



**OPCW**

**Advisory Board on Education and  
Outreach**

Fifth Session  
27 February – 1 March 2018

ABEO-5/2  
1 March 2018  
Original: ENGLISH

**REPORT OF THE FIFTH 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 Fifth Session from 27 February to 1 March 2018 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 27 February 2018.
- 1.3 The Board noted Professor Benjamín Ruiz's absence and wished him a speedy recovery.
- 1.4 The Board thanked Dr Edith Valles for her contributions to the work of the Board and wished her every success in her new position.
- 1.5 A list of participants is contained in the Annex to this report.

**2. AGENDA ITEM TWO – Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson**

The ABEO elected Dr Jean Pascal Zanders as Chairperson and Dr Austin Aluoch as Vice-Chairperson of the Board for 2018.

**3. AGENDA ITEM THREE – Adoption of the agenda, appointment of drafting committee**

- 3.1 The ABEO adopted the following agenda for its Fifth Session:

1. Opening of the session
2. Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson
3. Adoption of the agenda, appointment of drafting committee
4. Address by the Director-General
5. Overview of developments at the OPCW since the last session of the ABEO
  - (a) General updates



- (b) Preparations for the Fourth Review Conference<sup>1</sup>
    - (c) Update on Scientific Advisory Board work
    - (d) Nominations for the second term of the ABEO
  - 6. The ABEO report on education and outreach
    - (a) Comments and next steps
    - (b) Questions and discussion
  - 7. The ABEO report: Discussion with directors and branch heads
  - 8. Reports from ABEO members on intersessional activities
  - 9. Tasks and responsibilities for the next intersessional period
  - 10. Any other business
  - 11. Presentation and discussion of the draft session report
  - 12. Adoption of the session report
  - 13. Closure of the session
- 3.2 The Board appointed Dr Jean Pascal Zanders, Dr Austin Aluoch, Dr Jo Husbands, and Dr Thirumalachari Ramasami to the drafting committee.
- 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 Fifth Session of the Board. He thanked the Board for its excellent report submitted to him in December 2017 (published as ABEO-5/1, dated 12 February 2018). The Director-General noted that the report presented a solid basis for ongoing engagement with States Parties and other stakeholders. He encouraged the Board to continue using opportunities to make its voice heard, including in the preparatory process for the Fourth Review Conference.
- 4.2 To complement the Secretariat’s activities, the Director-General requested the Board to revisit the information contained in Annex 2 to report ABEO-5/1 and to convert this into a user-friendly brochure for States Parties. He also noted that the Secretariat had recently issued a call for nominations for membership of the ABEO and encouraged current members who would like to serve a second consecutive term to contact their National Authorities.
- 4.3 Following the Director-General’s address, the Board discussed several topics of interest with him, including: the importance of training Secretariat staff in the active learning approaches promoted by the Board’s report; the timeliness of the report in a period of transition for the Organisation—from the destruction of declared stockpiles of chemical weapons to the prevention of their re-emergence; and the utility of a holistic approach that includes raising awareness among National Authorities and

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<sup>1</sup>

Fourth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

other stakeholders and how they could make best use of the available resources. Such a holistic approach should be promoted in regional meetings of National Authorities.

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

**Subitem 5(a): General updates**

- 5.1 The Secretary to the ABEO, Mr Alexander Kelle, briefed the Board on developments at the OPCW during the intersessional period. Topics included a workshop on international chemical security coordination, the Executive Council's decision on non-State actors (EC-86/DEC.9, dated 13 October 2017), the election of the next Director-General (Ambassador Fernando Arias of Spain), and the Organisation's Programme and Budget for 2018 (C-22/DEC.5, dated 30 November 2017) as adopted by the Twenty-Second Session of the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter "the Conference"), as well as progress in the work of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Future Priorities of the OPCW.
- 5.2 In the subsequent discussion, the following points were raised:
- (a) follow-up activities to the chemical security workshop, including the need to transpose recommendations into feasible steps and the importance of increasing the focus on the sustainability of chemical security efforts; and
  - (b) the state of development of the project to expand the OPCW Laboratory.

**Subitem 5(b): Preparations for the Fourth Review Conference**

- 5.3 Mr Szymon Bocheński, Senior Policy Officer in the Office of Strategy and Policy, briefed the ABEO on preparations for the Fourth Review Conference, to be held from 21 to 30 November 2018, and informed the Board that it was expected to contribute to this process. A representative of the ABEO would be invited to address the meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fourth Review Conference, currently scheduled for 30 May 2018. That particular meeting would focus on engagement with relevant external stakeholders. The Board was also informed about the Open-Ended Working Group's plans to have formal interactions with the representatives of civil society and chemical industry.
- 5.4 In the discussion that followed, Board members welcomed the inclusion of the ABEO in one of the meetings of the Open-Ended Working Group. Questions were raised about the timeline of the Group's work following the meetings planned for the first half of 2018. It was noted that once a draft text from the Chairperson was circulated, discussions would continue within the framework of the Open-Ended Working Group.

**Subitem 5(c): Update on Scientific Advisory Board work**

- 5.5 The OPCW Science Policy Adviser and Secretary to the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB), Mr Jonathan Forman, briefed the ABEO on the review of science and technology that the SAB had undertaken to inform the Fourth Review Conference. He highlighted that four international workshops funded by the European Union had been

held in 2016 and 2017, reaching out into technical communities in a highly trans-disciplinary manner. He also informed the ABEO of the exponential growth of scientific activity in the 21st century and of the need for scientific literacy in support of effective chemical disarmament and the prevention of the re-emergence of chemical weapons.

- 5.6 In the discussion that followed, Board members noted the complementarity of the SAB's approach with the ABEO's own thinking. Questions were raised about the challenges inherent in monitoring the vast numbers of scientific publications and patents published every year and about the difficulties encountered by scientists and researchers in some countries to access chemicals, and whether the OPCW could help facilitate such access.

**Subitem 5(d): Nominations for the second term of the ABEO**

- 5.7 The Secretary to the ABEO briefed the Board on the call for nominations for ABEO membership for the period 2019 to 2021 (S/1574/2018, dated 31 January 2018). He noted that, in the interest of preserving knowledge on the ABEO, there was a need to start a rotation in the Board's membership. Current Board members interested in serving a second consecutive term should engage with their National Authorities to seek nomination before the stated deadline of 31 May 2018.
- 5.8 In the discussion that followed, Board members expressed their appreciation of the transparent and well-designed process for nominations for the ABEO's second term.

**6. AGENDA ITEM SIX – The ABEO report on education and outreach**

**Subitem 6(a): Comments and next steps**

- 6.1 The Secretary to the ABEO provided feedback to the Board on different aspects of the report it had submitted to the Director-General (ABEO-5/1), emphasising the usefulness of the document for structuring future discussions on education and outreach (E&O) within the Secretariat and with States Parties and external stakeholders. He also elaborated on the Director-General's request to convert some of the projects and actions contained in Annex 2 to the report into a brochure for use by States Parties in their E&O efforts.
- 6.2 In the discussion that followed, Board members welcomed the fact that the supplemental paper they had submitted on current theory and practice in E&O had been made available on the external server for States Parties to access,<sup>2</sup> and requested that it also be posted on the public web page of the OPCW. Board members also asked to receive more detailed guidance from the Secretariat on the parameters of the envisaged brochure, so as to enhance its utility for States Parties.

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Available at: [http://data.opcw.org/Conference/External/Informal/2018/Informal2018En.NSF/WebView/EEE1D9C680D3808BC1258239004D947B/\\$File/ABEO-05-1\\_supplemental%20paper%20\(Final\).pdf](http://data.opcw.org/Conference/External/Informal/2018/Informal2018En.NSF/WebView/EEE1D9C680D3808BC1258239004D947B/$File/ABEO-05-1_supplemental%20paper%20(Final).pdf)

**Subitem 6(b): Questions and discussion**

- 6.3 The ABEO was informed about the steps the Secretariat had taken after receiving the Board's report to the Director-General (ABEO-5/1). These included coordination activities with all relevant Secretariat units with a view to providing feedback to the Board at its Fifth Session and to developing the Secretariat's strategic plan on E&O, using report ABEO-5/1 as a key input.
- 6.4 In the subsequent discussion, ABEO members reconfirmed their interest in receiving detailed comments from the relevant programme managers in the Secretariat.

**7. AGENDA ITEM SEVEN – The ABEO report: Discussion with directors and branch heads**

- 7.1 The ABEO held structured discussions with the relevant directors and branch heads within the Secretariat on its report to the Director-General (ABEO-5/1). In these discussions, the relevant programme managers:
- (a) thanked the Board for its report to the Director-General, which was obviously the result of a comprehensive consideration of how the OPCW might effectively use E&O to assist in preventing the re-emergence of chemical weapons;
  - (b) noted that the overarching theme of “preventing the re-emergence of chemical weapons” may not fully capture all OPCW activities. Nevertheless, the theme was a driving force of the Organisation's future work and needed to be consistently reflected in its messaging;
  - (c) expressed support for the idea of active learning techniques that put the learner at the centre of how the Organisation conveys information;
  - (d) welcomed several ideas in the report that could either be directly implementable or complement existing programme activities;
  - (e) noted that the cross-cutting nature of E&O is of particular relevance to the Secretariat's capacity development activities;
  - (f) proposed that technical content in E&O activities, such as workshops and trainings, should be given higher priority;
  - (g) explained that the numerous inspections conducted by the Secretariat represent an under-used resource for E&O activities;
  - (h) pointed out that more concrete guidance might have been beneficial, including on follow-up activities from a results-based management (RBM) perspective;
  - (i) highlighted the timeliness of the Board's report in view of preparations for the 2019 Programme and Budget of the Organisation;
  - (j) noted that the additional resourcing of States Parties would be essential for the full implementation of the E&O activities proposed in the report;

- (k) agreed that National Authorities were key partners to be considered in further expanding the Organisation's E&O activities;
- (l) identified the network of designated laboratories as a potential "force multiplier" of the Organisation's E&O efforts;
- (m) welcomed the comments in the Board's report on technology-enabled learning and expressed the need for the Organisation to develop coherent and sustainable e-learning offerings;
- (n) requested the Board to help select a roster of three to four representatives from each region as OPCW Ambassadors, whom the Organisation could draw on for ensuring broader stakeholder engagement;
- (o) linked the concept of OPCW Ambassadors in the Board's report to the possibility of establishing an OPCW alumni network that could benefit from former Secretariat employees who have taken up positions in chemical industry and other sectors; and
- (p) noted the importance of engaging other international organisations, including but not limited to the United Nations, and invited the Board to reflect on how to strengthen this element in the Organisation's approach to E&O.

7.2 During the discussions between the ABEO and programme managers, the following additional points were raised:

- (a) Changes in programmatic areas of relevance to E&O were best developed in an iterative manner.
- (b) The Secretariat should obtain regular feedback from target audiences on the effectiveness of its E&O activities to ensure their relevance, utility, and cost-effectiveness. To ensure sustained capacity building, there should be repeated engagement with some audiences so that they can take ownership of the E&O process.
- (c) The regional and annual meetings of the National Authorities could provide a regular process to support their E&O activities by sharing best practices and lessons learned, identifying needs, and exploring the most effective application of materials and interactive methods.
- (d) Some Secretariat units were already using some "blended" learning approaches, requiring participants registering for face-to-face trainings to first complete an e-learning module.
- (e) The maintenance of technology-enabled E&O tools, such as e-learning modules, required additional financial and human resources to update content and upgrade the technology platforms.
- (f) The success of some E&O activities, such as the uptake in electronic declaration tools by States Parties, was easier to measure than the outcomes of other E&O efforts.

- (g) Staff in some Secretariat units with regular on-site interaction with States Parties' representatives are an under-used resource for the Organisation's E&O efforts.
- (h) The clearance process for staff in the Secretariat to reach out to certain target audiences could be simplified.
- (i) The use of OPCW alumni could facilitate the translation of relevant E&O materials beyond the six official languages of the OPCW.
- (j) The involvement of in-house technical and subject-matter experts adds to the depth of discussions at capacity-building events.
- (k) The new OPCW website should be "future-proofed" to allow for the integration of freely accessible e-learning modules.
- (l) Some E&O activities would benefit from extrabudgetary contributions by States Parties that are supportive of enhanced engagement with key audiences.
- (m) Exploring the common interest in engaging the next generation of political and scientific leaders could provide an avenue for enhanced cooperation with other international organisations.

**8. AGENDA ITEM EIGHT – Reports from ABEO members on intersessional activities**

ABEO members reported on their engagement in E&O-related activities during the intersessional period, as follows:

- (a) Dr Austin Aluoch reported on the chemical security training for first responders in Kenya.
- (b) Dr Philip Coleman reported on a "Chemical Weapons Convention and Ethics" course at the University of Pretoria commemorating the twentieth anniversary of the entry into force of the Chemical Weapons Convention, and on his interactions with defence advisers from States in the region.
- (c) Prof. Alastair Hay spoke on 22 November 2017 to the annual meeting of National Authorities in The Hague about the forthcoming ABEO report on E&O, using the opportunity to demonstrate a number of interactive approaches to engage audiences. On 27 November 2017, he used a different interactive activity to engage non-governmental organisations attending the Twenty-Second Session of the Conference. As the keynote speaker at a conference in Malaysia on "Safe and Secure Science", he addressed some 450 participants about the value of the Chemical Weapons Convention and the teaching material contained in "Multiple Uses of Chemicals".
- (d) Prof. Fatima Lamchouri presented the Moroccan experience in the field of education and awareness, mainly with regard to the introduction of biosafety training in university curricula, which is a component of the prevention and management of risks in laboratories. She also presented the contents of the

“Biosafety in the Laboratory and Research Initiation” module, as well as the assessment of three years of teaching.

- (e) Prof. Benjamín Ruiz reported in writing on his intersessional activities, including a conference attended by the Deputy Director-General on 6 November 2017; a conference with the Mexican National Authority on 21 July 2017; a conference with the National Autonomous University of Mexico School of Chemistry on 9 February 2018; and the development of a massive open online course (MOOC) on “Chemistry, War, and Ethics”.
- (f) Dr Edith Valles reported on the “Train-the-Trainer Workshop on Interactive Tools and Methodologies for Teaching Responsible Use of Chemical Science and Technologies,” which was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina on 9 and 10 November 2017. The workshop was intended for chemistry teachers from national universities and aimed at showing them how to use interactive methodologies in their respective educational and outreach activities, as well as at encouraging them to address not only OPCW-related issues but also the responsible use of chemical knowledge.
- (g) Dr Johannes Georg Weinig drew the attention of ABEO members to the twelfth “Wuppertal Annual Course on Loss Prevention and Safety Promotion”, held from 3 to 7 April 2017 with funding from the German National Authority (Foreign Office). In addition, he reported on the annual meeting of the German working group “Disarmament and Nonproliferation of Biological and Chemical Weapons”, which in particular works to examine the implications of current national and international developments and to discuss options for strengthening the Biological Weapons Convention and the Chemical Weapons Convention. Finally, Dr Weinig gave an update on the education project with the German Commission to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and, in this context, highlighted the importance for the Secretariat to connect the OPCW’s work to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.
- (h) Prof. Anna Zalewska presented a selection of her intersessional activities in Poland since the last ABEO session, focusing on two issues in particular. First, she presented the theoretical framework for a course titled “Chemistry of Conflicts and Wars from the Perspective of Humanities and Social Sciences” for advanced studies students of chemistry at Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin, Poland. Second, she presented an example of academic cooperation with a film crew that is creating a “paradocumentary” film titled “Clouds of Death” on the subject of the gas attacks in Poland in 1915. The premiere of the film was scheduled for the spring of 2018.
- (i) ABEO Chairperson Dr Jean Pascal Zanders addressed the Conference at its Twenty-Second Session on 1 December 2017, briefing it on the ABEO’s activities during the previous year, with special emphasis on progress regarding the report on the role of education and outreach in preventing the re-emergence of chemical weapons. He introduced the ABEO and its work programme during a Wilton Park seminar in preparation for the Fourth Review Conference (22 to 24 January 2018), and at a meeting organised by



the CWC Coalition at the OPCW Headquarters as part of civil society preparations for the Fourth Review Conference (19 and 20 February 2018).

- (j) Dr Mark Cesa presented how the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) measures and evaluates the effectiveness of its training programme. The potential relevance of this approach to the OPCW's capacity-development programmes was discussed.

**9. AGENDA ITEM NINE – Tasks and responsibilities for the next intersessional period**

- 9.1 The ABEO observed that there was substantial buy-in by OPCW programme divisions for many recommendations contained in the ABEO report. Their feedback was generally positive. Many divisions were already engaged in E&O, including through capacity development. There was great potential for the application of E&O tools and deployment of the active learning techniques envisaged in the ABEO report.
- 9.2 The Director-General directed the Board to convert Annex 2 to ABEO-5/1 into a user-friendly brochure for the use of States Parties. The Board would set up a coordinating group to prepare a draft for discussion in time for its Sixth Session in August 2018.
- 9.3 The Board emphasised the importance of interacting appropriately with the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fourth Review Conference. The Board would develop, under the coordination of the Chairperson, a number of recommendations on E&O for consideration by that Group.
- 9.4 Issues to be considered during the intersessional period by the members of the Board for possible inclusion in the brochure, further conceptual development, or specific action include:
  - (a) prioritising various activities and actions, with provisions for selection based on the differentiated needs of National Authorities, ease of implementation, resource mobilisation, and short and long-term goals, among others;
  - (b) balancing between the bottom-up approaches to engagement with National Authorities for scoping and priority selection and the top-down approaches of programme divisions in designing interventions;
  - (c) designing messages for stakeholder audiences for use by States Parties and their National Authorities;
  - (d) assisting in locating target audiences, scoping for additional resource mobilisation and partnerships, and addressing the language issues of National Authorities in different contexts;
  - (e) promoting the “FIRES” project and providing assistance for its use in E&O, under the coordination of Prof. Alastair Hay; and
  - (f) developing materials and guidance to support the use of existing OPCW E&O resources.

9.5 The Board planned to also consider the following issues at its next session:

- (a) continuation of the discussion of the recommendations contained in report ABEO-5/1;
- (b) initiatives of States Parties to share best practices in education, outreach, and capacity development;
- (c) coordination of the Organisation's e-learning tools based on inputs from the Secretariat;
- (d) use of past local experience with chemical weapons for raising consciousness among people and civil society;
- (e) further development of the proposal for a programme of OPCW Ambassadors;
- (f) training in active learning of key staff involved in E&O from across the Secretariat; and
- (g) exploration of areas of overlap between the Organisation's E&O efforts and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

**10. AGENDA ITEM TEN – Any other business**

The ABEO Chairperson thanked Mr Francis Lévêque for his contributions to the Board's work as a representative of the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA) and looked forward to continued collaboration with ICCA.

**11. AGENDA ITEM ELEVEN – Presentation and discussion of the draft session report**

The Board discussed and finalised its report.

**12. AGENDA ITEM TWELVE – Adoption of the session report**

The Board adopted the report of its Fifth Session.

**13. AGENDA ITEM THIRTEEN – Closure of the session**

The Chairperson closed the session at 17:10 on 1 March 2018.

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

**Annex****LIST OF PARTICIPANTS\* IN THE FIFTH SESSION  
OF THE ADVISORY BOARD ON EDUCATION AND OUTREACH**

1. Dr Sa'ad Ibrahim Al-Ali
2. Dr Austin Aluoch (Vice-Chairperson of the ABEO)
3. Prof. Masahiko Asada
4. Prof. Phillip Coleman
5. Prof. Alastair Hay
6. Dr Jo Husbands
7. Prof. Fatima Lamchouri
8. Dr Thirumalachari Ramasami
9. Dr Valentin Rubaylo
10. Dr Edith Valles
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. Francis Lévêque (observer: ICCA)

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\* Apologies: Prof. Benjamín Ruiz Loyola.