

**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, the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) has undertaken a range of awareness-raising, education, and outreach activities in 2015 and 2016 and will continue to further enhance such activities in the coming years with the support and guidance of the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach (ABEO).
2. The establishment in 2016 of the ABEO, which the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”) authorised at its Twentieth Session (C-20/DEC.9, dated 3 December 2015), was a particularly significant development in the context of the Organisation’s education and outreach activities. According to its Terms of Reference, the ABEO will provide specialised advice both to the Director-General and to States Parties, upon request, on all areas of education and outreach relevant to the Organisation’s mandate. In early 2016, the Director-General appointed the 15 inaugural members of the ABEO for a term of three years, effective 1 January 2016 (EC-81/DG.9 C-21/DG.2, dated 18 February 2016). The Board met for the first time on 28 and 29 April 2016, electing Dr Jean-Pascal Zanders of Belgium as its Chairperson and Dr Edith Valles of Argentina as its Vice-Chairperson (ABEO-1/1, dated 29 April 2016).
3. With respect to the OPCW’s education and outreach on scientific and technological matters, the ABEO will take over the function previously filled by the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB). The SAB’s temporary working group on education and outreach in science and technology relevant to the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”) was of particular value in guiding the Secretariat’s efforts in this field, including with regard to its recommendations concerning the establishment of the ABEO and to sustainable approaches to education and outreach in the long term.
4. Since its last Note on this subject (EC-79/S/2, dated 10 June 2015), 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 also organised the first commemoration of the International Day for the Foundation of the OPCW (or “OPCW Day”), held from 2 to 4 May 2016.



The event, entitled “Chemical Safety and Security in a Technologically Evolving World”, brought together a broad range of external stakeholders in a conference series and exposition, which highlighted the OPCW’s role in enhancing global security. The event took place immediately after the inaugural meeting of the ABEO, allowing its Chairperson to brief the participants on the Board’s work. The proceedings of the event will be published in due course. Plans are now being put in place for a larger event to be held in 2017, which will commemorate the 20th anniversary of the foundation of the OPCW. These and similar high-profile events have significant education and outreach dimensions.

5. 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\*)**

6. Following the two successful regional meetings in 2015, the Secretariat has organised a further series of four 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.
7. Two regional meetings took place during the reporting period: in Vilnius, Lithuania, on 4 and 5 May 2016, and in Tehran, the Islamic Republic of Iran, on 23 and 24 May 2016. Both were held in conjunction with the regional meeting of National Authorities from the States Parties in the respective regional groups. In Vilnius, the meeting attracted 45 participants from 21 States Parties in the region, comprising representatives of National Authorities and experts from external stakeholders, such as universities, ministries of education, and public health institutions. In Tehran, the meeting attracted 75 participants from 26 States Parties and featured the participation of Dr Thirumalachari Ramasami and Dr Sa’ad Ibrahim Al-Ali, members of the ABEO.
8. During the group discussions at each meeting, the participants sought to identify ways in which National Authorities could play a greater role in the OPCW’s education and outreach efforts, with the support of the Secretariat. The recommendations from the meetings are being examined by the Secretariat and will be submitted to the ABEO for its consideration.

9. Two further such regional meetings will be held in 2016: in Johannesburg, South Africa, on 13 and 14 June, and in Asunción, Paraguay, on 28 and 29 June. Both meetings will feature the participation of members of the ABEO from the respective regions and external stakeholders nominated by National Authorities.
10. Education and outreach was also a focus area during the annual meeting of National Authorities, which took place from 27 to 29 November 2015. The meeting featured a break-out session on education and outreach, during which National Authority representatives provided feedback on the challenges they face in undertaking education and outreach on the Convention, and the potential role National Authorities could play in this area.
11. The Secretariat has used these meetings to inform National Authorities about the following educational tools and materials:
  - (a) The FIRES documentary project, which launched its newest film, *Combustion Man*, on 3 May 2016. The film focuses on the role of innovation and science in service of chemical disarmament. Dr Subith Vasu, a researcher at the University of Central Florida in the United States of America, is featured as an individual with a compelling personal story in relation to chemical weapons, warfare, and disarmament. Additionally, a new FIRES website<sup>1</sup> was launched in early 2016, improving its look and feel and providing the films and accompanying resources in one place. All FIRES films have been promoted via social media, during screenings, and through promotional materials such as DVDs and booklets. Additionally, one of the films is accompanied by a lesson plan available online. The FIRES project has been financially supported by the European Union (EU) and produced with the OPCW's own audio-visual capacity and staff;
  - (b) An interactive website entitled "Multiple Uses of Chemicals",<sup>2</sup> developed in cooperation with the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) and experts at King's University College in Canada, with financial support from the EU. The website is a much updated and improved version of an earlier OPCW-IUPAC activity conducted several years ago;
  - (c) Twelve e-learning modules made available on the OPCW website,<sup>3</sup> covering a range of topics from an introduction to the Convention to specific guidance on declarations and Article VI inspections regimes;
  - (d) OPCW fact sheets, 11 of which have been updated, redesigned, and translated into all the official languages of the OPCW. 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;<sup>4</sup> and

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1 <http://www.thefiresproject.com>

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

3 <https://www.opcw.org/special-sections/education/e-learning/>

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

- (e) The Hague Ethical Guidelines, a set of guidelines formulated in 2015 and intended to serve as elements for ethical codes and discussion points for ethical issues related to the practice of chemistry under the Convention. The Secretariat's promotion of the guidelines is carried out in accordance with paragraph 23.2 of the report of the Twentieth Session of the Conference (C-20/5, dated 4 December 2015).
12. Given the importance of National Authorities in the OPCW's efforts on education and outreach, this topic will continue to feature on the programmes of future regional meetings and annual meetings of National Authorities.

## **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\*)**

13. The Secretariat and IUPAC continued to build on their partnership during the reporting period; the IUPAC President was invited to participate in the general debate at the Twentieth Session of the Conference, and the OPCW Science Policy Adviser continued to serve as an observer on IUPAC's Committee on Chemistry Education. In recognition of the importance of IUPAC to the OPCW's education and outreach efforts, the Terms of Reference of the ABEO appointed IUPAC as a permanent ABEO observer. The Secretariat also participated in several IUPAC conferences, giving a presentation at the 45th IUPAC World Chemistry Congress in Busan, the Republic of Korea in August 2015. Furthermore, the Secretariat will participate in the 24th IUPAC International Conference on Chemistry Education in Kuching, Malaysia in August 2016.<sup>5</sup>
14. Cooperation with international, regional, and national chemistry societies is another area in which the Secretariat has continued to enhance its engagement. The Secretariat made presentations to scientific audiences at a number of events, including the Gordon Conference on Chemistry Education in Lewiston, Maine, the United States of America (June 2015); the 10th European Congress of Chemical Engineering in Nice, France (September 2015); the Malta VII Conference in Rabat, Morocco (November 2015); and the 16th Asian Chemical Congress in Dhaka, Bangladesh (March 2016). 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, and the Bangladesh Chemical Society.
15. The Secretariat has also further developed its network of partners in the various national and international bodies that are working to promote the peaceful and responsible use of chemistry, as part of its support for the implementation of Article XI of the Convention. Alumni of OPCW capacity-building programmes under Article XI have undertaken dissemination and awareness-raising initiatives in their

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<sup>5</sup> <http://www.icce2016.org.my/>

home countries and regions, with the support of the Secretariat, and have contributed to OPCW projects, such as the FIRES project, aimed at raising awareness regarding the Convention, the OPCW, and the peaceful uses of chemistry.

16. In May 2016, the Secretariat hosted the first Symposium on Women in Chemistry, followed by a basic analytical chemistry course for women chemists at the OPCW Laboratory. Aimed at further advancing the participation of women as key stakeholders in the scientific community, chemical industry, and other fields of chemistry, the Symposium was attended by 70 participants from 41 States Parties, including senior officials and representatives of the scientific community, chemical industry, research institutes, academic institutions, and chemical industries. As the first global initiative specifically for women chemists and the promotion of the peaceful uses of chemistry, the Symposium provided a platform for prominent female practitioners to discuss topics such as the making of role models, challenges and opportunities for women in chemistry, and the perspective of women entrepreneurs in industry. A round-table discussion focused on education, career advancement, and capacity development for women chemists in developing countries was held, as well as a discussion on recent research highlights from women chemists.
17. The Secretariat continues to support Model United Nations (MUN) events held in The Hague and elsewhere, including by hosting visits by MUN student groups to the OPCW Headquarters. In November 2015, Secretariat representatives participated in the annual seminar of the EU Non-Proliferation Consortium, held in Brussels, Belgium and delivered briefings on Convention implementation, and in May 2016 the Director-General addressed the twelfth annual NATO Conference on WMD<sup>6</sup> Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-Proliferation.

### **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(l) of RC-3/3\*)**

18. 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 in 2014 (C-19/DEC.2, dated 1 December 2014).
19. During the reporting period, the Secretariat worked closely with the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA) 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.

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<sup>6</sup> WMD = weapon(s) of mass destruction.

As a result of this work, an exchange of letters took place between the Council Secretary of the ICCA and the Director-General (reported in S/1293/2015, dated 1 July 2015) which, inter alia, identified education and outreach as among the topics of mutual interest to be discussed regularly by the two organisations.

20. In March 2016, the Secretariat organised in Moscow the first OPCW capacity-building initiative dedicated to Responsible Care<sup>®</sup>, an ICCA initiative for the global chemical industry. The training workshop on the Best Practices to Develop the Responsible Care<sup>®</sup> Programmes for the Chemical Industry featured the participation of 14 chemical professionals from six States Parties in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.<sup>7</sup>
21. 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 (IAEA); the World Health Organization (WHO); the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) Implementation Support Unit; the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI); and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).
22. Notable activities during the review period included the visit to the OPCW by the Executive Secretary of the CTBTO (May 2016) for the conference on “Chemical Safety and Security in a Technologically Evolving World”, during which a meeting was held with the Director-General to discuss further technical cooperation between the two organisations; participation of the BWC Implementation Support Unit, IAEA, UNICRI, WHO, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, United Nations Environment Programme, and World Customs Organization in the OPCW Day event; collaboration with UNICRI in side events and courses on emerging technology and its implications for chemical security (October and December 2015 and March 2016); participation of UNESCO in the first OPCW Symposium on Woman in Chemistry (May 2016); attendance of the OPCW Science Policy Adviser and SAB Chairperson at the fifth meeting of the Scientific Advisory Board of the United Nations Secretary-General as observers (May 2016, arranged through UNESCO); and side events and a plenary presentation at the BWC Meeting of Experts (August 2015) and its Meeting of States Parties (December 2015). Further engagement with the States Parties to the BWC is intended to take place at the Eighth Review Conference of the BWC (November 2016).
23. Sustaining engagement with the scientific community requires the Secretariat to maintain visibility, to continue participation in scientific events, and also to publish in scientific media. In this regard, the Secretariat contributed to publications targeted toward scientific audiences. These include *Chemistry World* (the journal of the Royal Society of Chemistry)<sup>8</sup> and *Science & Diplomacy*.<sup>9</sup> The Secretariat has also taken part

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<sup>7</sup> Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, and Tajikistan.

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.rsc.org/chemistryworld/2016/02/organisation-prohibition-chemical-weapons-jobs-insider>

<sup>9</sup> Beatrice Maneshi, Jonathan E. Forman, “The Intersection of Science and Chemical Disarmament”, Vol. 4, No. 3 (September 2015) (<http://www.sciencediplomacy.org/perspective/2015/intersection-science-and-chemical-disarmament>).

in online engagement directed at teachers of chemistry, particularly through conferences on the connection between science, disarmament, and diplomacy in the OPCW context.<sup>10</sup>

24. To further engage the scientific community and the science-interested public, the Secretariat maintains a special science and technology section<sup>11</sup> on its public website, along with a science and technology newsletter<sup>12</sup> 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.
25. 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 seventh year, involves speakers from 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/1363/2016, dated 8 March 2016).
26. The OPCW has deepened its relationship with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs and is participating as a partner in the Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education Partnership, which aims to develop a series of focused educational packages in different areas of assistance. This includes support for the implementation of a project on "Women Scholarship for Peace", for which the OPCW has provided information and material related to the Convention.
27. 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 University of Ljubljana (Slovenia), Algiers University (Algeria), Tsinghua University (China), the University of Surrey (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), the University of Nicosia (Cyprus), Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University (Thailand), and Mendeleev University of Chemical Technology (Russian Federation), as well as at a number of institutions in the Netherlands.
28. 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 have worked on projects that involve science communication materials relevant to the Convention (University of Groningen) and have written reports that explore the scientific dimensions of security concerns and

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<sup>10</sup> J. Ballard, J. Forman, "Education, Outreach and the OPCW: Growing Partnerships for a Global Ban"; 2016 Spring ConfChem: Science, Disarmament, and Diplomacy in Chemical Education: The Example of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (<http://confchem.ccece.divched.org/2016SpringConfChem>); J. Forman, "Chemistry and Diplomacy: Science Education and Science Communication in Disarmament" (<http://confchem.ccece.divched.org/2015FallCCCENLP4>).

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.opcw.org/special-sections/science-technology/>

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.opcw.org/special-sections/science-technology/science-technology-monitor/>

probed the relevance of citizen science projects to the Convention (Leiden University and The Hague University).

#### **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\*)**

29. Continuing a process begun earlier the same year and initiated by the Conference at its Nineteenth Session (paragraph 23.3 of C-19/5, dated 5 December 2014), the Secretariat in September 2015 hosted the second in a series of two workshops on elaborating guidelines for the practice of chemistry under the Convention. These workshops, involving more than 30 scientists and chemistry professionals from over 20 countries, including all regional groups, resulted in The Hague Ethical Guidelines, which are intended to serve as elements for ethical codes and discussion points for ethical issues. The Guidelines have been translated into all OPCW official languages and formatted into brochures which are available on the OPCW’s website.<sup>13</sup>
30. The Conference at its Twentieth Session acknowledged the Hague Ethical Guidelines as “an important step to advance understanding among chemistry practitioners of the importance of nurturing responsible and ethical norms for scientific research and development,” and also encouraged States Parties as well as the Secretariat and all relevant stakeholders to promote awareness of these guidelines and their possible application (paragraph 23.2 of C-20/5).
31. In January 2016, the Director-General wrote a letter to all National Authorities encouraging them to bring the Hague Ethical Guidelines to the attention of their national stakeholders, particularly in industry, academia, and civil society. The Guidelines were endorsed in April 2016 by IUPAC<sup>14</sup> and used as the basis for the Global Chemists’ Code of Ethics.<sup>15</sup>

#### **Conclusion**

32. A number of recent developments and initiatives now taking place will inform and guide the Organisation’s education and outreach efforts in the future. Chief among these is the establishment and operation of the ABEO, which will meet for the second time in October 2016, and the expanded series of regional meetings on education and outreach. The Organisation’s 20th anniversary in April 2017 and the revamping of the OPCW’s website both represent significant upcoming opportunities to build upon the Organisation’s recent work in this field.

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<sup>13</sup> <http://www.opcw.org/special-sections/science-technology/the-hague-ethical-guidelines/>

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.opcw.org/news/article/iupac-endorses-the-hague-ethical-guidelines/>

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/global/international/science-and-human-rights.html>