



S/1568/2018
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NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS TO THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD

1. The Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) wishes to inform States Parties that four members of the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) will complete their second term in 2018. These SAB members are listed in Annex 1 to this Note. A further six members will be completing their first term in 2018.
2. In the light of the above, the Secretariat invites States Parties to nominate experts, to be appointed by the Director-General after a selection process, to serve on the SAB. The terms of reference (TOR) of the SAB, which are annexed to a decision of the Conference of the States Parties at its Second Session (C-II/DEC.10/Rev.1, dated 2 December 2004), stipulate in paragraph 6 that “[t]he term of office of members of the Board shall be three years. A Board member may serve for two consecutive terms”.
3. With reference to paragraph 4 of the aforementioned TOR, nominees to be proposed should be eminent persons who serve in research institutions, universities, scientific industries, and/or defence and military organisations, who will be selected on the basis of their expertise in one or more of the particular scientific fields relevant to the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”). Paragraph 4 of the SAB’s term of reference further stipulates that “[p]reference shall be given to persons who are knowledgeable about the relevant scientific and technological developments, and who are familiar with the implementation of the Convention. Efforts shall be made to maintain a balance between the areas of research, development and applications”. Nominees should be proposed on the basis of their qualifications and experience, with States Parties taking into account their publications, scientific, academic or professional activities, distinctions, and international experience.
4. When selecting candidates for nomination, States Parties should also take into consideration that trans-disciplinary (“convergent”) scientific practices are a driver for innovation and rapid technological evolution. Candidates whose area of expertise reaches across traditional disciplinary boundaries are particularly well suited to serve on the Board.
5. In the light of the expertise held by those leaving the SAB in 2018, the considerations mentioned in paragraphs 3 and 4 above, and the need for technical expert advice in future years to support implementation of the OPCW’s strategic direction and Medium-Term Plan for the Period from 2017 to 2021 (EC-83/S/1 C-21/S/1, dated

8 April 2016), States Parties may wish, this year in particular, to nominate candidates with expertise in practical applications that might include any of the following areas: chemical analysis, environmental fate of toxic chemicals, chemical production, biotechnology, drug discovery and development, toxicology, molecular biology, molecular diagnostics, omics technologies, materials science, forensics,¹ and big data/informatics. The Board would further benefit from candidates whose expertise includes the development and/or use of technologies such as autonomous and/or remote sensing or sampling systems, stand-off detectors, and data analytics.²

6. Nominees should be ready to make substantive contributions at SAB meetings, during the intersessional periods, and at other relevant science-and-technology events. Each nominee is requested to submit a written statement describing how he/she intends to have a substantial impact on the work of the SAB and the OPCW.
7. The Secretariat requests States Parties to submit nominations, using the attached nomination form (Annex 2), **by 31 August 2018**. The form should be accompanied by the curriculum vitae of the nominee and by the written statement (up to 500 words) mentioned in paragraph 6 above.

Annexes:

- Annex 1: List of Scientific Advisory Board Members Whose Second Term of Office is Due to Finish in 2018
- Annex 2 (English only): Nomination Form

¹ Including expertise considered in the report of the SAB's workshop on chemical forensics (SAB-24/WP.1, dated 14 July 2016).

² Including expertise in technologies considered in the reports of the SAB's workshop on emerging technologies (SAB-26/WP.1, dated 21 July 2017) and the SAB's temporary working group on verification (SAB/REP/1/15, dated June 2015); the latter report is available at: www.opcw.org/fileadmin/OPCW/SAB/en/Final_Report_of_SAB_TWG_on_Verification_-_as_presented_to_SAB.pdf.

Annex 1

**LIST OF SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS WHOSE SECOND TERM
OF OFFICE IS DUE TO FINISH IN 2018**

Name	State Party	Date of End of Term of Office
Professor Mohammad Abdollahi	Islamic Republic of Iran	30 August 2018
Professor Carlos David González Berrutti	Uruguay	31 December 2018
Dr Christopher Martin Timperley	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	31 December 2018
Mr Francois Mauritz van Straten	South Africa	31 December 2018

Annex 2

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS TO THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD
NOMINATION FORM**

Please submit the completed form, together with the nominee's curriculum vitae and a statement by the nominee of how he/she intends to have a substantive impact on the work of the SAB and the OPCW, by **31 August 2018** to:

Secretary to the Scientific Advisory Board
OPCW, Johan de Wittlaan 32, 2517 JR The Hague, the Netherlands
Email: jonathan.forman@opcw.org

Please type or use BLOCK LETTERS

Title	
Family name*	
First name(s)*	
Date of birth	Day Month Year
Citizenship	
Gender	Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/>
Relevant areas of expertise** and how these would support the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention	
Work/roles similar to those of a Scientific Advisory Board member that the nominee has successfully undertaken previously***	
Employer	
Position	
Contact address	
Email address	
Telephone numbers, including country and city codes	Work:
	Mobile:

* Please give the first and family names exactly as they appear in the nominee's passport.
 ** See paragraphs 3 to 5 of the Note above, to which this nomination form is attached.
 *** See paragraph 6 of the Note above, to which this nomination form is attached. The nominee should be prepared to provide contact details of referees from such work.

Scientific Advisory Board Develops Recommendations for Fourth Review Conference

THE HAGUE, Netherlands — 26 March 2018 — The Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) adopted a report on developments in science and technology for the Fourth Review Conference of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) during its meeting at OPCW Headquarters in The Hague from 19-23 March.

OPCW's Deputy Director-General, Ambassador Hamid Ali Rao, opened the Twenty-Seventh Session of the SAB, by underlining the importance of the report. He emphasised its role in bringing "valuable insight into advances unforeseen even just a few years ago" and his belief that "it will compel us to think critically and serve as a clarion call for an ever-greater degree of scientific literacy amongst our decision makers".

During the session, Technical Secretariat staff briefings helped the SAB further contextualise recommendations related to verification activities, inspections and contingency operations, and science monitoring.

Presentations from guest scientists provided further insights on technological change to be included in the report. These speakers included: Dr Albert Swiston of the MIT Lincoln Laboratory and Dr Franz Worek of the Bundeswehr Institute of Pharmacology and Toxicology, who spoke on pre-symptomatic early warning of pathogen exposure and the detection of chemicals using biosensors, respectively; and Drs Bonnie Wintle and Christian Boehm of the Centre for the Study of Existential Risk at the University of Cambridge, who presented their work on horizon scanning of emerging biotechnologies.

The SAB also met with OPCW's Director-General, Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü, and thanked him for his inspirational leadership and role in promoting international diplomacy and international science in the service of peace. Reflecting on the work of the Board, the Director-General thanked the members for the SAB's valuable independent science advice, noting that the Board "serves as both a model of scientist-policymaker engagement and science diplomacy".

During the week-long meeting, the Board visited OPCW's Laboratory and Equipment Store, and noted that the plans to upgrade the Laboratory to a Centre for Chemistry and Technology would augment OPCW's capabilities to support international cooperation and science for peace.

The SAB welcomed four new members: Professor Syeda Sultana Razia (Bangladesh), Professor Vladimir Dimitrov (Bulgaria); Dr Yasuo Seto (Japan) and Dr Daan Noort (Netherlands). This is the first Session of the SAB where scientists from Bangladesh, Bulgaria and the Netherlands have served as members of the Board. The Board also said farewell to Professor Mohammad Abdollahi

(Islamic Republic of Iran), Professor David Gonzalez (Uruguay), Dr Christopher Timperley (United Kingdom) and Mr Francois Mauritz van Straten (South Africa) whose terms of office on the SAB will come to the close before the next Session of the Board.

The reports of the Twenty-Seventh Session of the SAB and the Board Report to the Fourth Review Conference will be released in several weeks. The SAB will hold its next meeting in June 2019.

Background

The Scientific Advisory Board is comprised of 25 independent experts from OPCW Member States, and advises the OPCW Director-General on scientific and technological issues relevant to the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

As the implementing body for the Chemical Weapons Convention, the OPCW oversees the global endeavour to permanently eliminate chemical weapons. Since the Convention's entry into force in 1997 – with its 192 States Parties – it is the most successful disarmament treaty eliminating an entire class of weapons of mass destruction.

Over 96 per cent of all chemical weapon stockpiles declared by possessor States have been destroyed under OPCW verification. For its extensive efforts in eliminating chemical weapons, the OPCW received the 2013 Nobel Prize for Peace.