



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 the 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, 14 States Parties have made contributions to it, most of which were received in 2007. In the past two years, only two States Parties have made contributions, and since the fund’s inception, only two States Parties have contributed more than once. As at mid-January 2015, the available balance of the trust fund was less than EUR 20,000. 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 (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. Meetings of the temporary working group (TWG) on verification need to be held in 2015. For planning purposes, the cost of one 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).
 5. Notably, the SAB's next five-yearly report on developments in science and technology (scheduled for publication in 2017) will need two years of preparation. The report will be presented to the Fourth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. The Director-General wishes to augment the administrative support for the SAB in preparing its report, for example, through a series of focused workshops and interaction with the relevant global scientific communities in 2015 and 2016. The convergence of the sciences is a particularly important topic to explore in more detail (as outlined in the SAB's report on the Convergence of Chemistry and Biology, SAB/REP/1/14, www.opcw.org/index.php?eID=dam_frontend_push&docID=17438). For planning purposes, the cost of one workshop is estimated at EUR 40,000 on average.
 6. Furthermore, in support of a broader and more effective outreach to the global scientific community, it would be useful to augment 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 of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter "the Convention").
 7. The Technical Secretariat (hereinafter "the Secretariat") is also considering further practical activities in education and outreach in science and technology (as set out in the SAB's report on Education and Engagement: Promoting a Culture of Responsible Chemistry, SAB/REP/2/14, www.opcw.org/index.php?eID=dam_frontend_push&docID=18014), with the aim of sustained impact on implementation of the Convention.
 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 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.
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. Interested States Parties are also invited to contact the Science Policy Adviser (Jonathan Forman, +31(0)70 416 3123, jonathan.forman@opcw.org) 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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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”.