



OPCW

Advisory Board on Education and Outreach

Sixth Session
28 – 30 August 2018

ABEO-6/1
30 August 2018
Original: ENGLISH

**REPORT OF THE SIXTH 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 Sixth Session from 28 to 30 August 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 9:30 on 28 August 2018.
- 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 Sixth Session:

- 1. Opening of the session
- 2. Adoption of the agenda, appointment of drafting committee
- 3. Address by the Director-General followed by photo with the Director-General
- 4. Overview of developments at the OPCW since the last session of the ABEO
 - (a) General update
 - (b) Preparations for the Fourth Review Conference¹
 - (c) Update on the work of the Scientific Advisory Board²
- 5. ABEO members' report on intersessional activities
- 6. Education and outreach brochure for States Parties
- 7. Conceptual issues
 - (a) The general purpose criterion in education and outreach
 - (b) The use of history in education and outreach
- 8. Any other business

¹ Fourth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

² SAB.



9. Presentation and discussion of the draft session report
 10. Adoption of the session report
 11. Closure of the session
- 2.2 The Board appointed Dr Jean Pascal Zanders, Dr Jo Husbands, Dr Hans-Georg Weinig, and Dr Thirumalachari Ramasami to the drafting committee.
- 3. AGENDA ITEM THREE – Address by the Director-General followed by photo with the Director-General**
- 3.1 The Director-General of the OPCW Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”), Ambassador Fernando Arias, welcomed the ABEO members to the Sixth Session of the Board. He noted work under way by the Board on the brochure for States Parties and emphasised the importance of the timely completion of this work. The Director-General also encouraged the ABEO to continue working on practical tools to enhance the Organisation’s activities. Furthermore, he noted that the future composition of the Board from 2019 onwards was still under consideration.
- 3.2 The subsequent discussion touched upon issues such as the role of history in education and outreach, the endorsement for engagement of stakeholders that may be expected from the upcoming Fourth Review Conference (to be held from 21 to 30 November 2018), and the importance of media outreach. Board members also raised concerns about travel arrangements for ABEO meetings.
- 4. AGENDA ITEM FOUR – Overview of developments at the OPCW since the last session of the ABEO**
- Subitem 4(a): General updates**
- 4.1 The Secretary to the ABEO, Mr Alexander Kelle, briefed the Board on developments at the OPCW during the intersessional period. He focused on how the Organisation addressed the chemical weapons incident in Salisbury, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; provided an overview of the Fourth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”); and presented elements of the report by the Open-Ended Working Group on Future Priorities of the OPCW (OEWG-FP) that it had submitted to the upcoming Fourth Review Conference (RC-4/WP.1, dated 16 July 2018). He also announced that ABEO members would be invited to become part of the beta-testing community for the new OPCW website, and were encouraged to provide feedback on both the format and content.
- 4.2 In the subsequent discussion, issues raised included elements of the decision taken by the Conference at its recent special session and of the report of the OEWG-FP.
- Subitem 4(b): Preparations for the Fourth Review Conference**
- 4.3 Mr Szymon Bocheński, Senior Policy Officer in the Office of Strategy and Policy, briefed the ABEO on preparations for the Fourth Review Conference. The Board was informed that the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fourth Review Conference (OEWG-RC) had completed its first cluster of 13 meetings, which were dedicated to all aspects of the operation of the Chemical Weapons

Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”) and will start now to consider the Chairperson’s draft provisional text. In May 2018, the working group held two meetings dedicated to the subject of engagement of external partners, during which issues of relevance for the work of the ABEO were discussed. The presentation on behalf of the ABEO by its Chairperson, delivered on 30 May in the framework of the OEWG-RC, was welcomed by States Parties, who also expressed their general support for the work of the Board.

- 4.4 In the discussion that followed, the ABEO noted with appreciation the greater engagement of the OPCW with the external partners in the run-up to the Review Conference. In this context the Board underlined the need for the Secretariat to be prepared for heightened interest in the OPCW by external audiences during the Review Conference itself. The ABEO also enquired as to the extent to which the outcome document of the Review Conference may contain more specific provisions on education and outreach. In addition, modalities for holding side events, including by the ABEO, were explored.

Subitem 4(c): Update on the work of the Scientific Advisory Board

- 4.5 Mr Jonathan Forman (OPCW Science Policy Adviser and Secretary to the SAB) updated the ABEO on the intersessional work of the SAB, which had held its Twenty-Seventh Session, initiated the first meeting of its temporary working group on investigative science and technology, and submitted its recommendations to the Fourth Review Conference (RC-4/DG/1, dated 30 April 2018). He noted that the Director-General had also submitted responses to the SAB report (RC-4/DG/2, dated 1 June 2018), and highlighted the communication and discussion with States Parties on the subject of the SAB’s report to the Fourth Review Conference.
- 4.6 The SAB’s report to the Fourth Review Conference discusses a range of transdisciplinary scientific developments from a perspective of enhancing existing or enabling new capabilities for implementation of the Convention. The presentation reviewed the SAB’s recommendations, which provided advice relevant to recent scientific advances; chemicals; chemical production and discovery; technologies for the delivery of toxic chemicals and drugs; verification; assistance and protection; chemical safety and security; and scientific literacy and the provision of science advice.
- 4.7 In the subsequent discussion, issues raised included:
- (a) the need for further research to better understand biomarkers of exposure to chemical agents, including toxic industrial chemicals, and the development of medical countermeasures and treatments for acute and long-term effects of chemical agent exposure;
 - (b) views of industry on SAB recommendations relevant to the Article VI verification regime; and
 - (c) the potential for experience-sharing between the SAB and the ABEO in the use of engaging infographics and informational materials.

5. AGENDA ITEM FIVE – ABEO members’ report on intersessional activities

- 5.1 Dr Mark Cesa and Dr Jo Husbands discussed a workshop, organised by the Chinese Government and the Implementation Support Unit of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BWC) in late June at Tianjin University, on the proposal by the governments of China and Pakistan to create a code of conduct for life scientists under the auspices of the BWC. Dr Cesa gave a presentation on the efforts of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) on codes of conduct and the development of The Hague Ethical Guidelines. The guidelines were presented as a model under which an international organisation supported the creation of principles to guide the development or assessment of a code of conduct, where the initiative and “ownership” came from the scientific community.
- 5.2 Professor Alastair Hay reported that he had written text for an interactive procedure to accompany The Hague Ethical Guidelines and that this should be available on the OPCW website. Questions to facilitate debate when viewing the FIRES films have also been compiled by Professor Hay and should also be available as a teaching resource. Professor Hay also noted that a new ethics course had been drafted by the European Chemical Society (EuChemS) and was about to enter a trials phase. Professor Hay had been asked to help with its assessment and to act as the liaison with the OPCW.
- 5.3 Professor Benjamín Ruiz Loyola reported on developing a “massive online open course” entitled “Chemistry, War and Ethics”, which covers a variety of related issues. Furthermore, he informed the Board about a book project on chemical weapons (in Spanish), specially focused on Latin American people, whose experiences are very different from those of European people. In addition, he noted a project aimed at creating, with his students, a periodic table of chemical weapons to commemorate the international year of the periodic table of elements in 2019.
- 5.4 Dr Hans-Georg Weinig informed the Board about a press release of the German Chemical Society (GDCh) in May 2018, related to the repeated use of chlorine as a chemical weapon in the Syrian Arab Republic. The book “One Hundred Years of Chemical Warfare: Research, Deployment, Consequences” edited by Bretislav Friedrich, Dieter Hoffmann, Jürgen Renn, Florian Schmaltz, and Martin Wolf, was positively reviewed in the GDCh-owned journal *Angewandte Chemie* (V. Jacob, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* 2018, 57, 9216-9217). In addition, he informed the Board about his engagement within the EuChemS working group on ethics in chemistry.
- 5.5 Dr Anna Zalewska presented the results of her intersessional activities, stressing that the public engagement, education, and awareness-raising that are gradually becoming an integral part of the OPCW’s work can be anchored in reflecting on the historical uses of chemical weapons. She shared her observations based on an educational experiment in which a group of chemistry students of the Marie Curie-Skłodowska University in Poland was involved as the trial group during the original course she developed, entitled “The Chemistry of War from the Perspective of the Humanities and Social Sciences”. Also, as a medium for outreach at the local level, in the region where, in 1915, the use of chemical weapons occurred at least five times (and where memory has become an element of a difficult local history and painful heritage), Dr Zalewska developed and prepared an exhibition entitled “Things and People in the

Trenches of the Great War over Rawka and Bzura”. The exhibition was well received and attracted considerable interest. Finally, Dr Zalewska made a short presentation on the outcomes of the in situ workshops that she developed and conducted for participants in various age groups on the subject of the former “gas-scape” near Bolimów.

- 5.6 Dr Zanders reported on an address he delivered as ABEO Chairperson to the OEWG-RC on 30 May. On 22 June he attended an international workshop in Geneva, Switzerland, on cooperation and assistance under Article X of the BWC, organised by the BWC Implementation Support Unit and the Government of Norway. The first part of his presentation, entitled “Developing Human Resources in Biological Sciences and Technology related to Implementation of the BWC: Some Insights from the OPCW Advisory Board on Education and Outreach (ABEO)”, offered an overview of the ABEO and its work. The second part addressed a number of elements from the ABEO report on education and outreach in relation to Article X of the BWC (on international cooperation and development). Dr Zanders also informed the Board that he was working on a dual project for the International Science and Technology Centre (Astana, Kazakhstan) and the Science and Technology Centre in Ukraine to develop a Master’s course on export controls for CBRN³ materials. The ABEO’s “Report on the Role of Education and Outreach in Preventing the Re-emergence of Chemical Weapons” (ABEO-5/1, dated 12 February 2018) serves as the foundation for its development. The first edition of the course is scheduled for September 2019.

6. AGENDA ITEM SIX – Education and outreach brochure for States Parties

- 6.1 Based on the request received from the previous Director-General to transform the relevant parts of its above-mentioned report (ABEO-5/1) into a user-friendly brochure on education and outreach for use by States Parties, the Board formed a coordinating group to prepare a draft text before its Sixth Session. The draft was circulated prior to the session.
- 6.2 Members discussed the draft both in plenary sittings and small break-out groups in order to finalise the brochure text. The Board was also able to engage with members of the Secretariat who are regularly involved in the production of engaging education and outreach materials, such as in the science and technology context, with a view to receiving inputs on the design, layout, and potential specific features of the brochure.
- 6.3 The Board agreed on the text for the brochure, selected several visual elements for inclusion, and noted that Professor Hay, Professor Lamchouri, Professor Ruiz Loyola, Dr Zalewska, and Dr Zanders would oversee finalisation of the brochure after the session.

7. AGENDA ITEM SEVEN – Conceptual issues

Subitem 7(a): The general purpose criterion in education and outreach

- 7.1 The ABEO Chairperson introduced a discussion note entitled “General Purpose Criterion in Education”. Following a brief discussion of the note, the Board decided to return to the issues raised therein at its next regular session.

³ CBRN = chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear.

Subitem 7(b): The use of history in education and outreach

- 7.2 Following up on the discussion of the use of “history” at the ABEO’s Fifth Session, the ABEO Chairperson introduced a discussion note entitled “Use of Chemical Warfare History in Education”. Following a brief discussion of the note, the Board decided to return to the issues raised therein at its next regular session.

8. AGENDA ITEM EIGHT – Any other business

- 8.1 The Board noted that some of the links to education and outreach resources listed on the OPCW website needed updating. Dr Husbands volunteered to provide such updates for the relevant links.
- 8.2 The Board discussed opportunities for attendance and side events at the Fourth Review Conference, subject to the availability of resources. The ABEO Secretary informed Board members that, should they decide to register as ABEO members, that should be their only registration.
- 8.3 The Board agreed to prepare a handover note to the new ABEO membership, who will take up their work in January 2019, with relevant topics for consideration.
- 8.4 The Board proposed to hold its Seventh Session from 26 to 28 February 2019.
- 8.5 The Chairperson thanked the Board members for their contributions over the past three years. The Board members expressed their appreciation to Dr Zanders for his chairmanship, and to the Secretariat for its support.
- 8.6 The ABEO members also expressed their appreciation to the OPCW for the opportunity to contribute to the work of the Board during its inaugural term.

9. AGENDA ITEM NINE – Presentation and discussion of the draft session report

The Board discussed and finalised its report.

10. AGENDA ITEM TEN – Adoption of the session report

The Board adopted the report of its Sixth Session.

11. AGENDA ITEM ELEVEN – Closure of the session

The Chairperson closed the session at 16:29 on 30 August 2018.

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

Annex

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

1. Dr Sa'ad Ibrahim Al-Ali
2. Prof. Alastair Hay
3. Dr Jo Husbands
4. Prof. Fatima Lamchouri
5. Prof. Benjamín Ruiz Loyola
6. Dr Thirumalachari Ramasami
7. Dr Valentin Rubaylo
8. Prof. Wang Wencai
9. Dr Johannes Georg Weinig
10. Dr Anna Zalewska
11. Dr Jean Pascal Zanders (Chairperson of the ABEO)
12. Dr Mark Cesa (observer: IUPAC)
13. Mr William Garcia (observer: ICCA⁴), day 1 only

* Apologies: Dr Austin Aluoch (Vice-Chairperson of the ABEO), Prof. Masahiko Asada, Prof. Phillip Coleman

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