



NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

**SUPPORT FOR RESEARCH PROJECTS
IN AREAS RELEVANT TO THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION**

Introduction

1. As part of its international cooperation programme for capacity building in the areas of peaceful applications of chemistry, the OPCW continues to support small-scale research projects in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, which are Member States of the OPCW. The general prerequisite for the provision of such support is that the research must fall within the letter and spirit of Article XI—i.e. it must facilitate the development and application of chemistry for purposes not prohibited under the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”). The objectives of a proposed research project should be such that it will have relevance to the development goal(s) of the Member State concerned, as well as to achieving sustainable development in general. Research projects with components that promote South–South cooperation, or strengthen such existing linkages, will be considered particularly worthy of support.
2. The Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) wishes to inform Member States of the conditions it applies to the granting of financial support for research projects. In order to be able to develop this programme further, the Secretariat also invites comments from Member States.

Research in the context of the Chemical Weapons Convention

3. The Convention recognises research as one of the purposes not prohibited under the Convention, as stated in Article II subparagraph 9(a). Research is variously defined as “scientific investigation that is performed in order to discover new information or to develop or improve products and technology”,¹ as “the systematic investigation into and study of materials, sources, etc., in order to establish facts and reach new conclusions”,² and as “an endeavour to discover new or collate old facts etc., by the scientific study of a subject or by a course of critical investigation”.²

¹ Collins English Language Dictionary (2008).

² Oxford English Dictionary (1996).

4. Article XI of the Convention explicitly recognises the importance of scientific and technological research in the field of chemistry for the economic and technological development of States Parties. It stipulates the rights of States Parties, individually or collectively, to conduct research with chemicals (subparagraph 2(a)), and to participate in the fullest possible exchange of chemicals, equipment and scientific and technical information relating to the development and application of chemistry for purposes not prohibited under the Convention (subparagraph 2(b)). In addition, paragraph 2 of Article X includes research (for the purpose of protection against chemical weapons) as one of the rights of States Parties that the implementation of the Convention shall not impede.
5. In recognition of the above, and based on the OPCW annual programmes and budgets, the International Cooperation and Assistance Division, under its programme for capacity building for peaceful applications of chemistry, has made provision for funding a limited number of research projects in Member States. Preference will be given to project proposals submitted by developing countries and countries with economies in transition.
6. The areas of research that may receive grants from the OPCW “for the development and promotion of scientific and technical knowledge in the field of chemistry for industrial, agricultural, research, medical, pharmaceutical or other peaceful purposes”,³ may include the following:
 - (a) technologies for the destruction of toxic chemicals in a safe and environmentally sound manner;
 - (b) management, with respect to the handling and use, of toxic chemicals;
 - (c) development of analytical methods and validation techniques for toxic chemicals;
 - (d) verification techniques and methods relevant to the Convention;
 - (e) medical treatment and prophylactics for exposure to toxic chemicals;
 - (f) alternatives to scheduled chemicals for purposes not prohibited under the Convention;
 - (g) risk assessment with respect to toxic chemicals: and
 - (h) any other application of chemistry for purposes not prohibited under the Convention.

This list will be reviewed by the Secretariat on a regular basis; Member States are encouraged to forward any comments and/or suggestions to the International Cooperation and Assistance Division.

³ Subparagraph 2(c) of Article XI of the Convention.

Criteria for selection

7. To be considered for OPCW support, a research project should be problem-oriented, with direct relevance to the Member State concerned, and aimed at generating scientific results that will make a practical contribution to the development of the Member State. Each applicant will be required to demonstrate the scientific merit of the project, and a clear relationship to the priorities of the Member State (i.e. it must be endorsed by the National Authority or the Permanent Representation to the OPCW, and it must be consistent with the objectives established in the Member State's national profile for the safe management of chemicals, if applicable). Other factors that will be considered include the availability of budgetary resources, and the need for an equitable geographical distribution of approved projects. The Secretariat will only fund research undertaken at institutions or recognised laboratories in Member States. Individuals working on their own will not be eligible for funding.
8. The criteria for selection are as follows:
 - (a) the project should be problem-oriented, with direct relevance to the Member State concerned;
 - (b) the project should enable independent research teams to generate scientific results that can be disseminated and, when implemented, will make a practical contribution to the development of the Member State concerned; and/or
 - (c) the project should contribute to the strengthening of sustainable research programmes. Preference will be given to interdisciplinary projects involving the application of chemistry and other disciplines in order to solve the problem(s) under study.
9. The Director-General will appoint a committee to review all project proposals which are submitted, and to decide on those projects that merit funding under the programme. The committee, which will be chaired by the Director of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division, will consist of at least five members, to be drawn from among officers from the Secretariat and members of the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) and its temporary working groups. The committee members will serve for a term of two years. If required, the committee will seek advice from recognised experts outside the Secretariat and the SAB, but within Member States. The terms of reference of the committee will be approved by the Director-General.
10. The committee will determine, inter alia, whether the proposed research meets the objectives of the programme, whether the project has sufficient scientific merit to warrant funding, and whether the resources available allow the provision of a research grant.

Funding procedure

11. Funding for research projects may be provided either exclusively by the OPCW, or jointly by the OPCW and another donor/funding organisation.

12. All applicants for direct funding by the OPCW must complete the application form (annexed hereto), and forward it to the National Authority of the Member State or the Permanent Representation of the Member State to the OPCW. The National Authority or the Permanent Representation to the OPCW is requested to indicate its support for the proposal, and in particular, to confirm that the proposed research project is in line with national objectives and priorities for peaceful applications of chemistry. The National Authority or the Permanent Representation to the OPCW is requested to forward the completed application form to the Secretariat.
13. The review committee will meet twice each year to examine the proposals submitted. In order to be considered at these reviews, proposals should be submitted to the Secretariat by 1 March or 1 October, respectively.
14. In the case of projects to be co-funded with another organisation, the Secretariat will consider only those projects which have already been reviewed for their scientific merit, vetted and approved by the co-funding organisation. In addition to the screening already conducted by the co-funding organisation, the Secretariat will also apply the selection criteria set out in paragraph 8 above.
15. Each research grant will be disbursed in three instalments: one at the beginning of the project, one at mid-term, and the final one on completion of the project, upon receipt of the final report, including a financial statement of expenses.
16. Grants may not be used for the acquisition of research equipment or hardware, or for other forms of investment.

Reports

17. The recipient of a research grant must submit to the Secretariat, by a pre-determined date, a mid-term report summarising the results achieved so far. The submission of this mid-term report is a precondition for the transfer of the second instalment of the grant.
18. Upon completion of the research project, the recipient is expected to submit a final scientific report to the Secretariat outlining the research and the results achieved, documenting the methodology applied, and indicating how the research has contributed to the development goals of the Member State.
19. The recipient is also expected, upon completion of the research project, to submit a detailed financial statement.

Budget allocation

20. The Secretariat will set aside budget allocations for capacity building for the support of research projects in accordance with the annual budget and programme.
21. In the case of directly funded research projects, the Secretariat will fund up to a maximum of EUR 25,000 per project.

22. In the case of research projects to be co-funded with another organisation, the Secretariat will only consider proposals which have already been vetted and approved by the co-funding organisation. Once such a project has been approved by the Secretariat, the funds will be transferred to the co-funding organisation for distribution in accordance with its rules and regulations.
23. In the case of research projects to be funded directly by the OPCW, the Secretariat will only consider applicants who have completed the attached application form, and have submitted it through the procedure outlined in paragraphs 12 and 13 above. The Secretariat will allocate 50% of the grant on approval of the project, a further 25% at mid-term, upon receipt of an interim report, and the remaining 25% upon satisfactory completion of the project and submission of the final research report and a final financial statement.

Intellectual property rights

24. Funding of research projects by the OPCW will not affect any intellectual property rights which may be acquired by the researcher(s) in the creation of a product. It will be the responsibility of the research institution that received the grant to take whatever measures it deems appropriate to protect such rights. The results of all research supported under this programme will be made available in the open literature.

Application procedure

25. Applications for funding may be submitted to the International Cooperation and Assistance Division at any time, although the Secretariat will only review such applications on a biannual basis. Applications received between 1 January and 1 March of a given year will be considered by the review committee and a decision will be made regarding support by 30 June. Applications received thereafter but before 1 October will be subject to the second review, and a decision will be made not later than 15 December. All decisions made by the review committee will be final.
26. Applications for direct funding by the OPCW may be submitted by researchers at recognised institutions via their National Authority or the Permanent Representation to the OPCW, using the form annexed hereto. Applications should be addressed to the International Cooperation and Assistance Division, OPCW, Johan de Wittlaan 32, 2517 JR The Hague, the Netherlands.
27. The Secretariat will consider requests for joint funding with interested co-funding organisations on a biannual basis, based on funding requests received and already approved by the co-funding organisation.⁴
28. Further information may be obtained from the International Cooperation and Assistance Division, OPCW, Johan de Wittlaan 32, 2517 JR The Hague, the Netherlands; telephone: +31 (0)70 416 3843; fax: +31 (0)70 416 3279 or +31 (0)70 306 3535; e-mail: icb@opcw.org.

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At present, the Secretariat provides co-funding together with the International Foundation for Science (IFS), a non-governmental organisation based in Stockholm, Sweden, which supports researchers from developing countries in such fields as applied natural products chemistry. The Secretariat is exploring other institutional links that may lead to co-funding of research projects.

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Annex (English only):

Support for Research Projects in Areas Relevant to the Chemical Weapons Convention:
Application Form

2. Institution <i>(please attach the most recent annual report or equivalent)</i>		
Name of institution		
Type of institution	<input type="checkbox"/> University <input type="checkbox"/> Laboratory	<input type="checkbox"/> Research institute <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)
State whether the institution is supported by	<input type="checkbox"/> Government funding <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Private funding
Total number of employees	Full time:	Part time:
Total number of staff engaged in research	Full time:	Part time:
3. Proposed research project (summary)		
Title of project		
Summary of project <i>(provide detailed project with detailed research plan and timelines on a separate sheet of paper)</i>		
4. Personnel resources		
List all contributors to the proposed project, stating names, affiliations (if different from the institution named above) and attach a short CV for each one, outlining the contribution of each		
5. Research experience and publications		
List the titles of relevant scientific publications <i>(do not attach copies)</i>		

