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\textsuperscript{th} 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