



OPCW

Conference of the States Parties

Twentieth Session
30 November – 4 December 2015

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DECISION

ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ADVISORY BOARD ON EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

The Conference of the States Parties,

Recalling that, in the political declaration of the report of the Third Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Third Review Conference”) (RC-3/3*, dated 19 April 2013), the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”):

- (a) Underlined their determination to maintain the Convention’s role as a bulwark against chemical weapons, and to that end, to promote, inter alia, outreach, capacity building, education and public diplomacy (paragraph 9.15); and
- (b) Declared their desire to improve interaction with chemical industry, the scientific community, academia, and civil society organisations engaged in issues relevant to the Convention, and cooperate as appropriate with other relevant international and regional organisations, in promoting the goals of the Convention (paragraph 9.16);

Recalling also that, in its report (RC-3/3*), the Third Review Conference:

- (a) Acknowledged the role of education, outreach and awareness-raising as a relevant activity for the national implementation of the Convention, including awareness among academia and relevant scientific communities of the provisions of the Convention, the domestic laws and regulations relevant to the Convention, and welcomed the establishment by the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) of the temporary working group on education and outreach (paragraph 9.101);
- (b) Encouraged the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”), in concert with the SAB temporary working group on education and outreach, to assist States Parties, upon request, in implementing education and outreach activities, including by disseminating materials, conducting workshops and regional meetings (subparagraph 9.103(e));
- (c) Encouraged the Secretariat to continue to develop relations and partnerships as appropriate with relevant regional and international organisations, as well as chemical industry associations, the private sector, academia and civil society, in order to raise awareness of the activities of the OPCW (subparagraph 9.131(l)); and



- (d) Called upon States Parties and the Secretariat, as part of efforts to promote the ethical norms of the Convention, to encourage and promote efforts by the appropriate national and international professional bodies to inculcate awareness amongst scientists and engineers at an early stage in their training that the knowledge and technologies used for beneficial purposes should only be used for purposes not prohibited under this Convention (subparagraph 9.155(d)).

Noting the report of the SAB temporary working group on education and outreach (SAB/REP/2/14, dated 25 November 2014¹), which recommended, inter alia, that:

- (a) Education and outreach with respect to the responsible use of science, particularly as it is relevant to the Convention, should remain a core activity of the OPCW, so as to achieve and maintain a world free of chemical weapons; and
- (b) An ongoing expert advisory group on education and outreach with respect to the responsible use of science, particularly as it is relevant to the Convention, should be established to help the OPCW fulfil its mandate for education and outreach, and to ensure that activities and practices are grounded in science education and communication research findings and effective practices;

Underlining the importance of education and outreach, undertaken on the part of both States Parties and the Secretariat, in supporting the continued and sustainable implementation of all aspects of the Convention, and noting the importance in this regard of engagement with a range of audiences, including scientists, industry, students, educators, civil society, and policymakers;

Cognisant of the need for the Secretariat's education and outreach efforts to be effective, sustainable, cost-effective, and to benefit from the latest advances in education and outreach theory and practice, and for States Parties to receive expert advice and support on education and outreach issues in the context of their national implementation of the Convention; and

Noting the Note by the Director-General on the establishment of an Advisory Board on Education and Outreach (EC-79/DG.11, dated 29 May 2015);

Hereby:

1. **Requests**, pursuant to its authority to establish subsidiary organs under subparagraph 21(f) of Article VIII of the Convention, the Director-General to set up, in accordance with paragraph 37 of Article VIII of the Convention, an Advisory Board on Education and Outreach;
2. **Adopts** the Terms of Reference of the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach annexed hereto;
3. **Decides** to recommend that the budget of the OPCW, starting from 2016, shall contain resources adequate for travel and per diem costs associated with no more than two annual meetings of the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach, and that any

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Available at https://www.opcw.org/fileadmin/OPCW/SAB/en/Education_and_Engagement-v2.pdf

other meetings of the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach shall be held at no cost to the OPCW; and

4. **Decides** that the Executive Council shall review the operation of the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach after three years.

Annex: Advisory Board on Education and Outreach – Terms of Reference

Annex

ADVISORY BOARD ON EDUCATION AND OUTREACH TERMS OF REFERENCE

INTRODUCTION

1. As requested by the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”) at its Twentieth Session, the Director-General has established an Advisory Board on Education and Outreach (hereinafter “the Advisory Board”) pursuant to these terms of reference.

ROLE AND FUNCTIONS

2. The role of the Advisory Board will be to provide specialised advice in areas of education and outreach relevant to the Organisation’s mandate. Such advice may be provided to the Director-General, to the policy-making organs and, at their request, to States Parties. The goal should be to ensure that the Organisation’s education and outreach activities, and those of States Parties, are effective, sustainable, cost-effective, and benefit from the latest advances in education and outreach theory or practice. Consistent with the provisions of the Convention, the functions of the Advisory Board include the following:
 - (a) Provide advice on the development of strategies and key messages for education and outreach activities that support the implementation of the Convention;
 - (b) Maintain an overview, through the Advisory Board’s meetings and informal intersessional consultations, and in consultation with the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”), of global education and outreach activities relevant to the Convention, particularly those related to the responsible uses of science, and those related to disarmament and non-proliferation;
 - (c) Provide advice to the Director-General on the development and maintenance of partnerships with relevant stakeholders and international organisations (for example, CTBTO,² IAEA,³ BWC/ISU,⁴ UNIDIR,⁵ UNITAR,⁶ UNODA,⁷ and WCO⁸) working in areas related to the Organisation’s education and outreach activities, with a view to ensuring that those activities are carried out in a coordinated and cost-effective manner;

² CTBTO = Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization.

³ IAEA = International Atomic Energy Agency.

⁴ BWC/ISU = Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit.

⁵ UNIDIR = United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research.

⁶ UNITAR = United Nations Institute for Training and Research.

⁷ UNODA = United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs.

⁸ WCO = World Customs Organization.

- (d) Provide advice to the Director-General, and to States Parties on request, on specific education and outreach activities and projects, including on how to make them accessible to target audiences, and develop a portfolio of such activities and projects in order that the broadest range of stakeholders may benefit from them; and
 - (e) Ensure that developments in science and technology with relevance to the Convention are taken into account in education and outreach activities that support its implementation. In order to carry out this function, Advisory Board members will receive periodic written briefings by the Secretariat on the work of the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB), as well as a consolidated in-person briefing annually.
3. Members of the Advisory Board may, individually or collectively, also be requested to represent the Board, as appropriate and upon the request of the Director-General, in support of the Organisation's education and outreach activities with all relevant stakeholders.

COMPOSITION

4. The Advisory Board will consist of 15 individuals appointed by the Director-General in consultation with States Parties, of which 10 will be appointed from nominees put forward by the States Parties. The members of the Board shall serve in their individual capacity as independent experts.
5. The members of the Advisory Board will be appointed from among eminent persons with expertise in subjects of direct relevance to the Board's purpose, including, inter alia, education (both STEM⁹ and other relevant disciplines), science communication, the chemical industry, dual/multiple-use issues related to chemistry and the life sciences, ethics and the Convention, and related international measures. The members of the Advisory Board will be selected based on their qualifications and experience, taking into account their publications, scientific, academic or professional activities, distinctions, and international experience, with due regard to the area of speciality. The Director-General will report the appointments to the Executive Council (hereinafter "the Council") and to the Conference.
6. Appointments to the Advisory Board will be made with due regard to ensuring expertise and a balanced approach to gender and geographical distribution.
7. Only citizens of States Parties will be eligible for appointment.
8. The term of office of members of the Advisory Board will be three years. A member may serve for two terms, which may be consecutive.

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Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

9. The Director-General will appoint persons to replace members who, for any reason, are not able to take part in the work of the Advisory Board for the remainder of their term of office. Such appointments will be made with due regard to paragraphs 4 and 6 of these Terms of Reference. The Director-General will report the replacement and the reason therefore in his annual report to the Council and to the Conference.
10. Members of the SAB may be appointed to the Advisory Board.
11. A representative of the International Union for Pure and Applied Chemistry will participate in the work of the Advisory Board as a permanent observer. The Advisory Board may, by consensus, invite observers from other relevant organisations or institutions to participate in the work of the Advisory Board. Observers will have the opportunity to speak and to participate in discussions.

RULES OF PROCEDURE

12. The Director-General will provide Rules of Procedure, after notification to the Council, for the organisation and functioning of the Advisory Board, which will be based on the following points:
 - (a) Rules for the convening, conduct, and support of meetings, consistent with paragraphs 12 and 13 below, for the creation of temporary working groups on specific topics, and for the adoption of its reports;
 - (b) Rules for the election of the Chairperson by the Advisory Board by annual election from among its members;
 - (c) Rules regarding the protection of confidential information;
 - (d) Rules to ensure that Advisory Board members disclose to the Director-General any activity which may affect their impartiality or appearance of impartiality;
 - (e) Rules regarding communication with States Parties and stakeholders; and
 - (f) Procedures for the dismissal or replacement by the Director-General of any member of the Advisory Board and for the reporting of such action to the Council and to the Conference, as appropriate.

MEETINGS AND METHODS OF WORK

13. The Advisory Board will meet in The Hague and during the first three years, it will meet twice per year; thereafter the meeting frequency will be decided upon following the review by the Council of the Board's operation.
14. The Director-General may, in consultation with the Chairperson of the Advisory Board, convene ad hoc meetings of the Board in addition to its regular meetings.

15. In the periods between its regular meetings, the Advisory Board will carry out its work through informal consultations, virtual or in-person, as it deems appropriate. The Director-General, in consultation with the Advisory Board, may establish temporary working groups in order to facilitate the Board's work.
16. The working language of the Advisory Board will be English.

RELATIONSHIP WITH THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

17. The Director-General will provide appropriate support for the preparation, organisation, and implementation of the Advisory Board's activities, including appropriate funding through the annual Programme and Budget.
18. The Advisory Board will submit annually a report to the Director-General on its activities. The Director-General will, in turn, submit annually a report to the Council and to the Conference on the Advisory Board's activities.

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