



NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

**CALL FOR VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE TRUST FUND FOR THE
SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD**

1. In 2006, the Director-General established a trust fund to support the activities of the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) (see S/563/2006, dated 13 April 2006). 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 three States Parties have contributed more than once. As of mid-January 2016, the available balance of the trust fund was less than EUR 25,000. 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 “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 2016, the SAB will begin work on its next five-yearly report on developments in science and technology (scheduled for publication in 2017). 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 through a series of focused workshops and interaction with the relevant global scientific communities. These workshops will include further review of topical areas identified in the recent reports of the temporary working groups (TWGs) on



convergence of chemistry and biology¹ and on verification.² For planning purposes, the cost of one workshop is estimated at EUR 50,000 (actual costs will depend on the number of participants, whether meetings are clustered, the cost of tickets, and so on).

5. 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").
6. In 2015, the American Chemical Society, at its 249th National Meeting & Exposition, recognised the OPCW's engagement with the greater scientific community for its tireless efforts in promoting the peaceful use of chemistry. SAB members and their activities at science and technology events made strong contributions towards receiving this recognition.
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 this subject³), 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 (Annex to 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)⁴ and the applicable Financial Regulations and Rules, which include

¹ 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/fileadmin/OPCW/SAB/en/TWG_Scientific_Advisory_Group_Final_Report.pdf

² Verification: Report of the Scientific Advisory Board's Temporary Working Group (SAB/REP/1/15, June 2015), available at:
www.opcw.org/fileadmin/OPCW/SAB/en/Final_Report_of_SAB_TWG_on_Verification_-_as_presented_to_SAB.pdf

³ Education and Engagement: Promoting a Culture of Responsible Chemistry (SAB/REP/2/14, November 2014), available at:
https://www.opcw.org/fileadmin/OPCW/SAB/en/Education_and_Engagement-v2.pdf

⁴ For example, see subparagraph 4(a) of the Annex to S/563/2006, which states that: "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 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 OPCW Science Policy Adviser and Secretary to the SAB, Jonathan Forman (Tel: +31 (0)70 416 3123; 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:

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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