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**DOCUMENT
AC/259-D(2022)0033**

CONFERENCE OF NATIONAL ARMAMENTS DIRECTORS (CNAD)

VOLUNTARY NATIONAL CONTRIBUTION FUND

Battlefield Evidence Seminar

Executing Agent Agreement/Financial Management Agreement

Note by the Permanent Vice Chairman

Reference: A. AC/259-D(2018)0003 Voluntary National Contribution Fund for Terrorist Capabilities including C-IED

1. Please find attached the Executing Agent Agreement and Financial Management Agreement for the Battlefield Evidence Seminar project, in accordance with the arrangements at Reference A. Nation(s) contributing to this project are: **the United States of America.**
2. This document records the formal commitment by the contributing nation(s) to effectively provide the resources as outlined. This agreement does not commit non-contributing nations.

(Signed) Robert Weaver

2 Annexes

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**VOLUNTARY NATIONAL CONTRIBUTION FUND
BATTLEFIELD EVIDENCE SEMINAR PROJECT
EXECUTING AGENT AGREEMENT**

- References:
- A. PO(2021)0420 Enhancing NATO's Role in the International Community's Fight Against Terrorism 2021 Updated Action Plan and Progress Report
 - B. PO(2020)0315 NATO Battlefield Evidence Policy
 - C. PO(2021)0260 NATO Battlefield Evidence Programme of Work
 - D. AC/259-D(2018)0003 Voluntary National Contribution Fund for Countering Terrorist Capabilities including C-IED

BACKGROUND

1. In October 2020, Allies agreed a NATO Battlefield Evidence (BE) Policy (Reference A). This policy aims to facilitate the sharing of information and the transfer of material obtained on NATO operations, missions, and activities to support law enforcement purposes and legal proceedings. A BE Programme of Work (POW) was approved in July 2021 to guide the implementation of the Policy (Reference B). NATO's BE Policy and POW both mandate engagement with other international organisations as appropriate, and on a case by case basis, with the overall goal of strengthening cooperation, effectiveness, added value and complementarity between partner organisations.
2. Engagement with partners and other international organisations is also one of the three key areas for NATO Counter-Terrorism (CT) as identified in the 2012 CT Policy Guidelines. Partner cooperation and capacity-building, including in coordination with other international organisations, as appropriate, is a key element of the 2021 Updated Action Plan on Enhancing NATO's Role in the International Community's Fight Against Terrorism (Reference C).
3. As a contribution to addressing these requirements, the VNCF Battlefield Evidence Seminar Project will organize two seminars on Battlefield Evidence with other international organisations. These seminars will address: Mapping of BE-related initiatives in MENA/Sahel partner countries; Compiling an overview of existing BE guidelines (national & international); Good practices and implementation challenges regarding BE; Exploring the development of a BE exercise for partners.
4. The first NATO Battlefield Evidence Seminar will be a two-day event comprised of: an interactive workshop with experts from various international organisations with a focus on military and law enforcement cooperation and Battlefield Evidence support to partners (Day 1); and a visit to the NATO Stability Policing Centre of Excellence practical training day as part of the Battlefield Evidence training for partners in the South (Day 2).

This first Seminar will provide a stocktaking ongoing Battlefield Evidence efforts of the different international actors participating (UN, EU, Council of Europe, IIJ, INTERPOL).

5. A second Battlefield Evidence Seminar will focus on best practices, implementation challenges and explore the possibility to develop a BE exercise for partners.

AIM OF THE PAPER

5. This document constitutes the Executing Agent Agreement (EAA) as specified in the VNCF mechanism established by the Conference of National Armaments Directors (Reference D). This EAA, approved by the “Group of Contributing Nations” constitutes a formal, binding commitment by these nations to effectively provide the resources as outlined in the subject agreement.
6. Changes to the Agreement will be approved by the “Group of Contributing Nations”.

PROJECT-RELATED GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

7. In line with Reference D the governance structure for this project has been identified as follows:
 - a. “Group of Contributing Nations”: **the United States of America**
 - b. “Executing Agent”: NATO International Staff Emerging Security Challenges Division
 - c. “Office of Financial Control”: NATO Office of Financial Control.
8. Roles and responsibilities are described at Reference D.

SCHEDULING

9. The first Battlefield Evidence Seminar consists of a one-day workshop to be held at SHG Hotel De La Ville, in Vicenza, Italy on 14 June 2022, to be followed on 15 June by a visit to the NATO Stability Policing Centre of Excellence, also in Vicenza, to observe a practical Battlefield Evidence training day . Full details will be provided in the calling notice.
10. The second Battlefield Evidence Seminar will be developed based on the findings of the first and will be subject to a separate calling notice. It is currently planned for the second/third quarter of 2023.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Division of Effort

11. The “Group of Contributing Nations” (GCN) will contribute Financial Resources.

Financial Resources

12. The total budget required for the VNCF Battlefield Evidence Seminar Project is: € 35,000.
13. The following nations agree to sponsor the VNCF Battlefield Evidence Seminar Project through financial contributions:

Sponsoring Nation	Amount
United States	€35,000
Total	€35,000

14. Pledges are made by nations, with subsequent deposits and associated expenditures managed in accordance with the “Financial Management Agreement” (Annex 2).

PROJECT REPORT

15. Project outcomes will be reported to the contributing nation in accordance with the reporting requirements of its VNCF contribution.

**VOLUNTARY NATIONAL CONTRIBUTION FUND
BATTLEFIELD EVIDENCE SEMINAR PROJECT
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT**

Reference: A. AC/259-D(2018)0003 Voluntary National Contribution Fund for Terrorist Capabilities including C-IED

BACKGROUND

1. This document describes the financial management arrangement supporting the VNCF Battlefield Evidence Seminar Project.

AIM OF THE PAPER

2. This document constitutes the Financial Management Agreement (FMA) as specified in the Voluntary National Contribution Fund (VNCF) mechanism established by the Conference of National Armaments Directors (Reference A). This FMA, approved by the “Group of Contributing Nations”, defines the way funds are called, managed and paid out.

FINANCIAL AGREEMENT

3. An Executing Agent Agreement between the “Group of Contributing Nations” and the Executing Agent identifies objectives, timelines, duration of the project, estimated costs, and financial contributions by nations.

4. The NATO Office of Financial Control (NATO OFC) will establish a procedure for receiving and tracking funds based on national commitments described in the Executing Agent Agreement. The NATO IS-ESC will have the authority to certify invoices or payment requests and the NATO OFC will have the authority to execute payment of goods and services to third parties (nations or private contractors) as requested by the Executing Agent, VAT excluded, according to the NATO Financial Regulations. No transfers will be made unless funds are available.

5. The United States agrees to the allocation of funds from its holdings in the VNCF General Account IS2090 to this project and authorizes the NATO Office of Financial Control to effect such allocations with the following reference:

REFERENCE: 9BEIO

Precise bank account information will be communicated to contributing nations by the NATO OFC upon approval of the project.

6. National financial regulations including procedures for competitive bidding will be applicable to projects conducted by national Executive Agents.

7. This project may be audited by national auditors or by the International Board of Auditors for NATO (IBAN) in consultation with the Executing Agent and the auditors, at the expense of the requestor(s).

8. Any disputes about the interpretation and/or implementation of the provisions of the present agreement will be settled by the involved parties without recourse to any outside jurisdiction.