



S/1569/2018
16 January 2018
Original: ENGLISH

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 (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” [TWGs] (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, 16 States Parties have made contributions to it, most of which were received in 2007, and only three States Parties have contributed more than once. As at 31 December 2017, the available balance of the trust fund was less than EUR 1,000. 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. Since the Third Review Conference, the SAB has been working toward its scientific review in support of the forthcoming Fourth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Fourth Review Conference”). This has resulted in a significant increase in the activities of the Board, which have included seven regular sessions,¹

¹ SAB-20/1, dated 14 June 2013; SAB-21/1, dated 27 June 2017; SAB-22/1, dated 21 July 2015; SAB-23/1, dated 22 April 2016; SAB-24/1, dated 28 October 2016; SAB-25/1*, dated 31 March 2017; and SAB-26/1, dated 20 October 2017.



substantive reports from three TWGs,² five intersessional responses to requests for advice from the Director-General,³ and four international workshops that were held in 2016 and 2017.⁴ The efforts of the SAB for the review process brought together experts representing a broad range of scientific fields and technology sectors from 56 States Parties, with a combined attendance across the meetings, working groups, and workshops of over 670 participants.

5. In 2018, the SAB will publish its report to the Fourth Review Conference and make itself available to engage with States Parties on the content of the report. Additionally, the SAB will begin its programme of work for the recently established TWG on investigative science and technology,⁵ which will hold its first meeting in February, and a second to be scheduled after the summer break. For planning purposes, the cost of a TWG meeting is estimated at EUR 35,000 (actual costs will depend on the number of participants, whether meetings are clustered, the cost of tickets, and so on).
6. In addition, voluntary contributions have supported the SAB's efforts to increase its engagement with States Parties through regular briefings,^{6,7} as well as the Science for Diplomats initiative.⁸ These efforts aimed at promoting active scientist-policymaker dialogue to strengthen the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter "the Convention") have become regularly occurring events since the Third Review Conference, and are intended to continue into the foreseeable future.
7. In support of broader and more effective outreach to the global scientific community, the engagement of SAB members at science and technology events, such as regional and international scientific society meetings, helps to promote and raise awareness of

² (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) Education and Engagement: Promoting a Culture of Responsible Chemistry: Report of the Scientific Advisory Board's Temporary Working Group (SAB/REP/2/14, November 2014). Available at: www.opcw.org/fileadmin/OPCW/SAB/en/Education_and_Engagement-v2.pdf.

(3) 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 SAB-21/WP.7, dated 29 April 2014; SAB-22/WP.2/Rev.1, dated 10 June 2015; SAB-23/WP.1, dated 28 April 2016; SAB-23/WP.2, dated 25 May 2016; and SAB-25/WP.1, dated 27 March 2017.

⁴ SAB-24/WP.1, dated 14 July 2016; SAB-24/WP.2, dated 14 October 2016; SAB-26/WP.1, dated 21 July 2017; and SAB-26/WP.2, dated 19 October 2017.

⁵ The terms of reference of this TWG can be found in Annex 2 of SAB-25/1*.

⁶ The most recent briefing to States Parties in the margins of a SAB session (SAB-26) was held on 19 October 2017. The presentation is available at:

www.opcw.org/fileadmin/OPCW/SAB/en/SAB26_Chair_Briefing_to_States_Parties.pdf.

⁷ A plenary briefing was also provided to States Parties during the Twenty-Second Session of the Conference of the States Parties, in 2017. The statement of the SAB Chairperson and slide presentation are available at:

www.opcw.org/fileadmin/OPCW/SAB/en/SAB_Chair_Remarks_to_CSP22-As_Delivered_2_.pdf (statement) and www.opcw.org/fileadmin/OPCW/SAB/en/SAB_Chair_Slides_for_CSP22.pdf (slides).

⁸ "Science for Diplomats" topics and presentations are available at: www.opcw.org/special-sections/science-technology/science-for-diplomats/.

the norms of the Convention, while also providing valuable insight into scientific advancements. Voluntary contributions provide opportunities to support SAB participation at such events, augmenting meetings and workshops in keeping SAB members fully informed on scientific trends and their driving forces, and in maintaining strong ties to technical communities.

8. The Director-General attaches great importance to the work of the SAB in 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, dated 13 April 2006)⁹ 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 OPCW Science Policy Adviser and Secretary to the SAB, Jonathan Forman (telephone number: +31 (0)70 416 3123), who can also be reached at: 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.

- - - 0 - - -

⁹ 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 “[n]o donor may place any restrictions on how the OPCW uses contributions to this fund”.