

**NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT****REQUEST FROM THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL TO STATES PARTIES
FOR VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS
TO A NEW TRUST FUND FOR SYRIA MISSIONS**

1. The Programme and Budget of the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) provides resources for the implementation of the Organisation’s known programme of work over a one-year period. The Programme and Budget is primarily funded by assessed contributions from States Parties, as well as reimbursements of Article IV and V verification costs by States Parties. The nature, scope, and duration of the activities included in the Programme and Budget are known in advance and the resources required to implement them can be estimated with a high degree of accuracy.
2. The OPCW also funds a number of its activities using voluntary contributions. In accordance with Financial Regulation 6.8, trust funds may be established by the Director-General, on which he shall report through the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”) to the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”). Trust funds are established for clearly defined activities of the OPCW, and are administered in accordance with applicable financial regulations.
3. In 2013, the Secretariat was requested to undertake significant verification-related activities connected specifically to the Syrian Arab Republic. These were initially funded through the regular Programme and Budget in 2013 and 2014, as well as through two trust funds, namely the Trust Fund for Syria (TBY) and the Trust Fund for the Destruction of Syrian Chemical Weapons (TBZ). In contrast to 2014, the Programme and Budget for 2015 includes no provision for verification activities related to the destruction of Syrian chemical weapons, which continue to be funded by the remaining balances in TBY and TBZ.
4. In the past year, the Secretariat has been requested to undertake a number of significant, unplanned activities that were not included in the 2015 Programme and Budget and which were outside the scope of activities funded by TBY and TBZ. For example, at its Forty-Eighth Meeting the Council adopted decision EC-M-48/DEC.1 (dated 4 February 2015), expressing support for the continuation of the work of the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria (FFM), which was set up to establish the facts surrounding allegations of the use of toxic chemicals, particularly chlorine, for hostile purposes in the Syrian Arab Republic. Thus far in 2015, the Secretariat has incurred EUR 1.7 million in FFM-related costs, which has placed severe pressure on the regular budget.



5. In order to mitigate the impact of future contingency operations on the regular budget, the Secretariat requested the establishment of a special fund for special missions (EC-80/DG.23, dated 5 October 2015), approved by the Council in its decision EC-80/DEC.7 (dated 8 October 2015) and transmitted to the Conference for approval at its Twentieth Session. The purpose of this special fund is to provide a funding source for future, unforeseen special mission deployments, which will be undertaken at short notice and outside the regular programme of work.
6. To provide an additional funding source for special missions and contingency operations related specifically to the Syrian Arab Republic, a new trust fund for such missions, the "Trust Fund for Syria Missions", has been established. Whereas the Special Fund for Special Missions will be financed by unspent amounts from the regular Programme and Budget, the Trust Fund for Syria Missions will be financed solely from voluntary contributions. The Trust Fund for Syria Missions will provide a funding stream for activities undertaken by the Secretariat in the Syrian Arab Republic and will replace TBY and TBZ, which will be closed once their remaining resources are exhausted.
7. The following types of activity will be covered by the Trust Fund for Syria Missions:
 - (a) destruction and verification of the destruction of remaining chemical weapons production facilities (CWPFs);
 - (b) missions of the Declaration Assessment Team (DAT);
 - (c) deployments of the FFM;
 - (d) annual inspections at destroyed CWPFs;
 - (e) maintenance and repair services of remote monitoring systems at destroyed CWPFs; and
 - (f) any other verification activities, as deemed necessary.
8. The items that will be charged against the Trust Fund for Syria Missions include the following:
 - (a) contracts for consultancy services to Syria missions, including special-services agreements for inspectors backfilling regular inspector positions, contracts for interpreters, translators, medics, and training;
 - (b) travel-related costs, including daily subsistence allowances, danger pay, and stand-by duty allowances for the Secretariat personnel engaged in Syria missions, including training travel;
 - (c) general operating expenses related to Syria missions, including the rental of premises, furniture, vehicles, equipment, cargo and courier services, and the maintenance of equipment;

- (d) supplies and material costs related to Syria missions; and
 - (e) equipment costs related to Syria missions, including computer hardware and software.
9. The resource requirements of the Trust Fund for Syria Missions are initially estimated at EUR 7 million.
 10. The Trust Fund for Syria Missions will be administered in accordance with the OPCW Financial Regulations and Rules (amended most recently by decision C-17/DEC.6, dated 27 November 2012). All voluntary contributions must be made on the basis of a written agreement with the Secretariat. In order to ensure efficiency, donors are urged to use the agreement templates developed by the Secretariat for this purpose. These templates can be provided by the Secretariat upon request.
 11. States Parties that wish to make contributions to the Trust Fund for Syria Missions are invited to contact the Director of Administration, Mr William Amoroso, with regard to practical arrangements (telephone: +31 (0)70 416 3816; e-mail: William.Amoroso@opcw.org).
 12. The Secretariat wishes to express in advance its gratitude to those States Parties that decide to make voluntary contributions to the new Trust Fund for Syria Missions.

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