



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 (see S/563/2006, dated 13 April 2006) to support activities of the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB). 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, 13 States Parties have made contributions to it, most of which were received in 2007. In the past four years, only four States Parties have made contributions, and only two States Parties have contributed more than once. The balance of the trust fund is now very low. 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 (see RC-3/3*):
 - (a) “... noted the increasing convergence of chemistry and biology, and welcomed the establishment of the SAB temporary working group on the convergence of chemistry and biology to explore and consider the potential implications of these advances to the Convention” (paragraph 9.142);
 - (b) “... acknowledged the role of education, outreach and awareness-raising as a relevant activity for the national implementation of the Convention, including awareness among academia and relevant scientific communities of the provisions of the Convention, the domestic laws and regulations relevant to the Convention. Accordingly, the Third Review Conference welcomed the establishment of the SAB temporary working group on education and outreach” (paragraph 9.101); and



- (c) "... noted that the verification system should continue to be improved in a manner consistent with the Convention in response to advances in science and technology, taking into consideration, as appropriate, the SAB's advice to the Director-General..." (paragraph 9.71).
4. During 2013 and 2014, meetings of all the temporary working groups (TWGs) (convergence of chemistry and biology, education and outreach in science and technology, and verification) need to be held. For planning purposes, the cost of a TWG meeting is estimated at EUR 20,000 (actual costs will depend on the number of participants, whether meetings are clustered, the cost of tickets, and so on). The cost for two TWG meetings can be covered by existing voluntary contributions, but it is estimated that additional funding will be required for four or five TWG meetings during the 18 months from the date of the issuance of this Note.
 5. Furthermore, in support of a broader and more effective outreach to the global scientific community, it would be useful to continue to sponsor the engagement of SAB or TWG members at scheduled science and technology events not organised by the OPCW (that is, one or two members at each event at perhaps 10 events per year, for example, the regional meetings of the professional chemistry societies that bring together thousands of scientists). This would provide valuable insight for the SAB's next report on developments in science and technology, and would also constitute a practical contribution to the implementation of Article XI.
 6. In 2013, the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter "the Secretariat") has used voluntary contributions to the trust fund to support a number of small projects on education and outreach, with the aim of producing teaching materials on the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter "the Convention") in all official languages. Additional contributions are required in order to further develop these materials and to disseminate them broadly among all relevant stakeholders. The Secretariat is also considering other practical activities in education and outreach in science and technology, with the aim of sustained impact on implementation of the Convention.
 7. Interested States Parties are invited to contact the Secretary to the SAB for further information on activities related to science and technology.
 8. The Director-General attaches great importance to the contributions of the SAB to 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)¹ and the applicable Financial Regulations and Rules, which include

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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 can use its 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 SAB Secretary, Stian Holen (telephone number: +31 (0)70 416 3203), who can also be reached at: stian.holen@opcw.org to discuss the practical arrangements.

11. Transfers can be made to the following account:

BENEFICIARY	:	OPCW TRUST FUND SCIENTIFIC BOARD
ACCOUNT NUMBER	:	42 67 17 767
BANK NAME	:	ABN-AMRO BANK, THE NETHERLANDS
IBAN NUMBER	:	NL46 ABNA 0426 7177 67
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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