



S/1450/2017
16 January 2017
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NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT**CALL FOR VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS
TO THE TRUST FUND FOR THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD**

1. In 2006, the Director-General established a trust fund to support the activities of the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) (S/563/2006, dated 13 April 2006). The purpose of this trust fund is “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” (paragraph 1 of S/563/2006). The Third Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Third Review Conference”) 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*, dated 19 April 2013).
2. Since the inception of the SAB trust fund, 16 States Parties have made contributions to it, most of which were received in 2007. In the past year, only two States Parties have made a contribution, and since the fund’s inception, only three States Parties have contributed more than once. As at 31 December 2016, the available balance of the trust fund was less than EUR 25,000. There is no lower limit to making a contribution; past contributions have varied between EUR 2,000 and EUR 60,000 per contribution.
3. States Parties may wish to bear in mind that the Third Review Conference “...noted the impact of scientific and technological progress on the effective implementation of the Convention and the importance for the OPCW and its policy-making organs of taking due account of such developments. In that context, it stressed that the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) should continue its role in advising the Director-General...” (paragraph 9.32 of RC-3/3*). Since the Third Review Conference, the SAB has increased its engagement with States Parties (through regular briefings¹ and the science for diplomats initiative²); an effort aimed at

¹ Most recently at the Twenty-First Session of the Conference of the States Parties on 1 December 2016. The statement of the SAB Chairperson and slide presentation are available at: www.opcw.org/fileadmin/OPCW/SAB/en/SAB_Chair_Briefing_to_CSP21-statement.pdf (statement) and www.opcw.org/fileadmin/OPCW/SAB/en/SAB_Chair_Briefing_to_CSP21-slides.pdf (slides).

² “Science for Diplomats” topics and presentations are available at: www.opcw.org/special-sections/science-technology/science-for-diplomats/



promoting active dialogue between scientists and policymakers, with a view to strengthening the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”).

4. In 2016, the activities of the SAB saw a significant increase. Two regular sessions of the SAB were held in The Hague (the Twenty-Third and Twenty-Fourth) and two focused workshops were organised to facilitate deeper engagement with relevant scientific experts. In addition to the four reports developed from these events, two substantive intersessional reports were also produced.³ In 2017, the SAB will continue its work on its next five-yearly report on developments in science and technology for the Fourth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, with additional focused workshops planned. These workshops include the further review of topical areas identified in the reports of the temporary working groups on the convergence of chemistry and biology⁴ and on verification.⁵ For planning purposes, the cost of one workshop is estimated at EUR 60,000 (actual costs will depend on the number of participants, whether meetings are clustered, the cost of tickets, and so on).
5. In support of broader and more effective outreach to the global scientific community, the engagement of SAB members at science and technology events, such as regional chemical society meetings, helps to promote and raise awareness of the norms of the Convention, while also providing valuable insight into scientific advancements. Voluntary contributions provide opportunities to support SAB participation in such events, and to augment engagement at meetings and workshops, keeping SAB members fully informed regarding scientific trends and their driving forces.
6. 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. Contributions can be in the form of voluntary contributions or, for instance, the return of any cash surplus to be distributed to the States Parties in accordance with Financial Regulation 6.3 (C-15/DEC.5, dated 1 December 2010). The trust fund can also accept contributions from other sources, including non-governmental organisations, institutions, or private donors.
7. The operation of the trust fund is subject to the guidelines and rules adopted for it (S/563/2006)⁶ and the applicable Financial Regulations and Rules, which include

³ Reports of the SAB in 2016 can be accessed through the OPCW website at:

www.opcw.org/about-opcw/subsidiary-bodies/scientific-advisory-board/documents/reports/

⁴ Convergence of Chemistry and Biology: Report of the Scientific Advisory Board’s Temporary Working Group (SAB/REP/1/14, June 2014). Available at:

www.opcw.org/fileadmin/OPCW/SAB/en/TWG_Scientific_Advisory_Group_Final_Report.pdf

⁵ Verification: Report of the Scientific Advisory Board’s Temporary Working Group (SAB/REP/1/15, June 2015). Available at:

www.opcw.org/fileadmin/OPCW/SAB/en/Final_Report_of_SAB_TWG_on_Verification_-_as_presented_to_SAB.pdf

⁶ For example, see 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 “No donor may place any restrictions on how the OPCW uses contributions to this fund”.

oversight by means of internal and external audits and the requirement that the Secretariat report to States Parties on the operation of the fund. A voluntary contribution to the trust fund is documented in writing; the donor may use its own template document, or alternatively, the Secretariat can make available a model agreement or a model exchange of letters.

8. States Parties that wish to make a contribution to the trust fund are invited to contact the OPCW Science Policy Adviser and Secretary to the SAB, Jonathan Forman (telephone number: +31 (0)70 416 3123), who can also be reached at: jonathan.forman@opcw.org, to discuss the practical arrangements. Interested States Parties may also contact the Science Policy Adviser for further information on activities related to science and technology.

9. 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

10. 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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