

# **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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> Review Conference (end 2018)

# Thank you

