



**REPORT OF THE FOURTH 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 Fourth Session from 29 to 31 August 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 10:00 on 29 August 2017.
- 1.3 A list of participants is contained in the Annex to this report.

2. AGENDA ITEM TWO – Adoption of the agenda, appointment of drafting committee

2.1 The ABEO adopted the following agenda for its Fourth Session:

- 1. Opening of the session
- 2. Adoption of the agenda, appointment of drafting committee
- 3. Address by the Director-General
- 4. Overview of developments at the OPCW since the last session of the ABEO
 - (a) General updates
 - (b) Draft strategic plan for education and outreach
- 5. Status of ABEO recommendations
- 6. Reports from ABEO members on intersessional activities
- 7. Presentation and discussion of draft report in response to the Director-General's tasking
- 8. Interactive session
- 9. Facilitated session on elements of the report to the Director-General
- 10. Meeting with Division and Branch Heads
- 11. Assignment of tasks and responsibilities regarding finalisation of report to the Director-General
- 12. Any other business
- 13. Presentation and discussion of the draft session report



14. Adoption of the session report
 15. Closure of the session
- 2.2 The Board appointed Dr Jean Pascal Zanders, Professor Alastair Hay, Dr Thirumalachari Ramasami, and Dr Edith Valles to the drafting committee.

3. AGENDA ITEM THREE – Address by the Director-General

- 3.1 The Director-General of the OPCW Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) welcomed the ABEO members to the Fourth Session of the Board. He emphasised that international attention on the Organisation was set to grow, and that this would both pose challenges and present opportunities for the Organisation’s education and outreach.
- 3.2 The Director-General noted the need to ensure that the media and members of the public understand the role and mandate of the Organisation to secure continued international cooperation and support for the ban on chemical weapons. He underscored the OPCW’s success in destroying more than 95% of the world’s declared stockpiles of chemical weapons. He also recalled that he had requested the Board to identify best education and outreach practices of relevance to the OPCW’s work and a portfolio of specific activities that the OPCW, its States Parties and the ABEO should pursue. He also requested the ABEO’s advice in the formulation of a new strategy for OPCW education and outreach, to be undertaken in consultation with the Secretariat.
- 3.3 Following the Director-General’s address, the Board discussed several topics of interest with the Director-General, including universalisation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”), the challenge of non-State actors, and ways that the OPCW could broaden its outreach activities towards young people (“future generations”) and the general public.

4. AGENDA ITEM FOUR – Overview of developments at the OPCW since the last session of the ABEO

Subitem 4(a): General updates

- 4.1 Members of the staff of the Secretariat briefed the Board on developments at the OPCW during the intersessional period. Topics covered included developments with regard to the Syrian Arab Republic, relations with the chemical industry, progress in the deliberations of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Future Priorities of the OPCW (OEWG-FP), the process for electing the next Director-General, and the Organisation’s Draft Programme and Budget for 2018.
- 4.2 In the subsequent discussion, the following points were raised:
- (a) the importance of the ABEO remaining abreast of the deliberations of the OEWG-FP; and
 - (b) the potential outreach benefits of greater openness in the process of electing the next Director-General of the OPCW.

Subitem 4(b): Draft strategic plan for education and outreach

- 4.3 The Director of the Office of Strategy and Policy briefed the Board on the Director-General's request that the Board's report to him should also contain input to a strategic plan for OPCW education and outreach for the period until 2021. A framework for the strategic plan was shared with the Board.
- 4.4 In the discussion that followed, Board members raised the relationship between the ABEO's recommendations and the resources available to the Organisation to carry out those recommendations, and how each can influence the other. It was noted that the question of resource allocation was ultimately the responsibility of the Secretariat and of the States Parties.

5. AGENDA ITEM FIVE – Status of ABEO recommendations

- 5.1 The Head of the Public Affairs Branch of the External Relations Division briefed the Board on the Branch's work in implementing previous ABEO recommendations. Among the initiatives discussed were the success of a range of 20th anniversary efforts including reaching approximately 289,000 people (to date) through the 20th anniversary social media measures, progress in implementing the European Union-funded project on next-generation outreach, progress in the redesign of the OPCW website, the upcoming OPCW Open Day, and progress in attracting increased participation by non-governmental organisations at the Twenty-Second Session of the Conference of the States Parties.
- 5.2 It was emphasised that the global situation in 2017 had presented both significant opportunities and challenges for the Organisation in its outreach. Shared with the Board was the scope of the website overhaul project, which includes a new look and feel as well as improved user experience, a new back-end system for managing content, and a new hosting platform. The aim is to launch a website in early 2018 that will serve the OPCW for the next decade. The Board was invited to provide suggestions on the content of the educational part of the website with the understanding that substantial changes may be implemented in later phases of website development.
- 5.3 The Board was also briefed by a Senior Coordination and Planning Officer from the Implementation Support Branch of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division (ICA). She thanked those Board members who had contributed to regional meetings of States Parties in the previous months. It was noted that many National Authorities were carrying out education and outreach activities, but those activities may not be always labelled as such. Capacity constraints within National Authorities were raised as a challenge which could constrain States Parties from doing more education and outreach. Constraints are particularly visible in the area of coordination with different stakeholders and resource mobilisation. In this respect, practical support from the Secretariat could be provided to National Authorities, such as materials and concrete ideas about the format and agenda of programme activities, to be able to host symposia or similar events on the Convention. These could be organised back to back with other programmed OPCW events (such as training events and meetings) taking place in States Parties.

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

- (a) challenges related to translating the official website into official and non-official languages, and the possibility of using students or other volunteers as well as automated processes in creating courtesy translations for the new website; and
- (b) the need for early input from the Board on education and outreach resources for the website overhaul project.

6. AGENDA ITEM SIX – Reports from ABEO members on intersessional activities

6.1 Board members reported on their engagement in education and outreach-related events organised by the OPCW during the intersessional period. Members had been involved in regional meetings of States Parties, a meeting of the OEWG-FP, and the OPCW's Symposium on Women in Chemistry. Members also reported on their other activities, including the development of a massive open online course (MOOC) on chemical weapons, a meeting with staff of the Provisional Technical Secretariat of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), and participation in Pugwash Conferences.

6.2 The following points were raised:

- (a) the need for National Authorities to focus, as appropriate, on the chemical industry as an audience of education and outreach;
- (b) the synergies that could be exploited between the education and outreach programmes and strategies of the OPCW and the CTBTO, including the possibility of the OPCW creating a group of active young people to support the Convention's implementation; and
- (c) the need to take into account demographic differences in learning approaches and tools, particularly when engaging next-generation audiences and the media.

7. AGENDA ITEM SEVEN – Presentation and discussion of draft report in response to the Director-General's tasking

7.1 The Board discussed progress in responding to the Director-General's tasking, with a view to submitting a final report by the end of 2017. At the outset, the Board focused on exploring the reasons why education and outreach were important for the Convention and the OPCW, as this would provide a strategic underpinning for subsequent proposals.

7.2 Assistance that could be provided to National Authorities was raised, as well as the need to differentiate between different levels of development and capacity among National Authorities in the field of education and outreach, and the effect of differences in the structure of National Authorities on their ability to carry out education and outreach. The Board discussed outreach to the chemical industry, academics and students, the informal chemical sector, policymakers, and the public and society at large, as well as the need to prioritise among these different audiences.

8. AGENDA ITEM EIGHT – Interactive session

- 8.1 Dr Clarissa Dirks (observer) introduced the Board to the latest education theories and active learning techniques, and how those could relate to the education and outreach work of the OPCW. She discussed the scientific research that underpinned recent advances in this area, and led the Board through several exercises based on active learning techniques. Members engaged in interactive discussions on learning methods and on defining the objectives and measurable outcomes for the OPCW's education and outreach.
- 8.2 Professor Alastair Hay led the Board in a discussion of the various pedagogical approaches that could be used in teaching about the multiple uses of chemicals and about The Hague Ethical Guidelines. The Board discussed possible recommendations that it could make to the Secretariat, drawing on those pedagogical approaches, for the conduct of the OPCW's training and educational programmes. Discussions centred around deployment of active learning techniques in meetings with National Authorities (including the reinforcement of messages emerging from the regional meetings) and in training of trainers and following up on e-learning modules with in-person training and other pedagogical approaches suited to various target audiences including media and industry.

9. AGENDA ITEM NINE – Facilitated session on elements of the report to the Director-General

Facilitated by a Senior Policy Officer of the Office of Strategy and Policy, the Board broke into groups to discuss in further depth the OPCW's education and outreach strategy towards groups of major stakeholders, including academia, industry, scientists, policymakers and civil society, with the aim of generating consensus on the strategic underpinning for that education and outreach, and the key messages that should be communicated to each group. The results of the group discussions were discussed by the Board as a whole, and will feed into the Board's report to the Director-General on education and outreach strategy.

10. AGENDA ITEM TEN – Meeting with Division and Branch Heads

- 10.1 The Directors of the External Relations Division (ERD) and the Verification Division (VER), the Acting Director of the ICA, the Heads of the Public Affairs Branch (ERD), the Political Affairs Branch (ERD), and the OPCW Laboratory (VER), and the Acting Heads of the Implementation Support Branch (ICA) and the International Cooperation Branch (ICA) engaged with the Board in a discussion about their current education and outreach practices, approaches and activities.
- 10.2 During the discussion, Secretariat staff outlined the scope and goals of their activities, how they differentiated between education and outreach, how they evaluated the effectiveness of their activities, and the tools they used. The following themes emerged from the session:
- (a) The Secretariat uses education and outreach for different purposes, from improving the effectiveness of the verification system, to building skills and capacities in National Authorities, to reaching the general public and policymakers.

- (b) While each Division has different target groups for education and outreach, there is some overlap in the audiences targeted by different parts of the Secretariat.
- (c) Assessment and evaluation are areas of focus for many parts of the Secretariat, with varying tools used; it was noted that progress could be made in making better use of feedback to tailor future programmes.
- (d) All relevant parts of the Secretariat are sensitive to the value of education and outreach to their work.
- (e) The Board's value can be in providing the strategic underpinning to the Secretariat's education and outreach work, with buy-in from States Parties, and the Board should be working with the Secretariat to that end.

10.3 Following the session with Secretariat staff, Board members exchanged views on the inputs received and how those might be reflected in the Board's report to the Director-General. The Director-General joined the Board to further discuss the focus of the Board's upcoming report.

11. AGENDA ITEM ELEVEN – Assignments of tasks and responsibilities regarding finalisation of report to the Director-General

11.1 The Board discussed its approach to the finalisation of its report to the Director-General. Responsibilities were assigned to individual members of the Board to enable the report to be finalised by the end of 2017.

11.2 The Board considered that an executive summary of its report could be published and made available for distribution to States Parties.

12. AGENDA ITEM TWELVE – Any other business

The Board decided to hold its Fifth Session from 27 February to 1 March 2018 and its Sixth Session from 28 to 30 August 2018. Board members raised no other items of business.

13. AGENDA ITEM THIRTEEN – Presentation and discussion of the draft session report

The Board discussed and finalised its report.

14. AGENDA ITEM FOURTEEN – Adoption of the session report

The Board adopted the report of its Fourth Session.

15. AGENDA ITEM FIFTEEN – Closure of the session

The Chairperson closed the session at 16:09 on 31 August 2017.

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

Annex

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS* IN THE FOURTH 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. Alastair Hay
5. Dr Jo Husbands
6. Prof. Fatima Lamchouri
7. Dr Thirumalachari Ramasami
8. Prof. Benjamín Ruiz Loyola
9. Dr Edith Valles (Vice-Chairperson of the ABEO)
10. Prof. Wang Wencai
11. Dr Johannes Georg Weinig
12. Dr Anna Zalewska
13. Dr Jean Pascal Zanders (Chairperson of the ABEO)
14. Dr Mark Cesa (observer: IUPAC)
15. Prof. Clarissa Dirks (observer)
16. Francis Lévêque (observer: ICCA)

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* Apologies: Prof. Phillip Coleman and Dr Valentin Rubaylo