

**NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT****ONGOING AND PLANNED AWARENESS-RAISING, EDUCATION AND OUTREACH
ACTIVITIES**

1. In accordance with the recommendations agreed at 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”), and in light of the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to the Organisation in 2013 and the commemoration in 2015 of the centenary of the first large-scale use of chemical weapons, the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) has undertaken a range of awareness-raising, education, and outreach activities in 2014 and 2015 and will continue to further enhance such activities in the coming years.
2. In undertaking its activities, the Secretariat is guided by the advice that it receives from the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB). The SAB’s temporary working group (TWG) on education and outreach in science and technology relevant to the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”) has been of particular value in this respect. The TWG, which has now completed its work, was comprised of 13 international experts on the Convention and chemistry education and was chaired by Professor Djafer Benachour of Algeria. The TWG was an extremely valuable source of guidance and advice for the Secretariat, particularly with regard to recommendations for sustainable approaches to education and outreach in the long term.
3. The final report of the TWG on education and outreach, entitled “Education and Engagement: Promoting a Culture of Responsible Chemistry” was issued in November 2014 and is available on the OPCW website.¹ In one of its key findings, the TWG found that education and outreach are integral components of efforts to prevent the re-emergence of chemical weapons. The report contains seven recommendations regarding the sustainability of OPCW education and outreach efforts for the consideration of the SAB, the Director-General, and the States Parties. One of the central recommendations of the TWG is the establishment of a permanent expert advisory group on education and outreach. A proposal to initiate the establishment of such a group, in the form of an Advisory Board on Education and Outreach, is currently before the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”) (EC-79/DG.11 and EC-79/DEC/CRP.4, both dated 29 May 2015).

¹ http://www.opcw.org/index.php?eID=dam_frontend_push&docID=18014



4. Since its last Note on this subject (EC-76/S/4, dated 1 July 2014), the Secretariat has conducted a number of education and outreach activities across the full range of its work, as outlined in the sections below. In addition to these specific activities, the Secretariat organised two high-profile events with significant education and outreach elements. In September 2014, an international conference entitled “Education for Peace: New Pathways for Securing Chemical Disarmament” took place at OPCW Headquarters. As the first of its kind, the conference drew on the OPCW’s and other relevant institutions’ experience in education and outreach. It brought together some 120 experts from government, science, industry, academia, and civil society from more than 40 countries to share information and exchange best practices on how to promote responsible science in industry, universities, and schools. This included showcasing interactive tools and materials, as well as strategies for engaging teachers and students alike. A booklet containing all of the presentations given at the conference was recently published by the Organisation and is available on the OPCW website.²
5. On 21 April 2015, the Secretariat marked the centenary of the first large-scale use of chemical weapons with a commemorative meeting of its Member States in Ieper, Belgium. This event served to honour the memory of all victims of chemical warfare over the past century, as well as to re-dedicate collective efforts to rid the world of chemical weapons. At the conclusion of the event, a declaration was issued by the States Parties.
6. The final report of the Third Review Conference (RC-3/3*, dated 19 April 2013) sets forth four recommendations that specifically address education, outreach, and awareness-raising. Proposals for implementing these recommendations were put forward in a non-paper by the Secretariat in September 2013, and this Note summarises activities undertaken and planned in response to each one.

Recommendation 1

“Encouraged 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) of RC-3/3*)

7. Following the successful national meetings organised by Argentina in 2014, the Secretariat has organised a series of regional meetings on education and outreach. The intent of the meetings is to provide a regional forum for exchanging ideas and best practices in education and outreach, in addition to a platform for wide-ranging discussion and the exchange of ideas and best practices on ways to raise awareness about the Convention, especially at relevant educational institutions.
8. Two such regional meetings have taken place: in Beijing, China on 5 and 6 May 2015, and in Algiers, Algeria on 2 and 3 June 2015. Both were held in conjunction with the regional meeting of National Authorities from the States Parties in the respective regional group. In Beijing, the meeting attracted 70 participants from 32 States Parties in the region, comprising representatives of National Authorities and experts from

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https://www.opcw.org/index.php?eID=dam_frontend_push&docID=18778

educational institutions. The meeting was co-inaugurated by the Deputy Director-General and the Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs of China, H.E. Mr Liu Jianchao. The meeting included the participation of Dr Ting Kueh Son, member of the SAB TWG on education and outreach. In Algiers, the meeting attracted 70 participants from 59 States Parties, was inaugurated by the Director-General, and featured the participation of Professor Djafer Benachour, Chairperson of the TWG on education and outreach, and Dr Philip Coleman, member of the TWG on education and outreach.

9. During the group discussions at each meeting, the participants sought to identify appropriate approaches for effective education and outreach and provided a number of recommendations that are being examined by the Secretariat.
10. Education and outreach was also included as a topic of discussion for the regional meeting of National Authorities of States Parties in Eastern Europe held in Ljubljana, Slovenia, from 25 to 28 May 2015 with 30 participants from 22 countries, and for the regional meeting of National Authorities of States Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean to be held in Panama City, Panama from 23 to 25 June 2015. Education and outreach will continue to feature on the programmes of future regional meetings and annual meetings of National Authorities.
11. The Secretariat has used these meetings to inform National Authorities about the following educational materials:
 - (a) Three films, which are available as part of the “Fires” project,³ a series of video documentaries that profile individuals with compelling personal stories to tell in relation to chemical weapons, warfare, and disarmament, produced with the OPCW’s own audiovisual capacities and staff. Funding for this project has been received in 2015 from the European Union and from Poland, which supported the production of the third film in the series. The films have already been subtitled into all official OPCW languages with financial support from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Social media campaigns and various projections, along with promotional materials, have been used to promote the project. In addition, an accompanying lesson plan for use by teachers, also translated into all official languages, has already been produced for the first film;
 - (b) An interactive website entitled “Multiple Uses of Chemicals”,⁴ developed in cooperation with the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) and experts at the King’s University College in Canada, with financial support from the European Union. The website is a much updated and improved version of an earlier OPCW/IUPAC activity conducted several years ago;

³ <https://www.thefiresproject.com/about-fires/>

⁴ <http://multiple.kcvs.ca/site/index.html>

- (c) Twelve e-learning modules made available on the OPCW website,⁵ covering a range of topics from an introduction to the Convention to specific guidance on the declarations and Article VI inspections regimes; and
- (d) OPCW fact sheets, eleven of which have been updated, redesigned, and are in the process of translation into all the official languages. They contain comprehensive details about the Convention and the Secretariat and have been made available both in hard copy and in electronic versions on the OPCW website.⁶

Recommendation 2

“Encouraged the Secretariat to continue to develop relationships and partnerships with other relevant bodies, national and international, that are working to promote the peaceful and responsible use of chemistry, including capacity building” (subparagraph 9.131(j) of RC-3/3*)

- 12. The Secretariat continues to engage with other relevant international organisations and bodies such as the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO); the International Atomic Energy Agency; the World Health Organization; the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) Implementation Support Unit; the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; and the Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation.
- 13. Notable activities during the review period have included the visit to the OPCW by the Executive Secretary of CTBTO (February 2015) and a return visit by the Director-General in June 2015, both of which were carried out with the aim of establishing a framework for technical cooperation between the two organisations in the future; the participation of UNESCO in the fourth meeting of the TWG on education and outreach (September 2014); and side events and plenary presentations at the BWC Meeting of Experts (August 2014) and its Meeting of States Parties (December 2014). Further engagement with the States Parties to the BWC is intended to take place at the next Meeting of Experts (August 2015) and Meeting of States Parties (December 2015).
- 14. The Secretariat also participated in Model United Nations (MUN) events in The Hague (THIMUN,⁷ January 2015), Brussels (MUN, March 2015), and Alkmaar (IMUNA,⁸ June 2015); the annual seminar of the European Union Non-Proliferation Consortium (November 2014); a workshop on “Biological and Chemical Security in an Age of Responsible Innovation”, organised by Biochem Security 2030 (November 2014); and committee meetings at the Sixtieth Annual Session of the NATO⁹ Parliamentary Assembly in November 2014. The Director-General addressed the Annual Meeting of the Academic Council on the United Nations System (June 2014); the Tenth Annual

⁵ <http://www.opcw.org/our-work/education-and-outreach/e-learning/>

⁶ <http://www.opcw.org/documents-reports/fact-sheets/>

⁷ THIMUN = The Hague International Model United Nations.

⁸ IMUNA = International Model United Nations of Alkmaar.

⁹ NATO = North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

NATO Conference on WMD¹⁰ Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-Proliferation (June 2014); and the European Union Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Conference held in Brussels, Belgium (September 2014).

Recommendation 3

“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(I) of RC-3/3*)

15. The Secretariat continues to augment and expand its active engagement with the global scientific community and with the chemical industry, both to gain technical insight to inform policymaking and to increase awareness among stakeholders of the goal of preventing the re-emergence of chemical weapons. To emphasise the importance of these relationships, an item dedicated to the chemical industry and the scientific community was added to the regular agenda of the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”) (C-19/DEC.2, dated 1 December 2014).
16. During the reporting period, the Secretariat worked closely with the International Council of Chemical Associations to formalise the relationship, with a view to closer coordination of relevant activities and, where appropriate, the initiation of joint activities and projects related to the implementation of the Convention.
17. The Secretariat and the IUPAC also continued to build on their partnership; the IUPAC president was invited to participate in the general debate at the Nineteenth Session of the Conference, and the OPCW Science Policy Adviser was appointed as an observer to the IUPAC’s Committee on Chemistry Education. The Secretariat also participated in several IUPAC conferences, giving a presentation at the 23rd International Conference on Chemistry Education in Toronto, Canada, in July 2014, and organising a symposium on science and security at the 5th IUPAC Conference on Green Chemistry in Durban, South Africa, in August 2014. Furthermore, the Secretariat will participate in the IUPAC 48th General Assembly and 45th World Chemistry Congress in Busan, the Republic of Korea, in August 2015.¹¹
18. Engagement with international, regional, and national chemistry societies is another area in which the Secretariat has enhanced its engagement. The Secretariat has held meetings and provided presentations to the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the United States National Academy of Science, the American Chemical Society (ACS), the Bangladesh Chemical Society, and the German Chemical Society. The ACS presented the OPCW with an award at its March 2015 meeting in Denver, the United States of America, in recognition of the Organisation’s promotion of chemistry in the service of peace. At the same meeting, the Secretariat gave three presentations, held a booth at an opening night reception, and engaged with chemists from around the world (ACS meetings draw an international attendance; the March 2015 meeting had over 13,000 participants). Secretariat activities in forthcoming

¹⁰ WMD = weapon(s) of mass destruction.

¹¹ www.iupac2015.org/

events hosted by the Federation of Asian Chemical Societies¹² and the Federation of African Societies of Chemistry¹³ are also planned.

19. Sustaining engagement with the scientific community requires the Secretariat to maintain visibility, requiring continued participation in scientific events and also publication in scientific media. In this regard, magazines for members of the IUPAC¹⁴ and the Royal Australian Chemical Institute¹⁵ have highlighted the OPCW and its work. The Secretariat has also had an involvement in publications targeted toward scientific audiences; these include the August 2014 issue of *OPCW Today*, dedicated to science and technology and intended for both technical and non-technical audiences,¹⁶ and a special topical issue of the peer-reviewed journal *Analytical and Bioanalytical Chemistry*, which included an introduction from the Director-General and was edited by analytical chemists from the OPCW Laboratory.¹⁷ Additional publications from the Secretariat in technical scientific literature are forthcoming.
20. To further engage the scientific community and the science-interested public, the Secretariat initiated a special science and technology section¹⁸ on its public website, along with a science and technology newsletter¹⁹ for staff members of the Secretariat, members of the SAB, and interested external stakeholders on developments and trends identified through the Secretariat's science and technology monitoring activities. The newsletter has subscribers from all continents and a wide range of institutions, including government, military, academia, international organisations, and the private sector.
21. Engagement with the scientific community has been further strengthened with input from the SAB and its TWG on education and outreach. Notable activities have included a workshop by Professors Alastair Hay and Peter Mahaffy at the aforementioned 5th IUPAC Conference on Green Chemistry and a presentation at the March 2015 ACS meeting by Professor Alejandra Suárez, Chairperson of the SAB. TWG members also helped to organise and participated in regional outreach meetings, including the "First Regional Meeting on Education in the Responsible Application of Knowledge of Dual-Use Chemicals", which took place in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 7 to 9 April 2014 (EC-76/NAT.1, dated 5 June 2014), and the regional meetings on education and outreach described above.
22. Since 2010, the Secretariat has collaborated with the TMC Asser Institute in The Hague to co-organise an annual summer programme on WMD disarmament and non-proliferation. The programme, now in its sixth year, involves speakers from

12 www.16acc.org/

13 <https://sites.google.com/site/acrice2015/>

14 "Multiple Uses of Chemicals IUPAC and OPCW Working Toward Responsible Science"; P. Mahaffy, J. Zondervan, A. Hay, D. Feakes, J. Forman; *Chemistry International*, 2014, 36, 9-13. DOI:10.1515/ci-2014-0508; see also DOI:10.1515/ci-2014-0509 and DOI:10.1515/ci-2014-0510).

15 "From chemical warfare to peace", M. Schultz, K. Lim, *Chemistry in Australia*, May 2014, pages 16-19.

16 www.opcw.org/fileadmin/OPCW/OPCW_Today/OPCW_Today_-_Vol_3_No_1.pdf

17 <http://link.springer.com/journal/216/406/21>

18 www.opcw.org/special-sections/science-technology/

19 www.opcw.org/special-sections/science-technology/science-technology-monitor/

partner organisations, and is specifically designed for advanced graduate students and young professionals up to mid-level who are interested in pursuing careers in the field of non-proliferation and disarmament of WMD (S/1276/2015, dated 18 May 2015).

23. The Secretariat continues to build awareness of the Convention through lectures and demonstrations in schools and universities. During the review period, presentations were given by the Director-General or Secretariat staff at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (August 2014), the University of Pretoria, South Africa (September 2014), the University of Johannesburg, South Africa (September 2014), Universidad Nacional del Sur, Argentina (November 2014), the University of Oxford, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (November 2014), Complutense University of Madrid, Spain (January 2015), Kyoto University, Japan (February 2015), the Prague Institute of International Relations, the Czech Republic (February 2015), the University of Pardubice, the Czech Republic (May 2015), the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia (May 2015), the Houari Boumediene University of Science and Technology in Algiers, Algeria (June 2015), Tsinghua University, China (June 2015), as well as at a number of institutions in the Netherlands. In addition, presentations were given to international schools in Rotterdam and The Hague.
24. These activities reach students with a wide range of interests and have led to several collaborative projects with universities in the Netherlands (Leiden University, The Hague University, and the University of Groningen). For example, under the guidance of Secretariat staff, students in the safety and security management programme of The Hague University undertook a research project related to the convergence of the sciences, and students from the University of Groningen worked on Convention-themed student projects as part of science-communication courses during the course of 2014 and 2015.

Recommendation 4

“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) of RC-3/3*)

25. On 11 March 2015, the Secretariat hosted a workshop, chaired by SAB Chairperson Professor Alejandra Suárez, on guidelines for the practice of chemistry under the norms of the Convention. The workshop brought together practitioners of the chemical sciences to discuss an initiative proposed by the Permanent Representation of Germany at the Nineteenth Session of the Conference for a text of ethical guidelines for chemical professionals related to the Convention (paragraph 23.3 of C-19/5, dated 5 December 2014).²⁰ The event was the beginning of a longer-term process to draft text for key elements of ethical guidelines relevant to the Convention.

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26. Participants, who represented a range of stakeholders in the chemical sciences (from academia, industry, and scientific societies) addressed three thematic issues: key elements of Convention-relevant ethical guidelines, principles and best practices for drafting ethical guidelines, and establishing synergy with other current initiatives. Inputs were identified for further consideration. Taking the initiative forward from the 11 March event, participants are working together to produce text that can be discussed with stakeholders across the chemical sciences at a forthcoming workshop. A report from the 11 March workshop is available on the OPCW public website.²¹
27. In the area of chemical knowledge promotion and exchange, the Secretariat supported 11 scientific events, enabling 62 scientists and researchers to participate in various scientific events under the Conference-Support Programme. Fourteen internships were undertaken in 2014 under the Internship-Support Programme.
28. The Programme for Support of Research Projects provided funding to 36 directly funded research projects in 2014. In addition, 40 new research projects received joint funding in 2014 from the OPCW and the International Foundation for Science.
29. As part of the Laboratory-Assistance Programme, a visit was undertaken to the laboratories of the Institute of Criminalistics and Criminology of the Gendarmerie Nationale in Algiers, Algeria, in order to assess the capacity for establishing a line for analysis of chemical weapons agents. In addition, a workshop entitled “GC-MS²² Essentials: From Sample Injection to Spectral Interpretation” was held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 25 to 29 August 2014. It was organised by the Pan-African Chemistry Network, which received support to provide assistance to participating laboratories.
30. A workshop on Article XI of the Convention was conducted at OPCW Headquarters from 11 to 13 June 2014. The workshop was attended by 23 participants who had previously attended regional workshops on Article XI held in China, Hungary, Kenya, and Uruguay. The event was designed to amalgamate the set of priorities identifying regional needs, a process which began with the decision by the Conference at its Sixteenth Session (C-16/DEC.10, dated 1 December 2011) to hold such workshops and to identify global and regional priorities.

Conclusion

31. A number of initiatives now taking place will inform and guide the Organisation’s education and outreach efforts in the future. These include the series of regional meetings on education and outreach, the workshops on ethical guidelines, and the proposed establishment of an Advisory Board on Education and Outreach. It is expected that the Advisory Board, in particular, will play a key role in the Organisation’s education and outreach efforts in the future, both from a practical and a strategic perspective.

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²¹ www.opcw.org/index.php?eID=dam_frontend_push&docID=18748

²² GC-MS = gas chromatography-mass spectrometry.