensive written publications remain indispensable.

10.12 The following points were raised in the discussion that followed:

- (a) the open-source nature of online learning resources, whereby everyone would be able to access it globally;
- (b) the kind of expertise required to develop these tools. Dr Franceschini explained his collaboration with the didactics unit at Frankfurt University, which monitors e-learning courses for students and employs specialist staff in this area;
- (c) translation of the modules into different languages. While there are plans to implement English subtitles and other accessibility tools, the project has not considered implementing other languages at this stage; and
- (d) the duration and sustainability of the project. Dr Franceschini mentioned that he is applying for follow-up funding to expand the course and maintain the e-learning platform.

11. AGENDA ITEM ELEVEN – Any Other Business

- 11.1 At the start of the meeting on 16 March, the ABEO Chairperson reminded Board members of the 29th anniversary of the tragedy of Halabja in Iraq where the Kurdish civilian population was exposed to chemical weapons. He also made reference to the 30th anniversary of the chemical strikes against Sardasht this year. Both attacks represented a major shift in the nature of chemical warfare, as they were the first chemical attacks deliberately targeting civilians. Similarly, the Tokyo subway incident of 20 March 1995 marked a significant change in the terrorist use of chemical weapons. These anniversaries are pertinent reminders that even though the Convention brought a lot of progress, chemical weapon attacks do still occur, particularly since 2013. For that reason, the ABEO should build its message in a concrete manner to stay close to today's realities and boost public awareness.
- 11.2 Board members welcomed the interest shown in the ABEO's work by delegations during the lunch-time briefing for States Parties on 16 March 2017.
- 11.3 The ABEO Secretary informed Board members about upcoming guidance to be issued by the Director-General on interaction among Secretariat units, the ABEO, and individual Board members. While making use of ABEO expertise for OPCW events is generally encouraged, the ABEO Secretary should be informed about the planned involvement of Board members before these are approached. Any formal tasking of the Board requires approval by the Director-General and the necessary procedure will be coordinated by the ABEO Secretary.
- 11.4 ABEO members noted with appreciation the offer by the Director-General to receive regular updates about media coverage of the Organisation and implementation of the Convention.

12. AGENDA ITEM TWELVE – Discussion and adoption of the session report

The ABEO discussed and adopted the report of its Third Session.

13. AGENDA ITEM THIRTEEN – Closure of the session

The Chairperson closed the session at 17:46 on 16 March 2017.

Annexes:

Annex 1: List of Participants in the Third Session of the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach

Annex 2: Director-General's Request to the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach to Provide Advice on the Incorporation of Education and Outreach (E&O) Theory or Practice into E&O Activities of the OPCW, as the Organisation Transitions to a Focus on Preventing the Re-emergence of Chemical Weapons

Annex 1

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

1. Dr Sa'ad Ibrahim Al-Ali
2. Dr Austin Aluoch
3. Prof. Masahiko Asada
4. Prof. Philip Coleman
5. Dr Jo Husbands
6. Prof. Fatima Lamchouri
7. Dr Thirumalachari Ramasami
8. Dr Valentin Rubaylo
9. Prof. Benjamín Ruiz Loyola
10. Dr Edith Valles (Vice-Chairperson of the ABEO)
11. Prof. Wang Wencai
12. Dr Johannes Georg Weinig
13. Dr Anna Zalewska
14. Dr Jean Pascal Zanders (Chairperson of the ABEO)
15. Dr Mark Cesa (observer–IUPAC)
16. Ms Cindy Rouwhorst (observer)
17. Dr Christopher Timperley (SAB Chairperson and observer)
18. Dr Giorgio Franceschini (expert speaker)

* Apologies: Prof. Alastair Hay and Mr Francis Levêque (observer).

Annex 2

**DIRECTOR GENERAL'S REQUEST TO THE ADVISORY BOARD ON
EDUCATION AND OUTREACH TO PROVIDE ADVICE ON THE
INCORPORATION OF EDUCATION AND OUTREACH (E&O) THEORY OR
PRACTICE INTO E&O ACTIVITIES OF THE OPCW, AS THE ORGANISATION
TRANSITIONS TO A FOCUS ON PREVENTING THE RE-EMERGENCE OF
CHEMICAL WEAPONS**

1. As the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) shifts its focus, in the short to medium term, from chemical disarmament to preventing the re-emergence of chemical weapons, the role of education and outreach (E&O) in implementing the Convention takes on greater importance (EC-79/DG.11, dated 29 May 2015). A holistic approach to preventing the re-emergence of chemical weapons could affect verification activities, capacity development, engagement with a broad range of stakeholders, as well as the governance of the Organisation (S/1252/2015, dated 6 March 2015).
2. The mandate of the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach (ABEO) has at its core the provision to ensure that the Organisation's E&O activities, and those of States Parties, are effective, sustainable, cost-effective, and benefit from the latest advances in education and outreach theory or practice (C-20/DEC.9, dated 3 December 2015).
3. The Director-General therefore requests the ABEO to address the following questions in a written report to be submitted to him by the end of 2017:
 - (a) Given the mandate of the ABEO (as mentioned in paragraph 2), what are current best practices as well as the latest advances in education and outreach theory or practice that are of relevance to the E&O activities of the OPCW?
 - (b) How could the practices and advances identified in the ABEO's answer to question (a) be best utilised to enhance the Organisation's E&O activities in support of the different aspects of preventing the re-emergence of chemical weapons identified in paragraph 1 above?
 - (c) Based on the answer to question (b), which concrete action (both conduct of activities and development of educational tools) should the Organisation, States Parties, as well as the ABEO and its members pursue as a matter of priority from 2018 onward, so as to enhance both the scope and the reach of the OPCW's E&O activities?