

Statement by Professor Magda Bauta Solés,
Chair of the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach to
the 30th Conference of the States Parties
26 November 2025

Mr Chairperson, Director-General, Excellencies, Distinguished delegates,

It is an honour to address this distinguished forum for the third time in my capacity as the Chair of the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach (ABEO). The Board was established to provide expert advice to the Director-General and, upon request, to the States Parties on issues related to education, outreach and the promotion of the objectives and purpose of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC).

The scope of ABEO's mandate remains as broad as it is challenging, particularly in view of the rapid pace of developments in science and technology. These developments underscore the continuing need for education, ethical awareness, and public engagement to uphold the relevance of the CWC and prevent the re-emergence of chemical weapons.

In the course of 2025, the Board has continued to provide advice on ways to foster the objectives and purpose of the Convention. The Board's proposals have been guided by the principles of sustainability and partnership, ensuring that available resources are used to their fullest potential, and that collaboration with partners remains at the centre of its efforts.

Details on the Board's work and discussions are contained in the formal reports of its sessions; therefore, I will limit my remarks today to highlighting key developments and recommendations.

AI and Ethics in the context of Education and Outreach

A major focus of the Board this year has been the **intersection between the artificial intelligence (AI) and ethics**, in the context of CWC implementation from the perspective of education and outreach. The ABEO has recognised both the opportunities and ethical challenges posed by new technologies in chemistry and related sciences.

The Board has reviewed international frameworks, including the UNESCO Recommendations on the Ethics of AI (2022), the UN White Paper on AI Governance (2023), and the European Union Artificial Intelligence Regulation, among others, to inform our deliberations, including presenting a non-paper for Director-General's consideration. Based on these, the ABEO formulated a set of recommendations, including the need to:

1. Promote awareness of AI's ethical implications in the field of chemistry;
2. Encourage interdisciplinary dialogue on AI governance among institutions, organisations and on topics related to disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation;
3. Identify ways to support international cooperation on responsible AI use under the CWC;
4. Ensure a comprehensive approach to the multidisciplinary implications of AI in all aspects of CWC implementation;
5. Undertake, as appropriate, a review and update of The Hague Ethical Guidelines to incorporate explicit reference to AI and address potential gaps in its current version;
6. Suggest the inclusion of AI ethics in the Technical Secretariat's training and outreach activities, including those directed at National Authorities and other key stakeholders.

The ABEO will continue to refine these proposals, in close coordination with the Secretariat and other relevant partners and organisations.

Collaboration with Academia

Youth and academia have remained a central focus of the Board's efforts. In this context, the ABEO has provided its academic advice to the syllabus and educational resources of Diploma Course on Chemical Disarmament and the CWC by the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM). This Diploma Course for young and mid-career professionals, under the leadership of Prof Benjamin Ruiz Loyola, its academic coordinator, illustrates how academic collaboration can meaningfully support the goals of the Convention.

Mr Chairperson,

While on these matters, the Board also commends the initiative to hold a Model UN simulation exercise on CWC in New York in 2026, based on a recommendation by ABEO that offered the expertise of Universidad Rey Juan Carlos in Madrid to host a Model UN Convention. These exercises offer a valuable opportunity to engage students and young professionals in understanding the principles of chemical disarmament and the work of the OPCW.

In addition, the Board has compiled an Inventory of Universities that carry CWC-related content in their curricula, focusing on academic community. The purpose of this inventory is not only to identify institutions already offering such content, but also to use their experience as a model to encourage others. The inventory will be periodically updated.

Furthermore, inspired by the UNAM syllabus, the ABEO developed a core syllabus for educators to support and encourage professors and teaching staff in all regions who would wish to develop a course on the CWC.

The Board further noted the potential for collaboration with the International Cooperation and Assistance Division (ICA), particularly in facilitating the participation of professors and researchers for CWC-related training, thereby fostering knowledge transfer and expanding educational reach.

The Blue Book and the OPCW Centre for Chemistry and Technology (ChemTech Centre)

The Board has continued its work on the Blue Book which was initially conceived, but not exclusively, as a reference for use by the OPCW ChemTech Centre. The Blue Book is an internal resource, which lists internationally recognised experts in the field of chemistry and related disciplines as illustrative examples of how outreach and promotion can enhance the visibility of the ChemTech Centre as a Centre of Excellence. The initial stage of development of the Blue Book has been completed, and the next stages involve populating it with the relevant data so that it becomes a working document for the Secretariat. Beyond serving as a reference tool, it is envisaged as a dynamic and evolving resource that will facilitate collaboration with the wider scientific community.

Finally, the Board has also expressed its strong support for the proposal, which was based on ABEO's recommendation, to convene a Meeting of Experts to establish a Global Academic Network, aimed at strengthening cooperation in education and outreach for the effective implementation of the Convention. Many of you may have attended the Side Event earlier today, during which the Technical Secretariat has provided more details on the outcomes of that meeting, which took place on 4-6 November 2025, at ChemTech Centre. The contribution of France has been key to this very important initiative. The Board looks forward to seeing this network develop as a platform for sustained academic engagement across all regions.

Mr. Chairperson, Director-General, Distinguished delegates,

As I noted at the outset, this is the third occasion on which I have had the privilege to report to this forum on the work of the ABEO as its Chair. It will also be my last. Chairing the Board has been both a privilege and a challenge, and I am deeply grateful for the trust extended to me and other Board members, and for the excellent support both in substantive and technical terms provided by the Technical Secretariat, particularly by the Office of Strategy and Policy.

The Board has elected Professor Supawan Tantayanon to assume the duties of Chairperson as of the Board's next session. I am fully confident that under her

leadership, the ABEO will continue to discharge its mandate with dedication and excellence.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to all ABEO members for their professionalism, commitment and contributions to the work of the Board.