

# Developing human resources in biological sciences and technology related to implementation of the BTWC

## *Some Insights from the OPCW Advisory Board on Education and Outreach (ABEO)*

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*International Workshop on Cooperation and Assistance under Article X of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention*

Organised by the BTWC Implementation Support Unit and the Government of Norway

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# Establishment of ABEO

- **Decision by the OPCW 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

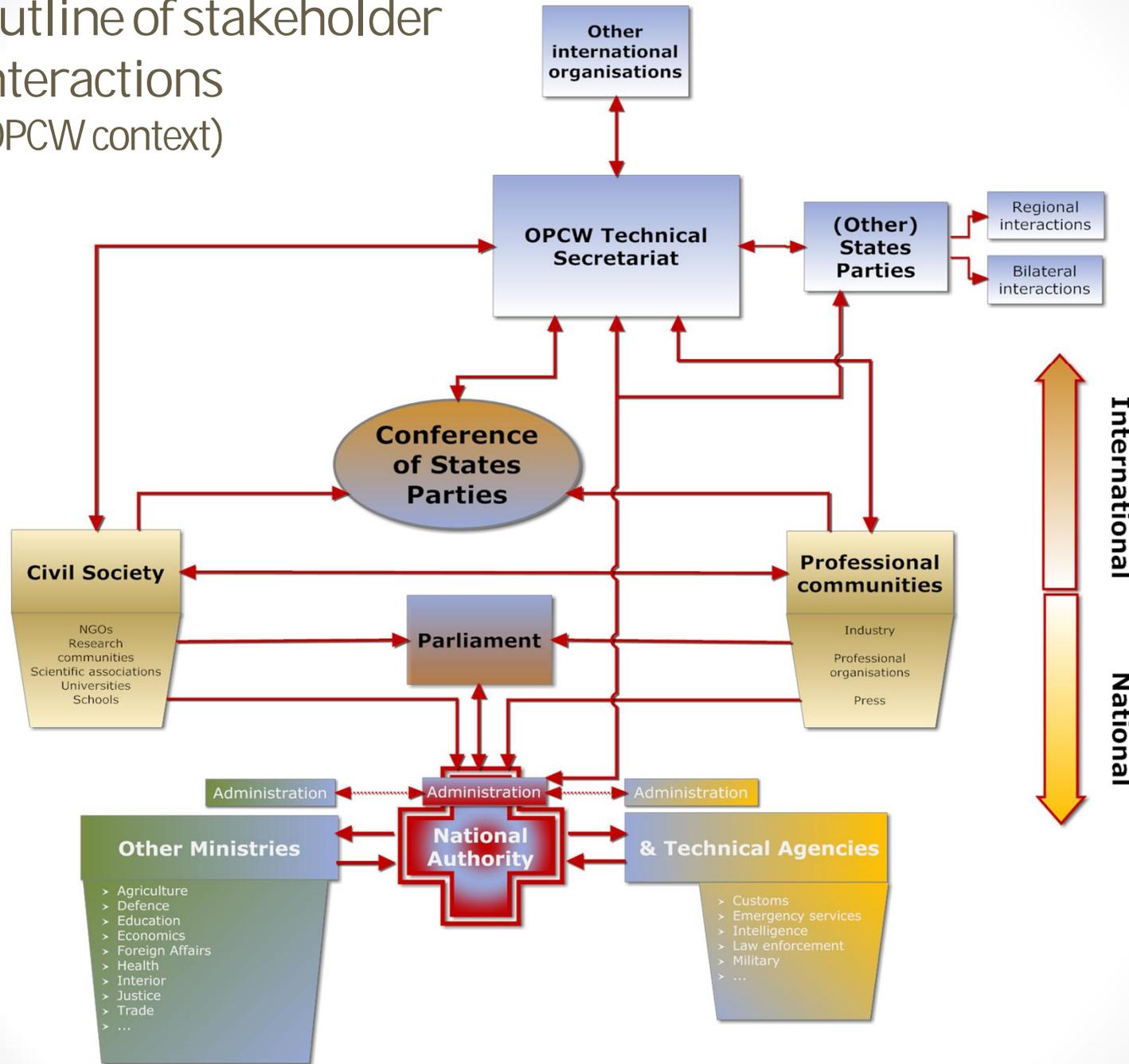
# Composition of ABEO

- 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 (WEOG)
    - Belgium, Germany, United Kingdom, United States
- Appointment
  - 3 Years (once renewable)
  - However, no limitation on duration of ABEO
- Observers
  - 2 permanent observers:
    - International Union for Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC)
    - International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA)
  - Non-permanent observers

# 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

# Outline of stakeholder interactions (OPCW context)



# 2018 ABEO report on E&O

- Published in February 2018
- Contents:
  - Latest status educational theory & practice
  - Portfolio of recommended activities
  - Practical 'How to ...?' suggestions
- Recommendations on:
  - General approach (e.g. *active learning*)
  - Projects to be pursued
  - Concrete actions to be undertaken
  - Who should undertake the projects or activities
- Recommendations for:
  - OPCW Technical Secretariat
  - CWC States Parties (National Authorities)
  - Stakeholder communities (including scientists, academia & industry)
- Launch of a central organising theme for E&O: '*preventing the re-emergence of Chemical Weapons*'
  - Gives focus
  - Gives common purpose (recognition)
- Report and supplement available from:  
[https://www.opcw.org/fileadmin/OPCW/ABEO/abeo-5-01\\_e.pdf](https://www.opcw.org/fileadmin/OPCW/ABEO/abeo-5-01_e.pdf)



OPCW

Advisory Board on Education and Outreach

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ABEO-5/1  
12 February 2018  
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## REPORT ON THE ROLE OF EDUCATION AND OUTREACH IN PREVENTING THE RE-EMERGENCE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS

### 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report by the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach (ABEO) identifies education and outreach (E&O) approaches to help the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) achieve its goal of preventing the re-emergence of chemical weapons.

1.2 In paragraph 35 of the "Medium-Term Plan of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, 2017 – 2021" (EC-83/S/1 C-21/S/1, dated 8 April 2016), it is noted that:

Successful implementation of the Convention cannot be achieved simply through a regulatory approach by national governments. It also requires instilling a sense of ownership into relevant stakeholders in the chemical industry, research, academia, NGOs, and civil society in order to garner their support and active collaboration.<sup>1</sup>

1.3 This report addresses how to develop this "sense of ownership" by responding to three requests made by the Director-General of the OPCW Technical Secretariat (hereinafter "the Secretariat") to the ABEO at its Third Session (see Annex 2 to ABEO-3/1, dated 16 March 2017):

- (a) to identify best practices and the latest advances in E&O theory and practice relevant to the OPCW's E&O activities;
- (b) to relate the relevant E&O theory and practice to the OPCW's mandate and main areas of work, as the Organisation moves its focus to preventing the re-emergence of chemical weapons; and
- (c) to develop on this basis a portfolio of specific E&O activities and projects that the Organisation, States Parties, and the ABEO and its individual members should pursue as a matter of priority from 2018 onward.<sup>2</sup>

1.4 A significant evidence base now confirms that the best educational approach to teach or inform an audience is "active learning", as opposed to traditional, lecture-based instruction in which students are passive recipients of information. The approach puts

<sup>1</sup> Available at: [https://www.opcw.org/fileadmin/OPCW/EC/83/en/ec83s01\\_c21s01\\_e.pdf](https://www.opcw.org/fileadmin/OPCW/EC/83/en/ec83s01_c21s01_e.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> The full text of the Director-General's request is reproduced in Annex 1 to this report.



# Common understandings

- **Education as a strategy**
  - Covers different goals & strategies
  - Formality and goal orientation
  - Builds on prior knowledge, expertise and skills
  - Context and setting will determine best methodology and degree of formality
- **Outreach as a strategy**
  - Supplements policies or activities by official bodies, and may rely on activities by other communities, such as civil society constituencies;
  - Seeks out potential target audiences and then reaches out to them;
  - Often aims to develop and nurture constituencies to sustain an entity's goals;
  - Informs or assists rather than instructs target audiences.

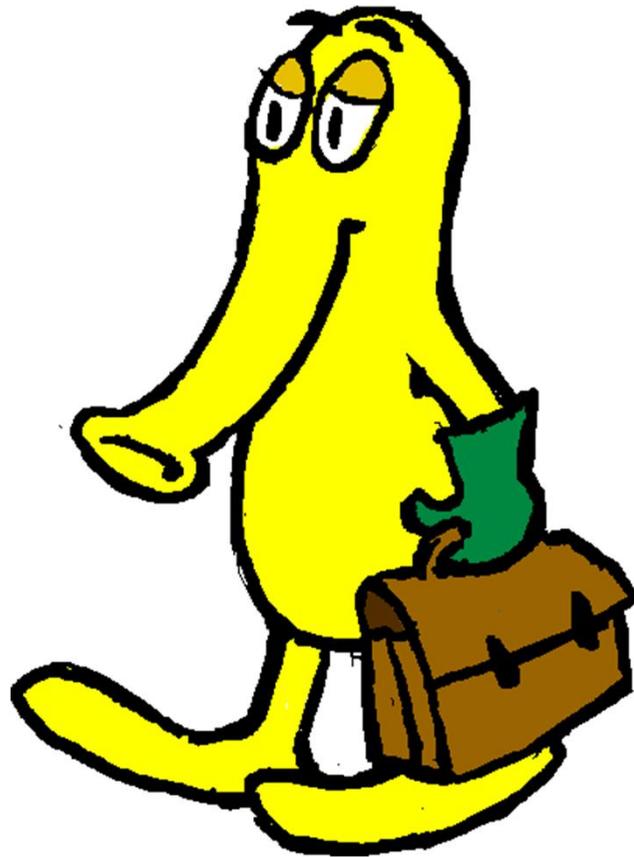
# E&O relevant to Article X *and* in support of BTWC - 1

- Importance of having a **national focal point (NFP)**
  - Implementation of the BTWC
  - Organisation of outreach to key stakeholders in a State Party
- **Potential educational needs:**
  - Have officials discover *why* it is important *to them* to have maximal BTWC implementation?
  - Have officials discover *why* it is important *to them* to engage with stakeholders?
  - Build up knowledge for officials: *Do* they know what is necessary? How *can* they know?
- **Potential benefits from educational strategy:**
  - Enhanced domestic appreciation of importance of full BTWC implementation
  - Articulation of Article XI expectations
  - Improved 2-way communication of Article X needs and opportunities between capitals and delegations
- **Requires a longer-term strategic approach**
  - Will create an *enabling platform* for international cooperation and BTWC implementation

## E&O relevant to Article X *and* in support of BTWC - 2

- Possible concrete actions through E&O
  - Connect NFPs with relevant national and international networks: discover *why* and *how*?
  - Like key stakeholder communities to those networks: let them discover *why* and *how*?
  - Raise awareness of dual-use risks, regulations, norms and (international) obligations to enhance integration in those networks
  - Let stakeholders identify their concrete expectations/requests from international cooperation
- Roles for the BTWC Implementation Support Unit?
  - Have offers and options for E&O included in the Article X database
  - Have ISU staff trained in E&O practices (*active learning*)
    - *Engage* participants in the discovery process during workshops
    - Communication of facts and BTWC status *can be done* via factsheets
    - In events, foresee at least *one major interactive session* where participants from different (national and/or professional) backgrounds actively engage with each other *to share insights, expectations and experiences*

# Thank you



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