



OPCW

منظمة حظر الأسلحة الكيميائية

禁止化学武器组织

Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

Organisation pour l'interdiction des armes chimiques

Организация по запрещению химического оружия

Organización para la Prohibición de las Armas Químicas



Education and Outreach for a World Free of Chemical Weapons

Role of States Parties



OPCW

Organisation for
the Prohibition of
Chemical Weapons

Introduction

A world free of chemical weapons is a defining goal for the future as enshrined in the [Chemical Weapons Convention](#) (CWC). The best way to shape this future is to build it. States Parties, primarily through their National Authorities (NAs), will be the architects of this process. Education and Outreach (E&O) will be essential tools.

For a world free of chemical weapons, active engagement with key stakeholders is crucial. Stakeholders are vital to support the concrete and effective implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. This brochure provides guidelines and recommendations from the report of the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach (ABEO, see next page) to support NA capacity-building programmes with relevant local stakeholders: the chemical industry, scientists, academia, civil society, and policy makers. It includes why these audiences matter, key messages for them, and a portfolio of selected activities tailored to each group. The brochure also provides links to easily accessible E&O resources from the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), along with suggestions for how to use them.

The ABEO report concluded that the best educational approach to inform or teach an audience is through active engagement, which combines appropriate materials and interactive methods to capture and sustain attention and learning. The report provides extensive discussions of the best methods (ABEO-5/1).

DETERMINED FOR THE SAKE OF ALL MANKIND, TO EXCLUDE COMPLETELY THE POSSIBILITY OF THE USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS, THROUGH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF THIS CONVENTION, THEREBY COMPLEMENTING THE OBLIGATIONS ASSUMED UNDER THE GENEVA PROTOCOL OF 1925

Chemical Weapons Convention Preamble



Some Resources

Online materials for National Authorities and stakeholders to support E&O activities associated with the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention are easily accessible and ready to be used on the OPCW website. Some of the resources also have additional materials to help design and carry out events.



In undertaking E&O initiatives, stakeholders may be targets of the activity or partners. Indeed, stakeholders need to be informed about why certain issues are relevant to them and how they can contribute to the prevention of the re-emergence of CW. However, some members of stakeholder communities will already have advanced understanding of obligations and responsibilities, and may be in a better position to communicate these to their peers. And there is significant diversity in the current capacity of NAs to fulfil the objectives of E&O in preventing the re-emergence of chemical weapons. Achieving success with E&O activities could therefore require assistance for the NAs, from minimal to active mentoring and support.

The Technical Secretariat of the OPCW offers capacity development and supporting materials for use in national settings via the internet, in printed format and through international and regional seminars and workshops for NAs.

ABEO members, collectively or individually, are available to offer concrete advice on activity organisation, or participate in a local or regional E&O event.

The ABEO

States Parties recognised the importance of E&O to help prevent the re-emergence of chemical weapons by establishing the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach (ABEO). The ABEO is a subsidiary body of the OPCW and had its first meeting in 2016.

In February 2018, the ABEO presented its Report on the Role of Education and Outreach in Preventing the Re-emergence of Chemical Weapons. The document summarises current theories underlying E&O, identifies the most appropriate E&O strategies, and offers concrete recommendations for E&O programmes with key stakeholder groups (OPCW document [ABEO-5/1](#), 12 February 2018.)



For more information, see the [ABEO website](#) or contact ABEO@opcw.org.



Chemical Industry and Trade

Whom to engage and why?

The chemical industry is one of the key stakeholders in the success of the CWC. The industry ranges from the micro- to the large-scale and encompasses all dimensions of the value chain, such as manufacturing, storage, transportation and shipping, customs facilitation, brokerage, insurance and trade. All these dimensions present potential safety and security risks relevant to the CWC.

Prevention of the re-emergence of CW will rely on the key roles of industry in drawing attention to the chemicals listed in the Schedules and the growing need for chemical risk mitigation.

Messages to be delivered to target audiences

The chemical industry already undertakes extensive education, training, and outreach activities. These activities should be expanded to include conditions, requirements and consequences of working in areas governed by the CWC and the prevention of re-emergence.

Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) may require additional support for complying with the requirements of the CWC.

Responsible Care ®

- Launched in Canada some 30 years ago, it has become the chemical industry's worldwide voluntary initiative to drive continuous improvement and achieve excellence in sound chemicals management.
- It connects to 90% of global chemical production and is practiced by 90% of the largest producers in more than 65 countries.
- Through its Global Charter, it provides companies of all sizes with a management framework to improve their environmental health, safety and security performance of manufacturing processes at facilities, and across the entire chemicals supply chain.

- National policy decisions influence action in the OPCW.

Recommended Actions

- Stimulate interaction of policymakers with the OPCW, whenever senior OPCW officials visit the state or through visits to the Headquarters in The Hague.
- Organise regular briefings on the specific responsibilities of the State Party under the CWC to explain verification requirements and implementation (including inspections) in the country. Alternatively, briefings also offer the opportunity to discuss new types of challenges and opportunities (e.g. new domestic and international security threats involving toxic chemicals; assistance with domestic chemical security and safety; international cooperation in the field of chemistry for peaceful purposes; etc.).
- Dedicate events for policymakers and officials from different ministries and agencies (possibly in cooperation with the other relevant stakeholders mentioned in this brochure) to stimulate the development and implementation of actions that support the norm against CW, and prevent inadvertent violation of the CWC and national regulations.



Polymakers

Whom to engage and why?

This group comprises government ministers and diplomats, ministry officials and advisors, and parliamentarians.

Ministers and diplomats may have specific responsibility for guiding the OPCW as well as for relevant national implementation measures. Portfolios, including foreign and domestic trade, defence, education policy, etc. may contribute to key decisions supporting different aspects of the prevention of the re-emergence of CW.

Ministry officials and advisors are essential to the successful implementation of the CWC at the national level. They help to set national policy and may liaise with relevant industry, universities and research institutions, etc.

Parliamentarians enable necessary legislation and financial resources in support of the norm embedded in the CWC on both the national and international levels. In addition, they may be able to leverage local support for national implementation of the CWC.

Messages to be delivered to target audiences

- **The CWC is a convention with many tangible successes since its entry into force. Continued relevance requires sustained political, intellectual and financial support from States Parties, and therefore from policymakers.**
- **Vigilance is required under fast-changing circumstances, not only with respect to rapidly evolving science and technology, but also regarding international geopolitical developments and challenges posed by terrorism and crime.**

Recommended Actions

- **Partner with industry associations and ICCA members to organize CWC-related E&O activities through conventions, conferences, seminars, and specially designed outreach for SMEs.**
- **Raise awareness about well-established industry initiatives such as Responsible Care®, green and sustainable chemistry, and chemical safety and security. Promote 'The Hague Ethical Guidelines' as an example of best practice.**
- **Adapt and suggest E&O resources to meet specific national needs.**
- **Establish national help desks to inform the chemical industry about the CWC and its emerging requirements.**
- **Collaborate with other NAs and the ICCA to establish sub-regional helplines.**



Indian National Authority

- **Holds awareness camps, workshops & conferences in industrial centres with support of industry associations.**
- **Operates a unique system of six Helpdesks, supported by annual grants from the government for assisting enterprises to comply with the provisions of the CWC.**
- **Engages ex-OPCW inspectors to man Help desks.**



Scientists

Whom to engage and why?

Individuals with scientific, engineering or other technical backgrounds relevant to the implementation of the CWC and to the challenge of preventing the re-emergence of chemical weapons constitute one of the supporting pillars of the CWC. In their different roles, scientists may be directly involved in or are affected by the implementation of the Convention.

Message to be delivered to target audiences

- Be aware of the contents of the CWC and all related issues and ensure that other scientists are fully aware of the dual-use potential of chemicals and their processes
- Be aware of the OPCW's existence, mission, vision and actions to the implementation of the CWC.
- Scientists' work should be achieved through ethical perspectives, taking into account frameworks such as responsible conduct of science, green and sustainable chemistry, chemical safety and security, and Responsible Care®.



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- Therefore, messages concerning CW disarmament and prevention of the re-emergence of CW can be linked to related areas, such as chemical safety and security, green and sustainable chemistry, or the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Recommended Actions

- Invite civil society to briefings and national events linked to CWC implementation.
- Organise hearings, seminars and more technical events to solicit input from civil society in addition to other stakeholders.
- Arrange events, such as briefings, seminars, workshops, etc., in cooperation with the Technical Secretariat when OPCW officials visit the country.



Chemical Weapons: Why You Should Care?

Civil Society

Whom to engage and why?

Potential target groups include disarmament, security and environmental non-governmental organisations (NGOs), associations of victims of chemical warfare, opinion shapers, think tanks, specific demographics (e.g. women or youth), and so on.

Civil society constituents are important because they promote awareness-raising and transmit received information to their membership and communities. Through uniquely contextualised perspectives, they can identify potential local issues and challenges of relevance to chemical security and safety, thereby contributing to the overall goal of preventing the re-emergence of CW.

Moreover, certain civil society representatives can identify and critically evaluate political, economic, scientific and technological trends that may affect national implementation of the CWC and operations of the OPCW.

Messages to be delivered to target audiences

- Most civil society constituencies will likely have other priorities than CW disarmament.
- Nevertheless, they may have an interest in peace and security, development, environmental issues, etc.

Recommended Actions

- Engage with professional associations and include presentations or sessions in scientific conferences to raise the matter of preventing the re-emergence of CW.
- Publicise scientific research and publications relevant to the CWC.
- Link relevant national scientific associations with the SAB and ABEO.
- Raise awareness of [The Hague Ethical Guidelines](#).



Argentine National Authority

- Established a working group to study outreach on CWC obligations.
- Assisted the promulgation and implementation of national legislation
- Promotes a culture of responsible use of chemicals and knowledge.
- Championed for Memorandum of Understanding between Ministries of Education and Foreign Affairs for National Education project on responsible use of science.
- Shares experience with other nations in the region.



Academia

Whom to engage and why?

Academia includes all persons involved in universities, colleges and technical or professional schools in areas such as science and technology, law, international relations, social sciences and humanities, business, and others.

They are usually respected individuals who can shape opinions and policies through their research, writing, or appearances in the media. They influence next generations of academics and professionals; are relatively easy to reach out to; and can often translate complex or technical messages to broader non-specialised audiences.

Messages to be delivered to target audiences

- **Be aware of the CWC and OPCW activities.**
- **Engage in discussions to clarify the successes of and challenges to the CWC.**
- **Expand and enhance appropriate academic and professional behaviour towards chemical safety and security, as well as dual-use issues.**
- **Promote ethics, codes of conduct, and professional codes, in particular 'The Hague Ethical Guidelines'.**

Recommended Actions

- **Explore any opportunity to introduce the CWC and the theme of 'preventing the re-emergence of CW' to academic communities.**
- **Solicit the collaboration of academic associations for the organisation of events or sessions within events.**
- **Provide materials and links to relevant internet resources; suggest speakers for lectures or conferences.**
- **Encourage adoption of CWC issues in curricula through liaison with appropriate authorities.**
- **Strive to make the OPCW known among academics; organise seminars at academic institutions whenever senior OPCW officials visit the country and invite academics from different disciplines to attend.**
- **Liaise with national and regional funding bodies to increase support available for academic research and publications relevant to the CWC.**

