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**ARGENTINA**

**FINAL REPORT ON THE REGIONAL MEETING ON EDUCATION IN THE  
RESPONSIBLE APPLICATION OF KNOWLEDGE OF DUAL-USE CHEMICALS  
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA  
7- 9 APRIL 2014**

The First Regional Meeting on Education in the Responsible Application of Knowledge of Dual-Use Chemicals took place in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 7 to 9 April 2014. Participants from 44 National Authorities and universities, from 22 countries in the region, as well as representatives of the OPCW Technical Secretariat, attended the meeting. The opening ceremony was co-chaired by the Director-General of the OPCW, Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü, the Undersecretary for Foreign Policy of Argentina, Ambassador Carolina Pérez Colman, and the Secretary for University Policies, Dr Aldo Caballero.

Argentina held presentations on its Project on Education in the Responsible and Safe use of Chemical Science and Technologies for the promotion of the Scientific, Economic and Social Development of Argentina. Representatives of the Argentine National Authority and the Secretary of University Policies of the Ministry of Education held presentations on this subject, as did representatives of the John F. Kennedy University and the National Universities of San Luis, Rosario and Córdoba.

Representatives from Brazil, Cuba and Uruguay gave presentations on the relevant activities undertaken by these State Parties with regard to education and outreach.

The OPCW Technical Secretariat presented the Organisation's activities on Education and Outreach, as well as on international cooperation and assistance. The video "Fires: A Teacher's Mission" was shown. Also, the OPCW presented the electronic learning tools and materials developed by the Organisation.

The representative of the Temporary Working Group (TWG) on Education and Outreach of the OPCW Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) and the representative of the Iberoamericana University of Mexico presented active learning approaches and content to promote increased awareness of responsible science.

The representative of the Experts' Group of the United Nations Security Council 1540 Committee spoke about the creation of synergies and regional networks.



During the open debate, the participants had the opportunity to exchange experiences of activities in Education and Outreach in their respective countries and through this arrived at the following conclusions and recommendations:

**General conclusions**

- (a) Stressed the important role of education and outreach:
  - (i) to raise awareness of the OPCW and the Chemical Weapons Convention among society in general and professionals in the area of chemistry.
  - (ii) to help National Authorities better implement Chemical Weapons Convention's obligations in their countries.
- (b) Noted with concern the low level of awareness of the risks of misuse of chemistry, as well as the lack of knowledge of the Chemical Weapons obligations, the national prohibitions, etc.
- (c) Called for collaboration between the different stakeholders at different national levels
- (d) Noted the importance for National Authorities to act as conduits by making links between relevant national institutions that could be involved in promoting Education and Outreach
- (e) Welcomed that more tools, materials and approaches are becoming available to Member States (from the Technical Secretariat, International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC, etc))
- (f) Recalled the recommendations on Education and Outreach included in the final document of the Third Review Conference, as well as the study "Learning the Treasure Within" (UNESCO, 1996)
- (g) Commended Argentina for the initiative on education (reflected in document C-18/NAT.3 of the Eighteenth Conference of the States Parties), which could serve as a model and encourage other States Parties to implement similar projects
- (h) Commended the TWG on Education and Outreach and SAB for guidance and advice to the Director-General in this area.
- (i) Commended the Technical Secretariat for the educational tools and materials that have been developed and made available to States Parties.

**Recommendations for National Authorities**

- (a) Foster a culture in the responsible application of knowledge of dual-use chemicals
- (b) Work with other relevant stakeholders, such as Ministries of Education, professional and scientific associations, and universities, to promote Education

and Outreach activities aimed at society in general, and to the professionals in the field of chemistry in particular

- (c) To strengthen education on chemistry, its benefits and risks, at all educational levels, to better raise society's awareness in this field.
- (d) Design outreach campaigns aimed at universities offering degrees in the fields of chemistry, chemical engineering, pharmacy, biochemistry, etc.
- (e) Design a project that specifies the contents and ways (such as active learning and other approaches) that can be adopted by teachers, for better understanding and internalisation for students of the concepts of responsible science incorporated in the study plans of the relevant careers.
- (f) Foster and promote the use of the educational tools and materials developed by the OPCW (such as e-learning) and IUPAC, in national outreach activities
- (g) Share their experiences and the educational tools with other National Authorities in the region
- (h) Promote the establishment of regional or sub-regional networks of universities, under the aegis of the respective Ministries of Education and/or other relevant institutions, to share national experiences in this field
- (i) Build synergies in this field with other regional or multilateral institutions and mechanisms, e.g. SALTRA, CELAC, SICA, etc.

### **Recommendations for the Technical Secretariat**

- (a) Facilitate similar regional meetings in other regions
- (b) Inclusion of Education and Outreach as a topic in regional National Authorities meetings, and other relevant activities organized by the Technical Secretariat
- (c) Produce more Education and Outreach materials in all languages and to keep them updated
- (d) Create a special section of the OPCW website for "educators and students"
- (e) Cooperate with regional and global scientific networks (e.g. International Conference of Scientific Unions, InterAcademy Panel etc.)
- (f) Design a "model" for a national outreach event (tentative programme, outline presentations etc.)
- (g) Establish a Technical Secretariat programme to organise regional and sub-regional training courses and workshops (train-the-trainers) aimed at university professors in the fields of chemistry (in the same way that the Technical Secretariat organises assistance-and-protection courses).

- (h) Re-assess its cooperation activities for Latin America and the Caribbean, in order to adjust them to the needs identified by the National Authorities of the region, such as on Education and Outreach, among others.

The National Authorities thanked and recognised the importance of all the support activities carried out by the OPCW Technical Secretariat in the region and expressed their wish that they will continue in the future, taking into account the region's specific requests and requirements.

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