

OPCW Advisory Board on Education and Outreach (ABEO)

Relevancy to National Authorities

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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 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

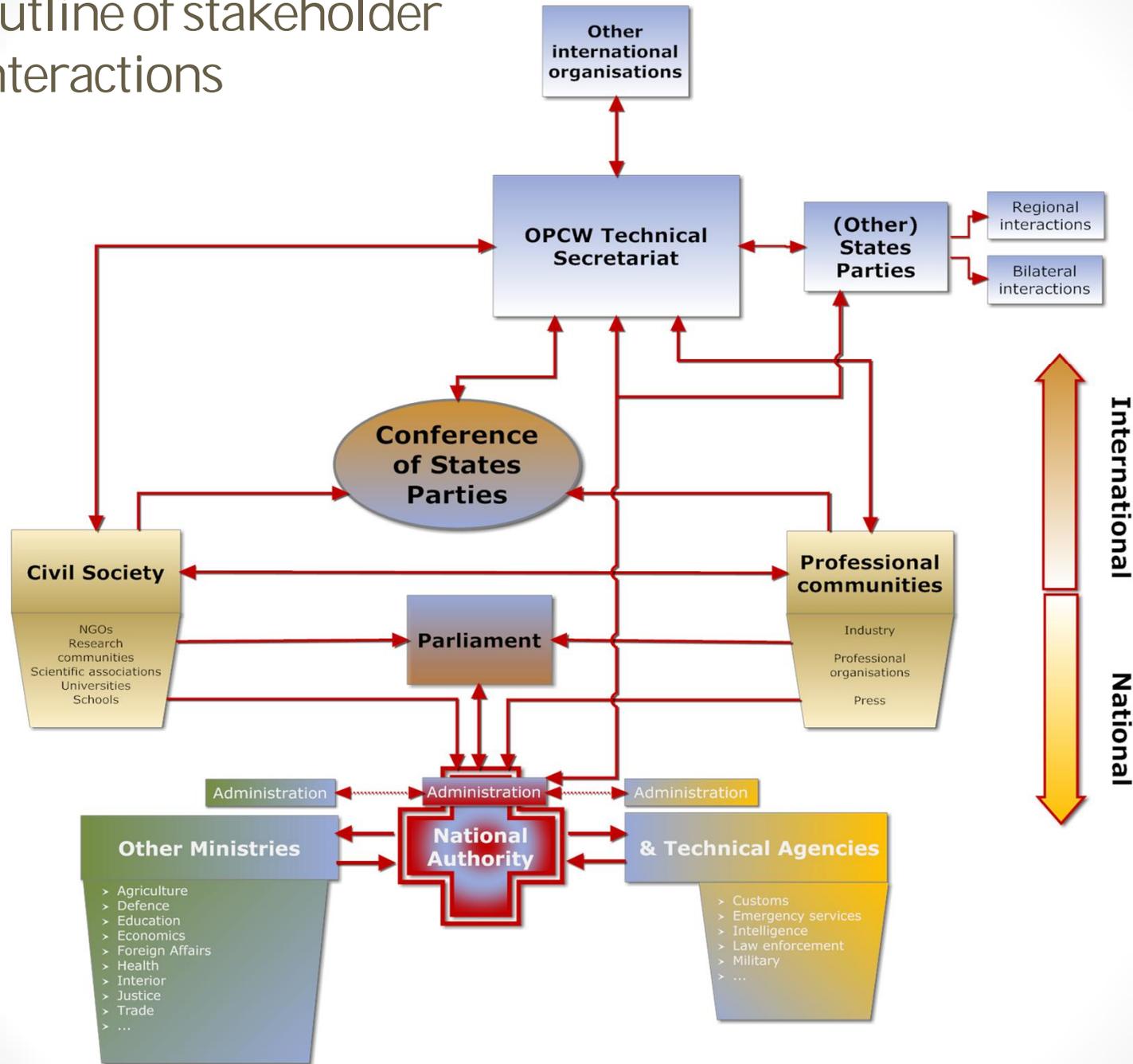
Composition of ABEO

- 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
- 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

