



**REPORT OF THE SEVENTH 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 Seventh Session from 26 to 28 February 2019 at the OPCW Headquarters in The Hague, the Netherlands.
- 1.2 The Chairperson of the ABEO for 2018, Dr Jean Pascal Zanders, opened the session at 9:30 on 26 February 2019.
- 1.3 A list of participants is contained in the Annex to this report.

2. AGENDA ITEM TWO – Election of ABEO Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson for 2019

The Board appointed Dr Jean Pascal Zanders as Chairperson and Dr Jo Husbands as Vice-Chairperson of the ABEO for 2019. Both indicated that they regarded 2019 as a year of transition for the Board and that they would not be available for those roles from 2020 onward.

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

- 3.1 The ABEO adopted the following agenda for its Seventh Session:
 - 1. Opening of the session
 - 2. Election of ABEO Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson for 2019
 - 3. Adoption of the agenda, appointment of drafting committee
 - 4. Photo taken with Director-General Fernando Arias, followed by address by the Director-General
 - 5. ABEO members round of introduction and report on intersessional activities
 - 6. Overview of developments at the OPCW since the last session of the ABEO
 - (a) General update
 - (b) Update on the work of the Scientific Advisory Board
 - 7. Overview of MFA card rules and procedures



8. Discussion of ABEO handover note and work plan for 2019
 - (a) Follow-up from 2018 ABEO report (ABEO-5/1)
 - (b) Unfinished business from previous meetings
 - (c) General issues for continuous follow-up
 - (d) ABEO Work Plan 2019
 9. ABEO meeting Directors and Branch Heads
 10. Discussion of draft session report
 11. Any other business
 12. Adoption of the session report
 13. Closure of the session
- 3.2 The Board appointed Dr Jo Husbands, Ms Gaukhar Mukhatzhanova, Dr Johannes Georg Weinig, and Dr Jean Pascal Zanders to the drafting committee.
- 4. AGENDA ITEM FOUR – Photo taken with Director-General Fernando Arias, followed by address by the Director-General**
- 4.1 Ambassador Fernando Arias, the Director-General of the OPCW Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”), welcomed the ABEO members to the Seventh Session of the Board. He shared with the Board his views on the current context of the OPCW, including the recent Fourth Review Conference.¹ Through this, the Director-General noted, States Parties renewed their commitment to the norm against chemical weapons and identified common ground on important issues such as strengthening the verification regime and enhancing capacity building.
- 4.2 In regard to the work of the ABEO, the Director-General referred to a Note he had issued to the upcoming session of the Executive Council (EC-90/DG.10, dated 22 February 2019 and Corr.1, dated 28 February 2019), in which he requested the ABEO to continue focusing on developing practical education and outreach (E&O) tools and materials to facilitate and enhance the engagement activities of both States Parties and the Secretariat. He furthermore asked that Board members continue to be available, upon request, to support Secretariat and State Party engagement and capacity-building activities and events, and encouraged Board members to share their expertise in specific areas such as active learning or e-learning, in order to build capacity within the Secretariat.
- 4.3 In addition, the Director-General noted the need to make more people aware of the Organisation’s mission, so as to ensure continued support from the public. This was important, as the OPCW’s work is much broader than chemical weapons disarmament and involves issues ranging from preventing the re-emergence of chemical weapons to global counter-terrorism, and from protection against harmful chemicals to wider political considerations. He called upon the ABEO to take into account this broader context when considering how to enhance public engagement by the OPCW.

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

- 4.4 The subsequent discussion between the ABEO and the Director-General touched upon issues such as:
- (a) the evolution of implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”) in light of new challenges;
 - (b) the broader context that the Board should take into account as part of its deliberations;
 - (c) the exploration of linkages between the OPCW’s E&O activities and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and the United Nations Secretary-General’s disarmament agenda; and
 - (d) logistical and administrative issues, such as travel arrangements for ABEO members travelling long distances.

5. AGENDA ITEM FIVE – ABEO members round of introduction and report on intersessional activities

- 5.1 The Board had entered its second term and welcomed eight new members. One of the main objectives of this session was to discover which capacities and expertise Board members brought to the ABEO and how these could be mobilised for the work programme for 2019 and beyond.
- 5.2 Professor Tatsuya Abe stated that he is a Professor of International Law and noted his interest in reaching out to young generations. This could involve, for example, organising a mock class on disarmament issues carried out by undergraduate students for secondary school students. In addition, one could organise an event, seminar, or workshop for those who are involved in writing chemistry textbooks at the junior high and high school level. Lastly, consideration could be given to launching a project about “One Hundred and Ninety-three Premier Teachers of Chemistry in the World”, in which chemistry teachers (one for each State Party) would be interviewed by their students and asked about their views of issues related to the Convention and its implications for their teaching.
- 5.3 In a written input to the Board, Dr Austin Ochieng Aluoch stated that he is a senior lecturer at the Technical University of Kenya, where he teaches analytical chemistry. He is a member of Kenya’s National Authority CWC and CBRN Committees, and the Hazmat Responders Society of Kenya (HRSK). He is also a member of the Kenya Chemical Society (KCS) and is its current National Secretary. Through the KCS, Dr Aluoch engages in chemical safety and security outreach activities, to both the formal and informal chemical sectors in Kenya. In relation to the Board’s activities, he is interested in developing a degree programme for a Master of Science in Chemical Safety and Security at the Technical University of Kenya.
- 5.4 Dr Adriana Bernacchi briefly described her professional background and experience in E&O, where she has been engaged in different activities related to the non-proliferation of biological and chemical weapons. Dr Bernacchi’s areas of particular interest as an ABEO member are: developing E&O tools and materials for States Parties and the Secretariat; supporting and promoting the development of activities and events related to E&O at local and regional levels; analysing the

possibility of National Authorities sharing their developed E&O resources (in different languages) through the new OPCW website; and encouraging engagement with international organisations, such as the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), as well as other international disarmament and arms control organisations, in particular the Implementation Support Unit of the Biological Weapons Convention.

- 5.5 Dr Mark Cesa stated that he had been the 2014–2015 President of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) and that on behalf of IUPAC he was fulfilling the role of permanent observer to the ABEO. Dr Cesa spent his career in the chemical industry as a researcher and manager, where he was involved in teaching and awareness-raising about the safe and responsible use of industrial chemicals. He noted that he is a volunteer for the American Chemical Society, the U.S. National Academies, and IUPAC, working on projects and programmes on chemical safety and security. At the Twenty-Third Session of the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”) and the Fourth Review Conference in 2018, IUPAC science leaders met with staff members of the Secretariat to establish productive collaborations. Dr Cesa offered his expertise to the ABEO but also would act as liaison between IUPAC and the ABEO to provide scientific, educational, and outreach expertise wherever needed.
- 5.6 Dr Craig Cormick told the Board that he had been a social scientist and science communicator for 30 years, working mainly for government agencies; he is now an independent researcher and consultant. Dr Cormick has managed educational and community engagement programmes on contentious technologies, including biotechnology and nanotechnologies, and has developed online courses on biotechnology and nanotechnology—including using games and ethics content. He has undertaken research into what members of the public think about science and technology issues, and the role that personal values play in why they think it. Dr Cormick had also been the past President of the Australian Science Communicators, and will have a book published later this year on the science behind good science communication.
- 5.7 Professor Alastair Hay noted that he had been involved, over many years, in developing resources for the OPCW and others to engage audiences by the use of active learning approaches. He chaired a joint IUPAC-OPCW working group that produced the interactive resource “Multiple Uses of Chemicals”, which is now part of the available tools for helping to discuss ethical issues in chemistry. Prof. Hay played a major role in writing the ABEO’s two reports and a brochure on the importance of active learning approaches in teaching, and has run many workshops to illustrate how the process works. He would continue this work as an ABEO member and work with OPCW to help embed active learning approaches in all engagement work.
- 5.8 Dr Rocael Hernández Rizzardini introduced himself as the director of digital services at Galileo University in Guatemala. His work involves digital learning, digital marketing, social media management, software engineering, and research in technology-enhanced learning. Through the initiatives led by Dr Rizzardini, Galileo University has enabled online and blended learning for nearly a million learners. In addition, the social media services he manages have reached over 250,000 readers.

Dr Rizzardini would contribute his expertise in digital learning and media outreach to the ABEO.

- 5.9 Dr Jo Husbands introduced herself as a social scientist who works at the U.S. National Academies on issues related to science, technology, and security, which over time have included biological, chemical, and nuclear weapons, as well as issues related to the conventional arms trade. She described her chemical weapons-related activities in terms of her involvement with IUPAC and the OPCW since 2000, both in terms of IUPAC's reviews of trends in science and technology for past Review Conferences and IUPAC's work on educational materials and codes of conduct beginning in 2005. This work underscored the OPCW's longstanding E&O activities and the opportunity they provided to the ABEO to develop supporting materials for the existing resources, while also undertaking its own new initiatives.
- 5.10 Professor Fatima Lamchouri reported on an international twinning programme that she was involved in and that is part of the U.S. Department of State's Biosecurity Engagement Program. These programmes "twin" an expert with experienced biosafety and biosecurity professionals from the United States of America or Europe with individuals from a partner country/region (participants from throughout North and sub-Saharan Africa) to design and execute a six-month project related to biorisk management. She noted that the paired twins then work on biosecurity-focused projects, which usually result in tangible and impactful outputs, such as developing institutional policies or guidelines.
- 5.11 Professor Mohd Jamil Bin Maah suggested that States Parties should advise their respective education agencies to include the Convention and responsible science as topics in their educational curricula. He also noted the importance of working closely with science academies, scientific societies, and science and technology-focused non-governmental organisations to publicise the role of the OPCW in eliminating chemical weapons. In addition, Professor Bin Maah expressed interest in utilising social media and the latest technologies to promote public awareness about the dual use of chemicals, the Convention, and responsible science in order to enhance outreach.
- 5.12 Ms Gaukhar Mukhatzhanova outlined her role at the Center for Nonproliferation Studies (CNS), where education and training activities on issues related to weapons of mass destruction had been an integral part of her work for the past decade. For example, she has designed and served as the lead instructor of the short, intensive courses on nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament for diplomats in Vienna, Austria, and has led the CNS's cooperation with the Government of Mexico in designing and conducting a summer school programme on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation for Latin America and the Caribbean. As an ABEO member, she is interested in ways to enhance the OPCW's cooperation with civil society in designing and conducting training programmes; the possibility of regional education/training programmes; greater use of social media for outreach; and the development of simulation tools and exercises on chemical weapons issues that can be used by educators.

- 5.13 Mr Shahab ud Din gave a brief overview of his prior involvement with Convention matters in a national context, and noted his interest in developing relationships between industrial set-ups and academia so that students are provided with regular internship opportunities and given exposure to industry. He also noted the need to propagate the latest OPCW initiative on investigation and identification so that all stakeholders, especially States Parties, are clear about its purpose. He furthermore proposed to improve university curricula to include the Convention and related topics for students in chemical engineering, international affairs, and law.
- 5.14 Dr Johannes Georg Weinig informed the Board about the recent ABEO/OPCW-related E&O activities of the German Chemical Society, with linkages to, for example, the German “Working Group on Disarmament of Chemical and Biological Weapons”. He brought the attention of the new ABEO members to the “Loss prevention and safety promotion in chemical industry courses”, which are jointly organised by the University of Wuppertal, Germany and the OPCW. He also proposed that the OPCW should consider presenting its work at the “GDCh Science Forum Chemistry”, with 2,000 expected participants, to be held in Aachen, Germany, from 15 to 18 September 2019.
- 5.15 Dr Anna Zalewska is a historian and archaeologist. She presented arguments for the importance and necessity of studying, systematising, and disseminating knowledge on the history of the use of chemical weapons. She proposed how this could be accomplished as part of the ABEO 2019–2020 work plans (see agenda subitem 8(d) below). She stressed the importance of collecting or documenting both the general and detailed carriers of information and memory on the history of chemical warfare. Already, very extensive and multifaceted past human experiences with chemical weapons are not well documented, nor are they present in global or local discourse. Also, the voices of the victims of chemical weapons are rather silenced. Meanwhile, knowledge about the abundance of loss and human suffering due to the use of chemical weapons should be constantly updated and disseminated over the long-term scale (from the oldest to the recent past) as warnings and as triggers, to reflect on the significance of the Convention and OPCW mission. Such carriers—written, oral, visual as well as material and tangible—need to be documented and designed (collected) in a way to enable their utility for future generations.
- 5.16 Dr Jean Pascal Zanders described his long-standing interest in education as part of his chemical and biological weapons work. This included the design and implementation of an experimental online educational module while at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) in the late 1990s and work for the BioWeapons Prevention Project when promoting universalisation or implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention in Africa. He also reported on his attendance at a panel discussion on “Building on the Secretary General’s Disarmament Agenda” held in the margins of the United Nations Conference on Disarmament in Geneva on 12 February. In relation to preventing the future re-emergence of proscribed weaponry, the event identified challenges for future weapons control negotiations and for reinforcing existing treaties, including changing contextual factors, responsibilities of scientists and industry, and the general trend of norm erosion.

6. AGENDA ITEM SIX – Overview of developments at the OPCW since the last session of the ABEO

Subitem 6(a): General update

- 6.1 The Secretary to the ABEO, Mr Alexander Kelle, briefed the Board on developments at the OPCW during the intersessional period. He focused his intervention on the Twenty-Third Session of the Conference and the Fourth Review Conference, both of which took place in November 2018, as well as on implementation of the decision taken by the Conference at its Fourth Special Session in June 2018, through which an investigation and identification team in the Secretariat was established to identify the perpetrators of chemical weapons use in the Syrian Arab Republic (C-SS-4/DEC.3, dated 27 June 2018).
- 6.2 With respect to the Twenty-Third Session of the Conference, Mr Kelle noted that its duration had been shortened to two days and that the key decision of the Conference on the 2019 Programme and Budget of the Organisation had been taken by a vote. The Twenty-Third Session of the Conference and the Fourth Review Conference had taken place back to back and not several months apart, as had been the previous practice. Although the Fourth Review Conference was the first to not produce a consensual outcome document, States Parties nonetheless renewed their commitment to the Convention and its implementation. However, there still was a pre-existing *acquis* on which States Parties and the Secretariat could move forward, in addition to several ideas contained in the Chairperson's report on the proceedings of the Fourth Review Conference (RC-4/3/Rev.1, dated 30 November 2018).
- 6.3 Concerning implementation of decision C-SS-4/DEC.3, Mr Kelle noted that this represented an attempt by States Parties to deal with chemical weapons use in the Syrian Arab Republic in light of the fact that a previous mechanism—the so-called OPCW-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism, or JIM—had been discontinued. He noted some of the other activities still ongoing in relation to the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic, such as the Fact-Finding Mission. With decision C-SS-4/DEC.3, especially in its operative paragraph 10, States Parties sought to enable the Organisation to investigate chemical weapons use in the Syrian Arab Republic and to identify the perpetrators. Mr Kelle also addressed the structure of the new Investigation and Identification Team in the Secretariat and noted some of the financial implications of its establishment.
- 6.4 In the subsequent discussion, the issues raised included:
- (a) the terminology of identification, attribution, and accountability;
 - (b) why States Parties did not explore all options in the Convention, including those foreseen in Articles IX and XII before setting up the new unit within the Secretariat; and
 - (c) the unclear nature of follow-up activities once the Secretariat has completed its investigative and identification work.

Subitem 6(b): Update on the work of the Scientific Advisory Board

- 6.5 The ABEO received updates on the work of the OPCW Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) from Mr Jonathan Forman (the OPCW's Science Policy Adviser and Secretary to the SAB). Mr Forman highlighted the following: the work of the SAB over the past year; the preparation of the SAB's report to the Fourth Review Conference; the SAB's engagement across scientific communities to augment its capability to follow trends and developments in science and technology; some of the approaches developed to bring science discourse to the States Parties; and the SAB's upcoming work.
- 6.6 Mr Forman also discussed the publication of the work of the SAB in peer-reviewed scientific publications, in line with an initiative to reach further into scientific communities through peer-reviewed scientific literature, which had been encouraged by the Director-General in 2016. Altogether, 11 papers and book chapters had been published since the beginning of 2018.
- 6.7 Mr Forman also provided a briefing to the ABEO discussing the two recent submissions under paragraphs 4 and 5 of Article XV of the Convention to add new chemicals and/or families of chemicals to Schedule 1.A of the Convention's Annex on Chemicals. In the overview of the proposals and the status of decision making, he highlighted the events leading up to a request by the Director-General to the SAB for advice on new nerve agents, the SAB's response, and the public discourse surrounding the new nerve agents and the Article XV proposals. He also outlined how these issues were being discussed by States Parties and in open, scientific, and patent literature. In conclusion, Mr Forman expressed the importance of scientific literacy within the decision-making processes around chemicals and chemical families, and probed how the incorporation of science into E&O activities can have an impact.
- 6.8 In the discussion that followed, the issues raised included:
- (a) the extent to which diplomats have access to national scientists or national laboratories in order to receive explanations of complex scientific issues;
 - (b) the realisation that scientists too struggle with some complex issues, such as amendments to the Convention's Schedules of Chemicals, and that there may be a need for explanatory publications;
 - (c) whether the amendments to the schedules could be jointly presented to diplomats and scientists at the same time, so that they can understand the different elements of the issue, and engage in a meaningful dialogue; and
 - (d) the degree to which the layered approach by the Science Policy Adviser for engaging diplomats at different levels could be utilised by the ABEO in its work.

7. AGENDA ITEM SEVEN – Overview of MFA card rules and procedures

The Board received relevant information pertaining to the rules and procedures for the use of Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) cards and OPCW badges that Board members had received for the duration of their mandate.

8. AGENDA ITEM EIGHT – Discussion of ABEO handover note and work plan for 2019

Subitem 8(a): Follow-up from 2018 ABEO report (ABEO-5/1)

8.1 The discussion on the follow-up from the 2018 ABEO “Report on the Role of Education and Outreach in Preventing the Re-emergence of Chemical Weapons” (ABEO-5/1, dated 12 February 2018) addressed how a strategic framework could help prioritise E&O activities, to ensure the greatest impact from limited resources. Two useful frameworks to apply to the ideas put forward are:

- (a) a “priority matrix”, in which target audiences are defined by being a key or minor audience and by being easy or hard to reach. Most resources go to key audiences that are easy to reach—but follow-up work often addresses minor audiences that are easy to reach, rather than the more important key audiences that are hard to reach. Projects could be assessed against the matrix, including variables like resources to assess their realistic priority; and
- (b) a second framework, which is a way to consider the interrelatedness between audiences and activities, already developed in report ABEO-5/1, using existing networks and developing materials that can best be used and re-purposed across the framework. The advantage of the framework is to find existing synergies and networks and utilise them for mutual outcomes.

8.2 At the request of the new Board members, the Chairperson presented an overview of ABEO activities during its first term, with specific emphasis on common understandings of key terms and the interaction with stakeholder communities (these issues are detailed in ABEO-5/1).

Subitem 8(b): Unfinished business from previous meetings

8.3 The Board discussed a note prepared by the ABEO Chairperson on the general purpose criterion and:

- (a) recommended that, in the light of recent developments, the Secretariat give increased prominence to role and function of the general purpose criterion in its E&O activities, especially those organised for the benefit of National Authorities or involving other key stakeholder communities (industry, scientists, and so on) in international, regional, or national settings;
- (b) recommended also that senior OPCW officials continue to address the importance of the general purpose criterion in their public addresses to audiences that include representatives from key stakeholder communities;
- (c) recommended further that the OPCW raise the question of the general purpose criterion in its interactions with the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA) and with IUPAC with a view to enhancing awareness of the role and function of the general purpose criterion among their respective membership. In addition, E&O strategies should be explored to communicate the message to small and medium-sized companies and academic institutions; and

- (d) encouraged National Authorities of States Parties to continue to raise the general purpose criterion in their interactions with national stakeholder communities as part of their efforts to raise awareness about unscheduled chemicals.

8.4 The ABEO discussed a note circulated by the ABEO Chairperson and decided to set up an intersessional working group to explore the topic of the “history of chemical weapons use” as a possible educational tool (see subitem 8(d) below).

Subitem 8(c): General issues for continuous follow-up

8.5 The ABEO discussed the need to update the “Other Resources” section of the E&O resources page on the OPCW website and how this could be accomplished as part of the Board’s 2019 work plan. The Board decided to create a working group to prepare a new list of “Other Resources” for the E&O resources page as part of the Board’s 2019 Work Plan (see subitem 8(d) below). The expectation is that the list would be updated on a regular basis as new resources are created.

Subitem 8(d): ABEO Work Plan 2019

8.6 The Board discussed its work plan for 2019 and agreed to set up four intersessional working groups to:

- (a) explore the topic of the “history of chemical weapons use” as a possible educational tool. The working group would exchange notes with views on educational objectives and specific historical issues and political sensitivities, as well as present a summary of the exchanges at the Eighth Session of the ABEO;
- (b) prepare a new list of “Other Resources” for the E&O resources page as part of the Board’s 2019 Work Plan. Suggestions would be sought from all members and the working group would explore the inclusion of resources in OPCW official languages other than English;
- (c) support the adoption of active learning approaches and contribute to the improvement of presentation skills of Secretariat staff; and
- (d) consult on and prepare new E&O materials by the end of 2019.

8.7 The Board also decided to return to the following items at its second meeting of 2019:

- (a) reviewing and updating the OPCW’s e-learning resources, in order to align them with best practices; and
- (b) exploring linkages between the OPCW’s E&O work and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, the United Nations Secretary General’s disarmament agenda and disarmament education, and international organisations with E&O programmes.

9. AGENDA ITEM NINE – ABEO meeting Directors and Branch Heads

- 9.1 In order to familiarise new Board members with the structure and work of the Secretariat, Division Directors and Branch Heads were invited to give short overview presentations about their areas of responsibility, including E&O.
- 9.2 The Acting Director of the Inspectorate Division noted that the Inspectorate was the Organisation's largest division, which was supported in its work by all other divisions and units in the Secretariat. He noted the diversity of professional experience in the Inspectorate and suggested that in terms of E&O the Inspectorate could be a key partner and act as force multiplier for the work of ABEO. Most people recognised the work of inspectors with OPCW. Recently the Inspectorate had been trying to establish a presence on social media, and mainly Twitter, to improve outreach. This was also important in order to reach the next generation of inspectors. In response to declining numbers of applications for vacant inspector posts, the Inspectorate had been working in conjunction with the Public Affairs and Human Resources Branches to prepare some videos as recruitment tools, showing the work inspectors perform.
- 9.3 This presentation was complemented by a short briefing from the Head of the Capacity-Building and Contingency-Planning Cell, outlining the different aspects of capacity-building work undertaken. With respect to contingency operations, or non-routine missions, a discrepancy between efforts expended and publicity received was noted between routine and non-routine missions; while the latter consume about 20% of resources, they receive 80% of public attention. In contrast, routine inspection activities consume 80% of resources but receive only 20% of public attention.
- 9.4 In the discussion that followed, including additional interventions from Inspectorate staff, the issues raised included:
- (a) Article IV and V inspections, with Article IV now focused on one remaining State Party and Article V being completed;
 - (b) the challenges in industry inspections to explain to the inspected companies the relationship between their plant and an Organisation dealing with disarmament;
 - (c) the confidence-building nature of some of the routine inspections conducted, especially in relation to other chemical production facilities;
 - (d) the availability of factual and visual records of inspection activities for engagement purposes, and related issues of confidentiality of information; and
 - (e) the methods and approaches used for training inspectors.
- 9.5 Each branch of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division (ICA) provided detailed presentations to the Board, addressing their work on Convention Articles VII, X, and XI, respectively.
- 9.6 In the discussion that followed, the issues raised included:
- (a) the precise nature of additional materials needed for E&O;

- (b) the adaptation of terminology used to engage with States Parties; and
 - (c) the type of E&O materials that the ABEO could consider to support operational activities of the ICA.
- 9.7 The Head of the Public Affairs Branch (PAB) provided an overview of how the External Relations Division (ERD) addressed different aspects of E&O and how E&O responsibilities were divided across units in the Secretariat. She highlighted constraints on communicating science and technology issues and noted, by reference to the OPCW Confidentiality Regime, that other international organisations, such as the United Nations, can be more transparent. In addition, she observed that a diverse set of different stakeholders sought to engage with the OPCW, with the media providing a conduit to get OPCW messages out to a wide audience. With respect to the two ERD offices, she noted the resource constraints under which work had to be conducted. She emphasised the importance of digital outreach to all stakeholders, as this enabled the Organisation to use its resources most effectively with a view to amplify its voice. Last, but not least, the Head of the PAB provided a detailed update on the relaunched OPCW website, and on the progress in finalising the different language versions.
- 9.8 In the subsequent discussion, ABEO members thanked the Head of the PAB for the useful update and encouraged continuation of the many useful engagement activities undertaken by the ERD.
- 9.9 The Director of the Verification Division (VER) gave a general overview of the work of the division, which was followed by a specific presentation on the E&O-related aspects of its responsibilities. This involved making resources available on the OPCW webpage in order to support national implementation by States Parties, in particular their submission of declarations under Article VI of the Convention. It was noted that access to the content on e-learning, the platform on which the support resources are hosted, as well as data statistics on usage of the e-learning modules, could be greatly improved.
- 9.10 In the subsequent discussion, issues raised included:
- (a) the utility of before and after training tests or evaluations;
 - (b) the availability of statistics on the uptake of the e-learning offered;
 - (c) the sustainability of E&O activities; and
 - (d) the challenge of providing diplomats with relevant science and technology information in an accessible manner.
- 9.11 The Board took note of the traditional format of detailed PowerPoint presentations in which several of the Secretariat's interventions were provided, and strongly urged the Secretariat to adopt an active learning approach in its interactions that is tailored to the needs of the different target audiences it sought to engage.

10. AGENDA ITEM TEN – Discussion of the draft session report

The Board discussed its report.

11. AGENDA ITEM ELEVEN – Any other business

11.1 The Board decided that the dates of the second ABEO Session in 2019 would be from 20 to 22 August 2019.

11.2 The Board further decided that it would follow the established practice of the SAB and decide upon its 2020 Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson during its second session in 2019.

11.3 The Board requested the Secretariat to explore the possibility of ABEO members contributing to the National Authority days in November 2019.

12. AGENDA ITEM TWELVE – Adoption of the session report

The Board finalised and adopted the report of its Seventh Session.

13. AGENDA ITEM THIRTEEN – Closure of the session

The Chairperson closed the session at 16:23 on 28 February 2019.

Annex: List of Participants at the Seventh Session of the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach

Annex

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS* AT THE SEVENTH SESSION
OF THE ADVISORY BOARD ON EDUCATION AND OUTREACH**

1. Dr Adriana Bernacchi
2. Dr Craig Cormick
3. Dr Jean-Pascal Zanders
4. Dr Johannes Georg Weinig
5. Prof. Rocael Hernandez Rizzardini
6. Prof. Tatsuya Abe
7. Ms Gaukhar Mukhatzhanova
8. Prof. Mohd Jamil Bin Maah
9. Prof. Fatima Lamchouri
10. Mr Shahab ud Din
11. Dr Anna Zalewska
12. Prof. Alastair Hay
13. Dr Jo Husbands
14. Dr Mark Cesa (observer: IUPAC)
15. Mr William Garcia (observer: ICCA)

* Apologies: Dr Austin Aluoch
Prof. Vijay Raghvan Krishnaswamy

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