



**NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT**

**INVITATION TO APPLY FOR FUNDING FOR RESEARCH PROJECTS IN 2027  
IN AREAS RELEVANT TO THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION**

**INTRODUCTION**

1. As part of its international cooperation programme for capacity building in the areas of peaceful applications of chemistry, the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (the Secretariat) has since 2000 run the Programme for Support of Research Projects (the Programme) to support small-scale research projects in developing countries and countries with economies in transition that are Member States of the OPCW. The general prerequisite for the provision of such support is that the research must fall within the letter and spirit of Article XI of the Chemical Weapons Convention (the Convention)—that is, it must facilitate the development and application of chemistry for purposes not prohibited under the Convention. Each proposed research project should relate to the development goals of the Member State concerned and should further the achievement of sustainable development in general. Research projects with components that promote South-South cooperation, or strengthen such existing linkages, are considered particularly worthy of support.
2. The Secretariat wishes to invite applications for funding under the Programme for research projects to be launched in 2027 and to specify the conditions for the selection of sponsored projects.<sup>1</sup>

**RESEARCH IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CONVENTION**

3. The Convention recognises research as one of the purposes not prohibited under the Convention, as stated in subparagraph 9(a) of Article II. Research is variously defined as “scientific investigation that is performed in order to discover new information or to develop or improve products and technology”,<sup>2</sup> “the systematic investigation into and study of materials, sources, etc., in order to establish facts and reach new conclusions”,<sup>3</sup> and “an endeavour to discover new or collate old facts etc., by the scientific study of a subject or by a course of critical investigation”.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> These conditions supersede the conditions previously published under Notes by the Secretariat S/2047/2022 (dated 14 April 2022); S/1895/2020 (dated 10 September 2020); S/1258/2015/Rev.1 (dated 20 April 2015); and S/228/2000/Rev.1 (dated 14 March 2011).

<sup>2</sup> Academic Press Dictionary of Science and Technology.

<sup>3</sup> Oxford English Dictionary.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.



4. Article XI of the Convention explicitly recognises the importance of scientific and technological research in the field of chemistry for the economic and technological development of States Parties. It stipulates the rights of States Parties, individually or collectively, to conduct research with chemicals (subparagraph 2(a)), and to participate in the fullest possible exchange of chemicals, equipment, and scientific and technical information relating to the development and application of chemistry for purposes not prohibited under the Convention (subparagraph 2(b)). In addition, paragraph 2 of Article X includes research (for the purpose of protection against chemical weapons) as one of the rights of States Parties that the implementation of the Convention shall not impede.

#### **SCOPE OF THE PROGRAMME**

5. In recognition of the above, and based on the OPCW programmes and budgets, the International Cooperation and Assistance Division, under its international cooperation programme, has made a provision to fund a limited number of research projects in Member States.
6. The areas of research that may receive financial support from the Secretariat for “the development and promotion of scientific and technical knowledge in the field of chemistry for industrial, agricultural, research, medical, pharmaceutical, or other peaceful purposes”<sup>5</sup> include the following:
  - (a) technologies for the destruction of toxic chemicals in a safe and environmentally sound manner;
  - (b) management and risk assessment with respect to the handling and use of toxic chemicals, as well as their storage;
  - (c) development of analytical methods and validation techniques for toxic chemicals;
  - (d) detection and characterisation techniques and methods relevant to the Convention;
  - (e) medical treatment and prophylactics for exposure to toxic chemicals;
  - (f) alternatives to scheduled chemicals for purposes not prohibited under the Convention;
  - (g) mitigation of safety and security risks associated with dual-use chemicals;
  - (h) risks and opportunities in the field of the application of artificial intelligence in chemistry; and
  - (i) any other application of chemistry for purposes not prohibited under the Convention.

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<sup>5</sup> Subparagraph 2(c) of Article XI of the Convention.

7. Preference will be given to research proposals concerning toxic chemicals and/or research ideas that support the verification regime of the Convention. The list above will be reviewed by the Secretariat on a regular basis; Member States are encouraged to forward any comments and/or suggestions to the International Cooperation Branch of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division of the Secretariat.
8. Proposals demonstrating potential practical applications will be considered an additional advantage.

#### **ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION CRITERIA**

9. To be considered for financial support by the Secretariat, a research project should:
  - (a) be able to allow independent research teams to produce scientific knowledge that will be disseminated and, when applied, will make a contribution to the development, safety, and/or security of the Member State concerned;
  - (b) be problem- and application-oriented;
  - (c) demonstrate high scientific merit (in terms of the relevance of objectives and quality of the approach and methodology);
  - (d) be directly relevant to the Member State concerned—and this Member State must have an economy that is either developing or in transition (the project must be consistent with the priorities and development goals in the Member State, including objectives established in its national profile for the safe management of chemicals, if applicable); and
  - (e) be carried out by an institution/group having high quality infrastructure and in-house expertise, including skilled personnel to perform related tasks.
10. The research project should also contribute to the strengthening of sustainable research programmes. Preference will be given to interdisciplinary projects involving the application of chemistry and other disciplines in order to solve the problem(s) under study. Other factors that will be considered in the evaluation of proposals include:
  - (a) the availability of any other funding sources;
  - (b) equitable geographical distribution of approved projects; and
  - (c) gender balance among project leaders and within specific projects.
11. The Secretariat will only support research activities undertaken at institutions or recognised laboratories in Member States that are developing countries or have economies in transition. Exceptions can be made for projects carried out in Member States that are industrialised countries if the proposed research is considered to be highly relevant to the implementation of the Convention at a global level or has a wide international dimension, or if the proposed research is aimed at having a direct impact in specific Member States that are developing countries or have economies in transition. Individuals working on their own are not eligible.
12. The Secretariat strongly encourages applications from qualified young scientists (including PhD students) and women candidates.

### **APPLICATION PROCEDURE**

13. Applications should be submitted by researchers of recognised institutions in the Member State(s) concerned. Submission of all the following documentation is required:
  - (a) application form (annexed hereto), duly completed and signed by the applicant and endorsed by the host institution and the National Authority or Permanent Representation of the Member State(s) concerned;
  - (b) curricula vitae of the applicant and of other team members; and
  - (c) a detailed project proposal.
14. Applications must be endorsed by the National Authority or the Permanent Representation of the Member State that is hosting the research and, if applicable, by any other Member State that directly benefits from it.
15. Applications must be received by the Secretariat **no later than 30 September 2026**. Applications should be submitted directly to the Secretariat by email to [icb.events@opcw.org](mailto:icb.events@opcw.org), or sent by post to the following address: International Cooperation Branch, International Cooperation and Assistance Division, OPCW, Johan de Wittlaan 32, 2517 JR The Hague, the Netherlands.

### **SELECTION PROCEDURE**

16. The Director-General will appoint a review committee for research projects (the Committee) to review all project proposals that are submitted, and to decide what projects merit funding under the Programme. The decision of the Committee will be final. The Committee will be chaired by the Director of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division and will consist of at least five members, comprised of officials of the Secretariat, and members of the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) and its temporary working groups. The Committee members will serve for a term of two years. If required, the Committee will seek advice from recognised experts outside the Secretariat and the SAB, but from within Member States. The terms of reference of the Committee shall be approved by the Director-General.
17. The Committee will determine, inter alia, whether:
  - (a) the proposed research meets the objectives of the Programme;
  - (b) the project has sufficient scientific merit;
  - (c) the existing resources and infrastructures as declared are adequate for implementation of the project; and
  - (d) the resources and related funding requested are justified and commensurable with the planned tasks and expenditures.
18. The evaluation of project proposals will be completed by the end of 2026. All applicants, both successful and unsuccessful, will be informed of the evaluation results.

## FUNDING PROCEDURE

19. Funding for approved projects will be provided in the form of grants to institutions hosting the research projects (the Recipients). Provision of any grant will be subject to the conclusion of an agreement between the Secretariat and the institution hosting the research project governing the terms and conditions of funding by the Secretariat.
20. The following conditions shall apply to funded projects:
  - (a) Grants are intended for the acquisition of consumables, such as chemicals and solvents, disposables, small laboratory accessories and spare parts, and literature, as well as for meeting the costs of a peer-viewed open-access publication(s) up to EUR 2,500, participation in an international conference (oral presentation required) up to EUR 1,500, temporary software licence necessary for the research up to EUR 1,500, equipment repair, outsourced analysis/tests, or travel for trials or collection of samples. Grants may not be used for salaries or honoraria for research staff, acquisition of research equipment, hardware, or other forms of investment. The Secretariat reserves the right to review the level of funding and the duration of approved projects recommended for funding, taking into account the recommendations of the Committee.
  - (b) The Secretariat may fund up to a maximum of EUR 30,000 per project, with the length of the project not exceeding three years. Payments for grants in excess of EUR 10,000 will be made in three or four instalments depending on the length of the project, subject to the submission of appropriate reports and review by the Committee, as appropriate. The Secretariat will disburse 50% of the total amount of the grant at the initiation of the project. In case of research projects with a duration of two years or less, a further 40% will be disbursed at the midpoint of the implementation period, and for research projects longer than two years, a further 20% will be disbursed by the Secretariat each consecutive year (upon receipt of a progress report). The remaining 10% will be disbursed upon the satisfactory completion of the project (and subject to submission of the final report). The Secretariat may disburse grants of up to EUR 10,000 in one or two instalments according to the modalities to be determined by the Secretariat, and taking into account the recommendations of the Committee.
  - (c) The Secretariat reserves the right to discontinue support of projects at any time if, following the evaluation, it appears that the projects' objectives are not being met or that funds are not being used appropriately, or in cases where funds are no longer made available by the Member States. Any decision to discontinue support to a project will be taken in consultation with the Committee.

## **REPORTING PROCEDURE**

21. The Recipients shall submit to the Secretariat the following documentation, by dates predetermined in the relevant agreement, in accordance with the guidelines provided in this Note:
  - (a) for projects exceeding EUR 10,000, a progress report at the (predetermined) midpoint of the project, summarising the progress of the activities supported by the Secretariat and referring to the milestones and deliverables as set in the approved project work plan;
  - (b) for all projects, a final report upon completion of the project. Final reports shall include: a scientific report outlining the activities and results achieved, measured against the project objectives and the key performance indicators identified in the approved project proposal; explanations on the methodology applied; explanations indicating how the research has contributed to the development goals of the Member State; and a detailed financial statement certified by the Recipients; and
  - (c) for all projects, at least one scientific publication, published or accepted for publication in an open-access, peer-reviewed journal.
22. For grants provided in instalments, the submission of progress and final reports, and their approval by the Secretariat, will be the precondition for the release of the second and third instalments.

## **INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS**

23. Funding of projects by the Secretariat will not affect any intellectual property rights that may be acquired by the Recipients in the creation of a product. It will be the responsibility of the Recipients to take appropriate measures to protect such rights. The results of all research projects supported under this Programme shall be made available in the open-access literature.
24. The Recipients of the grants shall acknowledge the support provided by the OPCW in any publication, any oral presentation, or any communication of the research results to the public resulting from the projects funded by the Secretariat.

## **OTHER INFORMATION**

25. The Secretariat reserves the right, at its own discretion, to consult with the National Authorities or Permanent Representations of the Member States concerned. Further information on the Programme for Support of Research Projects may be obtained from the International Cooperation Branch, International Cooperation and Assistance Division via email ([icb.events@opcw.org](mailto:icb.events@opcw.org)).

Annex: Application Form

## Annex

**FUNDING FOR RESEARCH PROJECTS IN 2027 IN AREAS  
RELEVANT TO THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION**

**APPLICATION FORM**

This form is to be used to apply for direct support by the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW. Before completing the form, please read the guidelines presented in the accompanying Note to confirm your eligibility for support under the Programme for Support of Research Projects.

Applications will be considered by the Review Committee for Research Projects once per year.

The applicant should complete sections 1 to 15 of this form and send it to either the respective National Authority or Permanent Representation of the Member State to the OPCW, with a request to complete section 16.

The National Authority or Permanent Representation should then submit the completed form to the International Cooperation Branch, International Cooperation and Assistance Division, OPCW, Johan de Wittlaan 32, 2517 JR The Hague, the Netherlands.

<b>1. Applicant</b> <i>(To be completed by the applicant; please underline the name under which you publish.)</i>	
Family name	
First name(s)	
Citizenship	
Date of birth (dd/mm/yy)	
Gender	Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/>
Address of institution or laboratory	Street
	Number   Postcode
	City
	Country
Address (home)	Street
	Number   Postcode
	City
	Country
Telephone numbers, including country and city codes	Home
	Work
E-mail addresses	Home
	Work







**8. Targeted impact**

Describe specific near-term impacts expected in the period following project completion. (*Specify who the direct users are and the changes expected among them (e.g., in knowledge, skills practice, or capacity). Note that these changes are distinct from the project's own outputs. Focus on concrete, proximal changes; a plausible contribution is sufficient, and sole attribution is not required.*)

Describe specific longer-term impacts to which the project is expected to contribute beyond the immediate period following project completion. (*Specify who or what is affected beyond the direct users and the changes expected at this level. Focus on realistic, longer-term contributions and, where relevant, link to peaceful applications of chemistry under the Chemical Weapons Convention, national development goals, or sustainable research capacity.*)

Explain how the project's outputs are expected to lead to the impacts described above, and identify the key underlying assumptions and potential barriers to uptake.

**9. Dissemination strategy**

Identify the primary audiences for dissemination beyond the mandatory open-access publication, and the formats or channels through which each will be reached. Explain how these are appropriate for each audience and the intended purpose. *(Be specific in describing audiences and channels.)*

Indicate when dissemination activities will take place (during the project, at its end, or post-completion), and how they will be sustained where relevant. *(For post-project activities, specify the resources or institutional commitments that will support them. Identify any barriers to dissemination and how they will be addressed.)*

**10. Research plan**

Provide a work plan describing the approach and methodology and dividing work into tasks/packages, with each linked to specific outputs/milestones. Provide timelines for specific tasks and attach a Gantt chart.

**11. Scientific contacts and collaborations**

Indicate the relevant contacts you have already established in relation to the project, with names, affiliations, and fields of specialisation. Indicate whether research collaborations will be established and how they will contribute to the project.

**12. Facilities, chemicals, and equipment available for the project****13. Supporting documentation**

Please attach supporting documentation. Applications will not be accepted without all of the following:

- Yes     No    An updated curriculum vitae of the researcher and the team members  
(Attach a maximum of three curricula vitae for the key research personnel.)
- Yes     No    A completed and endorsed application form
- Yes     No    A detailed project proposal, attached as a separate document

**14. Budget**

Provide a summary below and elaborate a detailed budget in the project proposal document. The detailed budget must specify possible quantities and provide a description or specifications of items or services, together with related justifications. (*These may be given in the budget table or in a separate document.*) Only eligible costs can be claimed. Major eligibility inconsistencies may result in rejection of the proposal. Overhead, if requested, must appear in the budget table and can amount to no more than 15% of the overall budget. In the case of other existing/confirmed co-funding for the same project, details must be provided to include the source of the funding, the amount contributed, and its destination.

<b>15. Signatures</b>	
Applicant:	Head or authorised signatory of the applicant's institution:
	Stamp:
Name and title:	Name and title:
Date:	Date:
<b>16. Endorsement by the National Authority or Permanent Representation to the OPCW</b>	
Signed:	
Name and title:	Stamp:
Date:	