

OPCW Advisory Board on Education and Outreach (ABEO)

The First Steps

Dr Jean Pascal Zanders

Chair of ABEO

OPCW Day

The Hague, 2–4 May 2016

Establishment of ABEO

- **Decision by the Executive Council (8 October 2015)**
 - Document EC-80/DEC.5
 - Confirmed at the 20th Session of the Conference of States Parties (December 2015)
- **Mandate**
 - Advice to the Director-General
 - On matters relating to education, outreach and awareness-raising, and public diplomacy
 - Concerning the CWC and its (domestic) implementation
 - In relation to States Parties and key stakeholder communities
- **Scope**
 - Deepening the involvement of the stakeholder community in the prevention of re-emergence of chemical weapons
 - Current and planned activities that fall under education, outreach and awareness-raising, and public diplomacy

Composition of ABEO

- **15 Nationalities**
 - Africa
 - Kenya, Morocco, South Africa
 - Asia
 - China, India, Iraq, Japan
 - Eastern Europe
 - Poland, Russian Federation
 - Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC)
 - Argentina, Mexico,
 - Western Europe and Other States
 - Belgium, Germany, United Kingdom, United States
- **Appointment**
 - 3 Years (once renewable)
 - However, no limitation on duration of ABEO
- **Observers**
 - 1 permanent observer: International Union for Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC)
 - Non-permanent observers

First meeting of ABEO

- **OPCW Headquarters, The Hague, 28 – 29 April 2016**
- **Principal activities**
 - Team building
 - Briefings by various units in the Technical Secretariat
 - Briefings by ABEO Members and Observers on own educational and outreach activities
 - First consideration of issues to be addressed by the ABEO
 - Strategic-level (longer-term considerations)
 - Short-term projects and specific requests by the Director-General
 - Distribution of coordination responsibilities for agreed tasks to be undertaken in the run-up to the second meeting
- **Election**
 - Dr Jean Pascal Zanders (Belgium) as Chairperson
 - Dr Edith Valles (Argentina) as Vice-Chairperson

Agreed tasks

- **Short-term actions for consideration at the 2nd session**
 - Establishing common definitions, objectives and operational strategies to guide the work of the Board
 - Coordination: Dr Jean-Pascal Zanders
 - The 20th anniversary
 - Coordination: Professor Alastair Hay
 - The proposed OPCW Visitor Centre
 - Coordination: Professor Philip Coleman
 - Outreach at the regional, national or local level, including exhibitions and lectures
 - Coordination: Dr Anna Zalewska
 - The OPCW website evaluation
 - Coordination: Professor Alastair Hay
 - EU-funded project on youth outreach
 - Professor Benjamin Ruiz Loyola
- **Strategic planning**
 - Identification of possible longer-term priorities
 - Coordination: Dr Sa'ad Ibrahim Al-Ali

Some core points for consideration

- **Need for common understandings**
 - Terminological clarity for future discussions
 - Identification of potential stakeholder communities
 - Differentiation between 'targets' and 'partners' among the stakeholders
 - The same stakeholder community may be partner under certain circumstance, while 'target' in other ones
- **Need for the ABEO to reach out to**
 - Stakeholder communities
 - State Parties
 - Constituencies within the Technical Secretariat
 - OPCW Scientific Advisory Board
 - Other international organisations with a view of identifying and developing possible synergies
- **Identification and clarification of strategic (longer-term) goals**
 - Evaluation of tasks and activities in function of changing circumstances
 - Development of multi- and cross-disciplinary approaches
 - Identification, elaboration and prioritisation of issue areas
 - Consideration of recommendations for the 4th Review Conference (end 2018)

Thank you

