Call for applications: 
Capacity development for national implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention

Excellency,

As part of the implementation of the European Union Council Decision 2016/51 in support of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), the European Union is providing support to the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) to conduct extended national implementation assistance programmes for a maximum of eight BWC States Parties during 2017 and 2018.

The Eighth BWC Review Conference reaffirmed that the enactment and implementation of necessary national measures would strengthen the effectiveness of the BWC. The Conference called upon States Parties to adopt legislative, administrative, judicial and other measures, and welcomed measures taken by States Parties in this regard. The Conference also reiterated its call to any State Party that has not yet taken any necessary measures to do so without delay, and welcomed assistance already provided by States Parties in a position to do so.

The programmes supported by the European Union are aimed at developing capacities within States Parties to inter alia adopt the appropriate legislative or administrative measures for BWC implementation, to support effective implementation and enforcement to prevent violations of the BWC and to impose sanctions in cases of breaches, to facilitate better national coordination and networking among all stakeholders involved in implementation, to promote awareness-raising programmes, codes of conduct and standards for biosafety and biosecurity, and to create or enhance national mechanisms for the compilation of the required information for the annual submission of Confidence-Building Measures (CBMs).

Each programme will run for approximately 12 months and will comprise an initial national workshop to make an assessment of needs and priorities, the development and execution of a structured Action Plan that would involve support by various assistance providers, and a wrap-up workshop following the conclusion of the activities. UNODA will substantively and logistically implement the programme, in close coordination with inter alia the relevant EU delegations, the CBRN Centres of Excellence in beneficiary countries and the UN regional disarmament centres.
where appropriate. More information on the EU Council Decision and the specific programmes can be found at http://www.unog.ch/80256EE60058585943/(httpPages)/7EA198C35415C020C1257F9B003E1BB1?OpenDocument Please contact Ms. Ana Izar, Political Affairs Officer, at aizar@unog.ch should you have any questions on the programme.

As this project will be launched in early 2017, we would request States Parties interested in receiving this capacity development support to complete the attached application form in as much detail as possible and submit it to UNODA by 28 February 2017. Completed application forms should be submitted electronically to bwc@unog.ch. Following an evaluation process to be undertaken by UNODA in consultation with the European Union, States Parties selected for support will be informed in March or April 2017.

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

Jacek Bylica
Ambassador
Special Envoy for Disarmament and Non-proliferation
European External Action Service

Mary Soliman
Acting Director
United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs
Geneva Branch

Daniel Feakes
Chief
BWC Implementation Support Unit
United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs

Encl.: Application Form (in English, French and Spanish)