

# OPCW Advisory Board on Education and Outreach (ABEO)

*Relevancy to National Authorities*

Dr Jean Pascal Zanders

Chair of ABEO

*18th Annual Meeting of National Authorities*

The Hague, 23 November 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

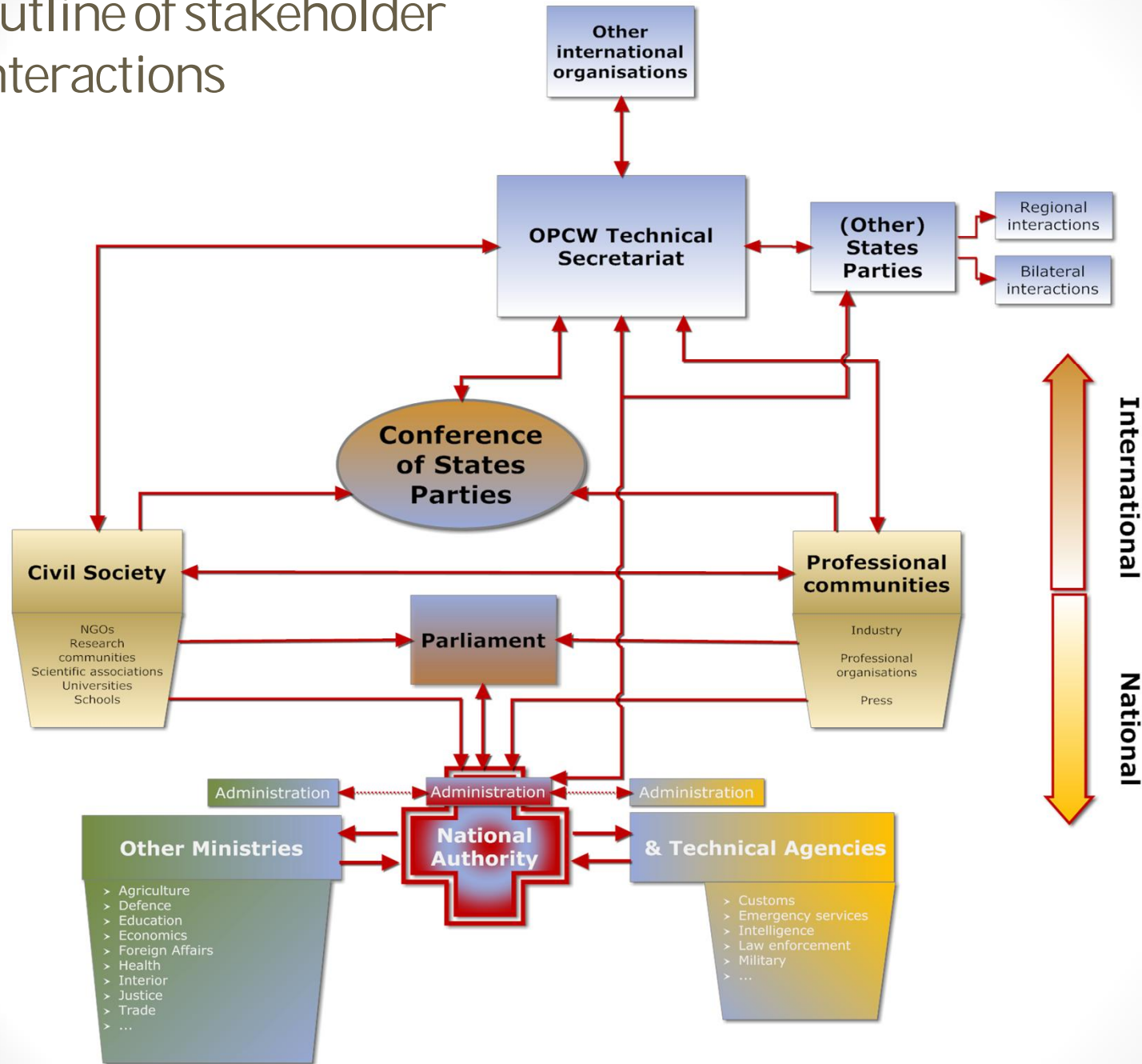
# Composition of ABEO

- 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
- Link to National Authorities
  - Several ABEO members work for their country's National Authority or are closely involved in the NA's activities
  - Two members are Alumni of the Associate Programme (China, Kenya)

# Current activities (ABEO working groups)

- **Assisting National Authorities to carry out education and outreach**
  - Follow up from requests by the Technical Secretariat and States Parties after 2016 regional meetings
  - Seeking means to enhance coordination among NAs, encouraging use of existing educational materials, and stimulating ideas for developing new ones, etc.
- **Overarching theme**
  - Conceptual development of '*Prevention of re-emergence of chemical weapons*'
- **Engagement of specific stakeholder communities**
- **Immediate challenges to the CWC regime**
  - Declarations of new stockpiles,
  - Allegations of CW use or proliferation,
  - International community's struggle to respond effectively to such charges,
  - Etc.
- **Engagement with other international organisations**
  - Association with broader fields of peace and disarmament education (e.g., UN programmes)
  - Link up where useful with BTWC ISU, CTBTO, IAEA, etc.
- **Continuation of coordination groups on 'Longer-term strategies', 'Outreach at the regional, national and local level' and 'Youth outreach'**

# Outline of stakeholder interactions



# Engagement of stakeholder communities

- **Who**
  - Scientific associations
  - Industry
  - Professional organisations
  - Academia
  - Other expert communities
- **Motives**
  - Raising barriers against erosion of norm against CW and CWC
  - Keeping stakeholders informed and engaged in CWC-mandated activities
  - Optimising procedures, processes and other routines related to NA responsibilities
  - Raising future generations of responsible scientists and professionals
  - Engaging stakeholders in the further development of the CWC regime in light of the changing national or international environments in which the CWC must remain relevant
  - Organisation of operational training for relevant professional categories
- **Overarching motive**
  - 'Prevention of re-emergence of chemical weapons'
  - Includes state-run programmes and terrorist / criminal acquisition of CW

# Current thinking on NAs in ABEO

- Starting points for considering E&O strategies for NAs
  - Reports & evaluations of regional meetings
  - Results from survey by ICA Division
  - Personal experience / expertise by ABEO members
- Assumptions for developing recommendations to DG
  - Respect for the diversity among NAs
    - Cultural / regional differences
    - Differences in setup of NAs, and of resources available to them
  - Exploring in collaboration with NAs the ways in which E&O can support the mandate of NAs
  - Exploring in collaboration with NAs which E&O materials and resources would be needed
  - Examining relationship NAs and TS concerning E&O

# Some *embryonic* recommendations

- E&O-related relationships between TS and NAs
  - Train-the-trainer programmes
  - E&O activities (break-out sessions?) during NA meetings on local or regional levels or at the OPCW HQ
  - Consistency in all TS E&O activities
  - Establish OPCW budget line under which NAs can apply for grants in support of E&O capacity building if no/limited local resources are available
- Some suggestions for additional action elements
  - Development of E&O materials and tools by TS in collaboration with ABEO
  - Promotion of NA interaction with key stakeholders with a view of setting up collaborative E&O initiatives
  - Optimisation of various electronic learning tools, including focus on specific local or regional situations
  - Translation of learning tools in appropriate languages
  - Stimulation of interaction among NAs
    - Sharing experiences; information exchanges
    - Opportunities for cooperation and assistance among regional partners



# Expectations for today

- Learning about E&O expectations NAs may have
- What E&O activities do NAs already have in mind?
- What has prevented NAs from undertaking E&O activities so far?
- In-depth discussion (breakout groups) of issues relating to E&O
- Any specific points for ABEO consideration?

Thank you

