**FCO Counter-Proliferation Programme 2013-2014**

**Introduction**

Counter-Proliferation is one of the Government’s top priorities. It features prominently in the National Security Strategy and the Strategic Defence and Security Review, and is at the heart of one of the Foreign Secretary’s three priorities for the FCO: safeguarding Britain’s national security. It also makes a significant contribution to the UK’s prosperity objectives.

In line with this, the FCO has created a Security Programme, one strand of which will cover Counter-Proliferation (CP). This fund replaces the old Strategic Programme Fund (SPF) for Counter Proliferation. It will play a distinct and important role in supporting the strategic objectives set out in the new National Counter-Proliferation Strategy. It will create the conditions for successful UK diplomatic engagement or larger-scale project interventions, for example by opening up access, building political will and shaping debate in priority countries and international organisations. This Programme does not fund large-scale material interventions, which are instead covered by the UK’s contribution to the Global Threat Reduction Programme.

We look forward to hearing your ideas. Please get in touch with the Programme Team (SPF.CP@fco.gov.uk; FTN 8008 6898/1852) if you have any questions.

**Programme objectives**

The three strategic priorities set out in the UK’s National Counter-Proliferation Strategy are:

1. Denying access to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) materials and expertise by non-state actors;
2. Preventing acquisition by states of capabilities (both WMD and conventional military capabilities) which would threaten stability;
3. Supporting, strengthening and extending the rules-based international system of counter proliferation treaties, regimes and organisations that underpins global security and prosperity.

The Programme Board will consider all proposals which aim to further these strategic objectives. However, the table below sets out particular objectives for the CP Programme strand in 2013-14, and examples of the kinds of projects we hope to fund:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *Programme objective:* | *Strategic Priority* | *Further details and example areas for project work* |
| 1. Priority countries strengthen their capacity to secure CBRN materials and expertise from acquisition by non-state actors.
 | **1** | **‘CBRN security: improving capacity, reducing the threat’**We are looking to fund projects which help priority countries to improve the security of CBRN materials and expertise, or which help encourage the political will to do so. Projects in priority countries might aim to:* increase the focus and engagement of key decision-makers on CBRN security issues
* shape debate on CBRN security through academic or NGO exchange
* facilitate or provide expertise to priority countries to improve their awareness of the importance of protecting CBRN expertise, and their capacity to do so
* improve UK access to, influence on and understanding of the key decision-making bodies related to CBRN security
* promote increased understanding, awareness and implementation of Nuclear Information Security through Governments, industry and academics
* improve the relationship between priority countries and the IAEA, and strengthen the focus on efficiency within the IAEA
* develop the UK’s cooperation with key like-minded partners and support our Presidency of the G8 Global Partnership
* identify new / innovative avenues of bilateral cooperation on CBRN Security, covering security and/or prosperity objectives

Projects which increase the focus of relevant industry, civil society and research communities on CBRN security issues would also be welcome.  |
| 1. Priority countries strengthen their export control regimes
 | **2 & 3** | We are looking to fund projects that will take forward implementation and enforcement by priority countries of export control legislation of sufficient standard. For example, projects might provide training or technical assistance, or share UK best practice, in order to strengthen export controls and ensure that staff in priority countries are trained and equipped to implement them. Projects which strengthen implementation of UNSC sanctions resolutions 1874 (on North Korea) and 1929 (on Iran) would be particularly welcome.Projects that can make progress towards wider adherence to Nuclear Suppliers’ Group (NSG), Australia Group, Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) and Wassenaar regimes (the ECRs), and more effective implementation of regime guidelines, are also welcome.We would also welcome projects which loot at ‘future-proofing’ the ECRs to take account of technological developments e.g. in how to control cyber and surveillance technology, genomics.  |
| 1. The international regimes, treaties and initiatives that underpin global non-proliferation, security and disarmament objectives are strengthened.
 | **1, 2 & 3** | We would like to support projects which:* Strengthen implementation of UNSCR 1540, including by increasing the role played by regional organisations in its implementation
* Promote ratification of the amended Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (aCPPNM) and the International Convention on Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT) by all nations who are yet to do so.
* Advance progress towards the entry into force of a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and completion of its verification system
* Influence P5 and others to unblock, and ultimately facilitate, the start of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament (CD) on a Fissile Materials Cut Off Treaty (FMCT); dissuade others from pursuing alternative channels outside of the CD.
* Assist States Parties to adopt the necessary measures to implement their obligations under the Promote national implementation of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) and the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) e.g. enacting penal legislation which encompasses all activities prohibited by the Conventions.
* Promote universality of the BTWC (31 countries remain outside this convention) and CWC (eight countries outside)

In preparation for the 2013 Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) Review Conference we will support projects which:* promote the BTWC intersessional process, particularly focussing on a review of developments in Science and Technology that have implications for the Convention, and promoting universality.
* Maintain support for the Chemical Weapons Convention as it shifts its focus from destruction to non-proliferation ahead of the Review Conference (RevCon) in 2013; support preparation for the RevCon, including through influencing key partners and moderate NAM States, and promote universality of the Convention.
 |
| 1. Support for the Non-Proliferation Treaty is reinforced ahead of the next Review Conference in 2015
 | **2 & 3** | **‘NPT: path to 2015’**Projects might aim to:* Shape debate and influence decision-makers in influential NAM countries and emerging powers
* Improve the UK’s connections with and influence on priority countries
* Encourage and enable the safe use of civil nuclear technology in priority countries
* Improve domestic safeguards legislation in priority countries
 |
| 1. Progress is made towards the establishment of a WMD-free zone in the Middle East

  | **2** | Progress towards the establishment of a MEWMDFZ is a key UK objective. We will support projects which:* Solidify regional support for the Zone through engagement with Governments, civil society and other significant opinion formers
* Projects that support preparations for a future Conference
 |
| 1. The threat posed by conventional weapons to UK, regional and global stability is reduced
 | **2 & 3** | **‘ATT: from negotiation to implementation’**We are keen to support projects which would advance the process towards agreement or implementation of an Arms Trade Treaty. Projects might focus on specific countries (particularly influential NAM countries) and seek to build political and public support for an ATT. Projects may also look to help build capacity for developing states to engage fully and actively, or to implement a Treaty once is has been agreed.There will be some funding available for projects which seek to address the threat from conventional weapons in priority countries, for example:* heightening awareness of the threat posed by conventional arms
* building capacity to control the export or transfer of conventional arms
* building capacity to secure and destroy conventional weapons.

Projects might also contribute to the fulfilment of the UK’s obligations under the Ottawa and Oslo conventions on landmines and cluster munitions. |

**ODA**

We are particularly keen to support projects which will qualify as Official Development Assistance (ODA). In order to be eligible to count as ODA, projects must have the development and welfare of the target country as their main objective. More detailed guidance on the criteria for ODA can be found [here](http://wip-ubs.fconet.fco.gov.uk/Doing%2Bmy%2BJob/Good%2BPractice/BP/Guidance/ODA_Guidance_Posts.htm)