

**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, 3-6 December 2019

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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

11 March 2019

**BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION  
SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMME FOR THE 2019 MEETINGS OF EXPERTS**

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 29 July to 8 August 2019, are now open.

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 the 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 funded by voluntary contributions in order to facilitate participation of developing States Parties in the meetings of the intersessional programme." More information about the Sponsorship Programme is available at [www.unog.ch/bwc/sponsorship](http://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, applicants will be sponsored for either the first week of meetings (29 July to 2 August), or the second week (5-8 August).

The Sponsorship Programme is administered by the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) in consultation with the office-holders of the 2019 BWC meetings, and is funded through voluntary contributions. To date, contributions have been received from Canada and the European Union.

Applications for sponsorship for the 2019 Meetings of Experts must be submitted to the ISU by using the form available on the webpage given above **not later than Friday 17 May 2019**. 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.

In order to promote Sustainable Development Goal 5 on gender equality, the ISU strongly encourages applications from suitably qualified female applicants.

Applications for participation in the Meeting of States Parties which will take place in December 2019 will be open later this year.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Feakes', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Daniel Feakes  
Chief, BWC Implementation Support Unit