

**MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE
CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE
DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION AND STOCKPILING OF
BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) AND TOXIN
WEAPONS AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION**

Geneva, 4-7 December 2018

Secretariat:
BWC Implementation Support Unit
United Nations Office for Disarmament
Affairs (Geneva Branch)
Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

tel: +41 (0)22 917 2230
fax: +41 (0)22 917 0483
e-mail: bwc@unog.ch
web: <http://www.unog.ch/bwc>

To the Permanent Representatives in Geneva of the
States Parties, Signatories and States not party to the Convention on the Prohibition
of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological
(Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction

24 April 2018

**BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION SPONSORSHIP
PROGRAMME**

Excellency,

I am writing with regard to the Sponsorship Programme under the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC). Applications for participation in the BWC Meetings of Experts, which will take place from 7 to 16 August 2018, are now open. Applications for participation in the Meeting of States Parties in December 2018 will be open later in the year.

As you will be aware, the Sponsorship Programme was established by the Seventh Review Conference in 2011 and renewed by the Eighth Review Conference in 2016, in order to support and increase the participation of developing States Parties in BWC meetings. The Seventh Review Conference affirmed that "Priority for sponsorship will be given to those States Parties which have previously not participated in the meetings, or have been unable to regularly send experts from capital." Sponsorship may also be provided, depending on the availability of resources, to enhance participation of States not party in order to promote universalization of the Convention. The 2017 Meeting of States Parties added that "Maximum use would be made of the Sponsorship Programme" during the 2018-2020 intersessional programme. More information about the Sponsorship Programme is available at www.unog.ch/bwc/sponsorship in both English and French.

As funding is limited, it is likely that not all applications will be able to be supported. For that reason, in order to be able to sponsor experts from as many developing States Parties as possible, it is likely that applicants will only be able to be sponsored for one of the two weeks in August. A similar approach was taken for the Sponsorship Programme at the Eighth Review Conference in 2016. Applicants can specify on the application form which week they would prefer to attend. The form also includes the schedule of the Meetings of Experts.

The Sponsorship Programme will be administered by the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) in consultation with the office-holders of the 2018 BWC meetings, and is funded through voluntary contributions from States Parties. The ISU would like to thank those States Parties which have already provided, or pledged to provide, voluntary contributions to the Sponsorship

Programme, and would like to encourage others to also consider making voluntary contributions.

Applications for sponsorship for the 2018 Meetings of Experts must be submitted to the ISU by using the form available on the webpage given above **not later than 31 May 2018**. Application forms must be endorsed by the applicant's Ministry of Foreign Affairs or Permanent Mission. Applicants should be working on issues related to the BWC and should be prepared to participate actively in the Meetings of Experts.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Feakes', is centered on the page.

Daniel Feakes
Chief, BWC Implementation Support Unit