



Biosecurity Global South Travel Sponsorship Programme

Summary

CEPI has launched a Biosecurity Global South Travel Sponsorship Programme, through which individuals can apply for sponsorship to attend **events, conferences, seminars and other short-term professional development opportunities related to biosecurity and biosafety, where relevant to CEPI's vaccine research, development and manufacturing mission and mandate and in support of CEPI biosecurity strategy objectives. Applications should be impact-focussed to support CEPI biosecurity strategy goals** and may include course attendance, presentations, panel participation, paper/project posters, etc. The programme is open to events of interest to applicants.

The programme is designed to enable **emerging leaders from the Global South** to gain access to key biosecurity fora, which will diversify global dialogues and decision-making processes to include stronger Global South perspectives, which is critical to their relevance and success. Therefore, the programme will be a key mechanism to implement CEPI's Biosecurity Strategy Priority 3, "**drive biosecurity and biosafety for equity**." The programme will also be leveraged to make progress towards other CEPI biosecurity priorities, such as **capacity-strengthening, performance-based laboratory standards, health-security partnerships, emerging technologies and innovation including balancing benefits and biosecurity risks of AI applications in support of the 100DM.**

Please see CEPI's [Biosecurity Strategy](#) and [Implementation Plan](#) for more information about CEPI's biosecurity goals.

Eligibility

Eligible individuals. The programme is open to emerging biosecurity leaders from the Global South – defined as citizenship from and residency in a country defined as lower- or middle- income by the World Bank.

Eligible events. The sponsorship programme will cover participation in events in 2026 with thematic focus areas in alignment with biosafety and biosecurity relevant to vaccine research, development and manufacturing, including but not limited to:

- Conferences (e.g., Global Health Security Conference, Annual Biosafety and Biosecurity Conference)
- International meetings and events (e.g., Biological Weapons Convention Meeting of States Parties, United Nations General Assembly and associated side events)
- Short-term training sessions and workshops (longer-term professional training, such as degree programmes or fellowships, are **not** eligible)
- Seminars and symposiums
- Certification programs (e.g., International Federation of Biosafety Associations)
- Other relevant events aligned with CEPI's biosecurity objectives

Priority will be given to events held in the Global South to maximize regional engagement and impact.

Eligible expenses. The programme will allocate funding for travel, accommodation, meals/incidental expenses, visa costs and registration fees, in line with CEPI's travel and sponsorship policies and procedures. Other relevant costs will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Application process

Applicants must submit this online form. For conferences, applicants must be applying to present original work with a proof of abstract submission also required.

Applicants must apply at least 8 weeks prior to the event you would like to attend. CEPI will endeavour to respond within 2 weeks of your application submission date.

Assessment criteria

Eligible individuals will be emerging biosecurity leaders from the Global South who are not able to access institutional funding to support their travel. Applications will be considered on the basis of the individual applying and their stated travel objectives, not based on the institution the applicant is associated with. Each applicant is eligible for only one sponsorship during the 2025–2026 programme to enable equity in funding distribution; unsuccessful applicants may apply again (no limit on number of applications). Applications will be assessed on merit, and potential impact for CEPI's biosecurity goals as well as their own personal development. Applicants will also be subject to CEPI's integrity due diligence process.

Post-travel requirements

The traveller will be required to provide a short trip report after the event (a template will be provided).

Governance and legal requirements

Sponsorship agreement

The traveller/'Sponsored Party' will be asked to sign an agreement which will set out the terms of the sponsorship funding, and the roles and responsibilities of CEPI and the traveller, and includes the requirements in CEPI's [Third Party Code](#). **No booking or transfer of funds will occur before the agreement has been signed.**

Travel arrangements and visas

As a service, **CEPI will book travel and accommodation directly** through our travel provider to avoid the need for reimbursement. **Obtaining visas are the responsibility of the individual.** Reasonable visa application fees will be reimbursed on submission of a receipt, and CEPI will provide letters confirming the event support as needed.

Finances

Where possible, CEPI will pay conference / event fees directly. CEPI's will reimburse daily eligible expenses (food, transportation, visa costs) after the event, following provision of itemized receipts. A detailed list of what expenses are eligible for reimbursement will be shared with travellers before their trip – expenses that are not in connection with normal business travel will not be considered. **No exchange of funds or travel booking will be made before the sponsorship agreement has been signed.**

Security, insurance and emergency support

Travel to high-risk destinations. Informed by designations from International SOS, CEPI will not support travel to countries or regions that are designated as "Extreme Risk". Travel to countries or regions that are designated as "High Risk" will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Travel insurance. **The Sponsored Party is solely responsible for obtaining and maintaining adequate travel insurance for the duration of the sponsored activity.** This includes, but is not limited to, coverage for medical expenses, personal liability, trip cancellation, and loss or theft of personal belongings. CEPI shall not be held liable for any costs or damages arising from the Sponsored Party's failure to secure appropriate insurance.

As part of the Sponsorship, **CEPI may reimburse the Sponsored Party for the cost of a single-trip travel insurance in accordance with CEPI's applicable Sponsorship Policies.** If agreed, details of such reimbursement will be set out in the Sponsorship Summary. CEPI may agree to prepay the costs for the single-trip travel insurance on provision of a quote and subsequent receipt. If the subsequent receipt is not provided within 30 days of CEPI's prepayment of the cost, CEPI may deduct the prepaid amount from later payments to the Sponsored Party or request a full or partial repayment.

Emergency support. In the event of an incident, the Sponsored Party will be directed to follow their own response processes (e.g. seek support from their relevant embassy, insurance provider, airline, and/or their employer as relevant). **In the event of missed flights / cancellations / changes to the travel itinerary once the Sponsored Party's journey has begun, there is limited support CEPI can provide. The Sponsored Party must contact the airline directly and/or go to the airport information desk to resolve the problem.** If these avenues are not successful and you are still unable to resolve the issue, the Sponsored Party may use the CEPI emergency contact numbers which will be provided.

All travel contains risk, and individual risk profiles are different. CEPI will encourage Sponsored Parties to consider security and other travel risk information supplied by their embassy, employer, or other credible sources as appropriate. The Sponsored Party should consider the risks of their planned travel and their mitigation plans (including their insurance selection), and ensure they are applying for travel they are comfortable undertaking. The limits of CEPI's responsibilities are outlined below.

Liability

The Sponsored Party confirms that any travel or attendance covered by the Sponsorship is being undertaken solely at the Sponsored Party's initiative, and that CEPI has not requested the Sponsored Party to undertake the travel, represent or attend any conference or meeting on behalf of CEPI. The Sponsored Party acknowledges and accepts that travelling or attending an event is at the Sponsored Party's own risk and that CEPI does not have any responsibility towards the Sponsored Party other than payment of the Sponsorship.

CEPI is not responsible for the safety of the Sponsored Party (including any incident and emergency support, or extraction obligations) and shall not be liable for any loss, injury, damage, delay, or expense incurred by the Sponsored Party in connection with the travel or event participation.

The Sponsored Party further acknowledges and agrees that CEPI acts solely as an intermediary in arranging travel-related services, including but not limited to flights, hotel accommodation, payment of registration fees, etc., through a third-party service provider. CEPI shall not be held liable for the acts, omissions, or performance of any third-party providers. The Sponsored Party acknowledges that all services are subject to the terms and conditions of the respective providers, and CEPI makes no representations or warranties regarding the quality, availability, or suitability of such services.

CEPI shall not be responsible for any loss, damage, delay, or expense arising from (including but not limited to) flight or transportation delays, cancellations, or schedule changes, hotel overbookings, closures, or service deficiencies, denied boarding, missed connections, or re-routing, changes in visa requirements, travel restrictions, or entry regulations, loss, theft, or damage to personal property, health, safety, or security incidents occurring during travel, any force majeure events or other circumstances beyond CEPI's reasonable control.