REFERENCE: ODA-2022-00008

SUBJECT: Establishment of a Sponsorship Programme to ensure the inclusivity and broad participation at the First Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

The Office for Disarmament Affairs presents its compliments to the Permanent Missions to the United Nations of States Parties and Signatories to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and has the honour to refer to the decision of 28 January 2022 by States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) to establish a sponsorship programme to ensure the crucial inclusivity and broad participation prioritised by States Parties for the First Meeting of States Parties (1MSP). States Parties agreed the programme will be operated by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) and requested UNODA to take the necessary administrative and organizational steps to ensure operability of the sponsorship programme as soon as possible.

As agreed by the States Parties, the sponsorship programme is to be financed exclusively through voluntary contributions of those States in a position to do so. The sponsorship programme will cover 1 (one) person per delegation from States to ensure, as a priority, the participation of States Parties at 1MSP. Subject to availability of funds, the participation of delegates from Signatory States as well as States that have supported the TPNW (e.g., voted in favour of its adoption and/or voted in favour of the United Nations General Assembly resolutions on the TPNW) can also be sponsored. Eligible States for the sponsorship programme are States under the category of Least Developed Countries (LDC) eligible to receive Official Development Assistance (based on the Development Assistance Committee list of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) or Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Additional criteria for the sponsorship programme are equitable regional representation and gender equity. All States in a position to do so were requested to consider contributing to this programme.

In additional guidance provided to UNODA on 21 February 2022, the President-designate of 1MSP advised that “if there are not sufficient funds to sponsor all eligible States Parties, the Secretariat will inform the President-designate who will consult with the donor States” and that “donor States for the Sponsorship Programme may earmark part of their funds to sponsor selected States, including Signatory States and non-States Parties, from specific regions, however, donor States are encouraged to apply the same principles [as the general guidance] when targeting their contributions.”

In his additional guidance, the President-designate requested that “a contingency reserve of no more than five per cent of the available funds . . . be kept to accommodate extraordinary requests for sponsorship received no later than one month before the MSP. Any grants to such late or special requests will be subject to consultations by the President-designate with the donor countries.” He also requested that “in case of any questions regarding the implementation of the Sponsorship Programme or the use of funds, the Secretariat will inform the President-designate who will consult with the donor countries of the Sponsorship Programme and any other delegation, as appropriate.”

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States Parties and other interested States wishing to contribute to the sponsorship programme can do so by depositing funds into the bank account below indicating the following reference number in the transfer of funds:

**Banking Instructions**
JPMorgan Chase Bank  
International Agencies Banking  
277 Park Avenue  
New York, NY  10172-0003  
ABA Routing No: 021-000021  
SWIFT No: CHASUS33  
Title: United Nations General Fund  
Account Number: 485-001985  
**Reference: Fund MTN – Earmarked for TPNW Meeting**

States depositing funds should state clearly the purpose of the funds (i.e., “contribution to the sponsorship programme for TPNW 1MSP”). In parallel, States should provide a letter to UNODA advising of their contribution to the sponsorship programme.

Should staff of the Permanent Mission have questions concerning the information in this communication, please know that Mr. Edzel Crispino, Senior Administrative Assistant, of the Office for Disarmament Affairs, may be contacted at 1-917-367-2194 or crsipino@un.org.

Mr. Christopher King, Senior Political Affairs Officer, UNODA may also be contacted in case of any questions regarding the sponsorship programme (email: king6@un.org, telephone: +1 212 963-5537).

The Office for Disarmament Affairs avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Permanent Missions to the United Nations of States Parties and Signatories to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons the assurances of its highest consideration.

[Signature]

14 March 2022