



S/1703/2019
10 January 2019
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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 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). Similar calls were made during the 2018 Fourth Review Conference¹ process.
2. Since the inception of the SAB Trust Fund, 16 States Parties have made contributions to it, most of which were received in 2007; four of those States Parties have contributed more than once. As of 31 December 2018, the available balance of the Trust Fund was approximately EUR 12,500. 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*).
4. In 2019 the SAB will continue the programme of work of its TWG on investigative science and technology, which held two meetings in 2018.² This TWG will complete its terms of reference by February 2020. The cost of a TWG meeting is estimated at EUR 35,000 (actual costs will depend on the number of participants, whether meetings are clustered, the cost of tickets, and so on). The SAB will also begin

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

² SAB-27/WP.1, dated 26 February 2018 and SAB-28/WP.2, dated 21 January 2019.



working toward its scientific review for the Fifth Review Conference,³ to be held in 2023.

5. 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,⁴ produced substantive reports from three TWGs,⁵ responded to five requests for advice from the Director-General,⁶ and co-organised four international workshops.⁷ This review process brought together experts from across a broad range of scientific fields and technology sectors. This review produced 33 reports and held 27 meetings and workshops with a combined attendance of over 740 participants from 58 States Parties.
6. In addition, voluntary contributions have supported the SAB's efforts to increase its engagement with States Parties through regular briefings,^{8,9} as well as the Science for Diplomats initiative.¹⁰ These efforts aimed at promoting active scientist-policymaker dialogue to strengthen the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter "the Convention") are regularly occurring events, and are intended to continue into the foreseeable future. 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.

³ Fifth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

⁴ 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 SAB-27/1 (dated 23 March 2018).

⁵ (a) 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/sites/default/files/documents/SAB/en/TWG_Scientific_Advisory_Group_Final_Report.pdf.

(b) Education and Engagement: Promoting a Culture of Responsible Chemistry: Report of the Scientific Advisory Board's Temporary Working Group (SAB/REP/2/14, November 2014). Available at: 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.

⁶ 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).

⁷ 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).

⁸ The most recent briefing to States Parties was held in the margins of the Twenty-Seventh Session of the SAB, on 22 March 2018. The presentation is available at:

www.opcw.org/sites/default/files/documents/SAB/en/SAB-27_Briefing_to_States_Parties.pdf.

⁹ Most recently, the SAB Chairperson briefed the Fourth Review Conference.

(a) Statement of the SAB Chairperson, available at:

www.opcw.org/sites/default/files/documents/2018/11/26_November_2018_SAB_Chair_RC4_Remarks_0.pdf.

(b) Slides to accompany the statement, available at:

www.opcw.org/sites/default/files/documents/2018/11/26_November_2018_SAB_Chair_RC4_Slides%20%28002%29.pdf.

¹⁰ "Science for Diplomats" topics and presentations are available at: www.opcw.org/resources/science-and-technology.

7. In support of broader and more effective outreach to the global scientific community, SAB members have participated in regional and international scientific society events. Voluntary funding has enabled the SAB to promote and raise awareness of the norms of the Convention, while also providing valuable insight into scientific advancements. Participation in such events helps to keep SAB members more fully informed on scientific trends and their driving forces, and enables them to maintain strong ties to technical communities. Further information on activities of the SAB which have benefited from the availability of the Trust Fund are described in 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).
8. 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.
9. The operation of the Trust Fund is subject to the guidelines and rules adopted for it (S/563/2006)¹¹ 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.
10. 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 by telephone (+31 (0)70 416 3123) and/or by email (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.
11. Transfers can be made to the following account:
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|-----------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| 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 |
12. 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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¹¹ 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”.