



S/2016/2022
20 January 2022
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NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT
CALL FOR VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS
TO THE TRUST FUND OF THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD

1. In 2006, the Director-General established a trust fund (S/563/2006, dated 13 April 2006) “to support those activities of the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) for which no funding is allocated in the Programme and Budget, such as the work of the SAB’s temporary working groups” (TWGs) (paragraph 1 of S/563/2006). The Third Review Conference¹ stressed that the SAB should continue its role in advising the Director-General (paragraph 9.32 of RC 3/3*, dated 19 April 2013) and encouraged States Parties to consider supporting the work of the SAB by making voluntary contributions to its trust fund (subparagraph 9.155(b) of RC-3/3*). Similar views were expressed in the process leading up to the Fourth Review Conference in 2018.
2. Since the inception of the SAB trust fund, 17 States Parties have made contributions to it, with four of those States Parties having contributed more than once. As of 31 December 2021, the available balance of the trust fund was EUR 83,794. There is no lower limit to making a contribution; past contributions have varied between EUR 2,000 and EUR 70,000 per contribution.
3. In 2022, the SAB will continue its review of developments in science and technology for the next Review Conference, and will continue its TWG focused on the analysis of biotoxins. In addition, the SAB is looking to conduct thematic workshops in partnership with the chemical industry and the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry, and will continue to participate in relevant OPCW workshops.
4. The scientific review is an intensive multi-year activity, as demonstrated through the preparation of the SAB’s report to the Fourth Review Conference (RC-4/DG.1, dated 30 April 2018), for which the Board held eight regular sessions,² produced substantive

¹ Review Conference = Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

² SAB-20/1 (dated 14 June 2013); SAB-21/1 (dated 27 June 2014); SAB-22/1 (dated 21 July 2015); SAB-23/1 (dated 22 April 2016); SAB-24/1 (dated 28 October 2016); SAB-25/1* (dated 31 March 2017); SAB-26/1 (dated 20 October 2017) and Corr.1 (dated 18 December 2017); and SAB-27/1 (dated 23 March 2018).



reports from three TWGs,³ responded to five requests for advice from the Director-General,⁴ and co-organised four international workshops.⁵ This review process, which ran from October 2012 to March 2018, included 27 meetings and produced 33 reports. With a combined attendance of over 740 participants from 58 States Parties, the process brought together experts from across a broad range of scientific fields and technology sectors. Of particular importance in the review process are the insights gained from the findings of TWGs and the reports of thematic workshops. The cost of an in-person TWG meeting is estimated at EUR 35,000, while thematic workshops held outside the OPCW can incur additional organisational costs (the actual costs will depend on factors such as the number of participants, whether meetings are clustered, and the cost of tickets).

5. In addition, voluntary contributions have supported the SAB's efforts to increase its engagement with States Parties through regular briefings,^{6,7} as well as the Science for Diplomats initiative.⁸ These efforts aimed at promoting active scientist-policymaker dialogue to strengthen the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter "the Convention") are regularly occurring events that are also funded through extrabudgetary means. Voluntary funding has also enabled the SAB to engage with other relevant scientific advisory mechanisms to share experiences and best practices for the provision of technical advice to decision makers.
6. In support of broader and more effective outreach to the global scientific community, SAB members have participated in the events of regional and international scientific societies. Voluntary funding has enabled the SAB to promote and raise awareness of the Convention, while also providing valuable insight into scientific advancements. Participation in such events augments meetings and workshops by keeping SAB members fully informed about scientific trends and their driving forces, and by maintaining strong ties to technical communities. Further information on activities of the SAB that have benefited from the availability of the trust fund are described in

³ (a) Convergence of Chemistry and Biology: Report of the Scientific Advisory Board's Temporary Working Group (SAB/REP/1/14, June 2014). Available at: https://www.opcw.org/sites/default/files/documents/SAB/en/TWG_Scientific_Advisory_Group_Final_Report.pdf.

(b) Education and Engagement: Promoting a Culture of Responsible Chemistry: Final Report of the Scientific Advisory Board's Temporary Working Group (SAB/REP/2/14, November 2014). Available at: http://www.opcw.org/sites/default/files/documents/SAB/en/Education_and_Engagement-v2.pdf.

(c) Verification: Report of the Scientific Advisory Board's Temporary Working Group (SAB/REP/1/15, June 2015). Available at: www.opcw.org/sites/default/files/documents/SAB/en/Final_Report_of_SAB_TWG_on_Verification_-_as_presented_to_SAB.pdf.

⁴ SAB-21/WP.7 (dated 29 April 2014); SAB-22/WP.2/Rev.1 (dated 10 June 2015); SAB-23/WP.1 (dated 28 April 2016); SAB-23/WP.2 (dated 25 May 2016); and SAB-25/WP.1 (dated 27 March 2017).

⁵ SAB-24/WP.1 (dated 14 July 2016); SAB-24/WP.2 (dated 14 October 2016); SAB-26/WP.1 (dated 21 July 2017); and SAB-26/WP.2 (dated 19 October 2017).

⁶ The most recent briefing to States Parties was held in the margins of the Twenty-Eighth Session of the SAB, on 14 June 2019. The presentation is available at: www.opcw.org/sites/default/files/documents/2019/06/20190614%20SAB%20Briefing%20to%20States%20Parties.pdf.

⁷ Most recently, the SAB Chairperson briefed the Conference of the States Parties at its Twenty-Fourth Session, on 29 November 2019. The statement of the SAB Chairperson is available at: www.opcw.org/sites/default/files/documents/2019/12/SAB_Chair_Remarks_to_CSP24%20-%20slides.pdf. Slides to accompany the statement are available at: www.opcw.org/sites/default/files/documents/2019/12/SAB_Chair_Slides_to_Accompany_Remarks_to_CSP24.pdf.

⁸ "Science for Diplomats" topics and presentations are available at: www.opcw.org/resources/science-and-technology.

the review by the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter the “Secretariat”) of the operation of the Convention since the Third Review Conference (RC-4/S/1, dated 6 November 2018).

7. The Director-General attaches great importance to the work of the SAB in the implementation of the Convention, and hopes that States Parties will decide in favour of making contributions to the trust fund. The trust fund can also accept contributions from other sources, including non-governmental organisations, institutions, or private donors.
8. The operation of the trust fund is subject to the guidelines and rules adopted for it (Annex to S/563/2006)⁹ and the applicable Financial Regulations and Rules, which include oversight by means of internal and external audits and the requirement that the Secretariat report to States Parties on the operation of the fund. Voluntary contributions to the trust fund are documented in writing; donors may use their own template document, or alternatively, the Secretariat can make available a model agreement or a model exchange of letters.
9. States Parties that wish to make a contribution to the trust fund are invited to contact the OPCW Secretary to the SAB by email (peter.hotchkiss@opcw.org) to discuss the practical arrangements. Interested States Parties may also contact the SAB Secretary for further information on activities related to science and technology.
10. Transfers can be made to the following account:

BENEFICIARY	:	OPCW TRUST FUND SCIENTIFIC BOARD
ACCOUNT NUMBER	:	60 30 65 961
BANK NAME	:	ABN-AMRO BANK, THE NETHERLANDS
IBAN NUMBER	:	NL75 ABNA 0603065961
BIC/SWIFT CODE	:	ABNANL2A
11. The Secretariat wishes to express in advance its gratitude to those States Parties that decide to make a voluntary contribution to the trust fund.

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⁹ See, for example, subparagraph 4(a) of the Annex to S/563/2006, which states the following: “There shall be no upper or lower limit on the amount or amounts that can be contributed to the Trust Fund”. Subparagraph 4(b) states that “[n]o donor may place any restrictions on how the OPCW uses contributions to this fund”.