

Research Staff Collegium

Date: Thursday 14 June 2018

Place and time: Conference Room, 15.45- 16.26



Meeting Minutes

Present: 40 members of staff (see attached attendance list) and Aude Fleurant on skype.

Notes: Pernilla Nordqvist

Agenda

1. Minutes of the last meeting and any matters arising
2. Report back from the Governing Board meeting on 28 and 29 May
3. AOB

1 Minutes of the last meeting and any matters arising

Minutes from the RSC meeting on May 25, 2018, were accepted without comments or objections. No matters arising.

2 Report back from the Governing Board meeting on 28 and 29 May

Mark Bromley, as staff representative to the Governing Board reported back from the meeting held on May 28-29. General impression of the Governing Board is that they want active participation in developing the work at SIPRI, especially partaking in recommending and giving feedback on new research topics and cooperation, as well as improving funding opportunities and networks. They are also interested in learning about internal work environment concerns - current or upcoming.

2.1 Governing Board meeting day 1

The *opening session* centred around logistics, following a session on reporting by DS and JH. The discussion then moved into fundraising issues. Governing Board member Jessica Matthews provided good concrete ideas on funding opportunities and with her experience is viewed as a great asset to SIPRI on this topic.

Concrete funding ideas to be considered and further discussed on how they fit SIPRI:

- 1) *Mechanism of the named chair/endowed chair*, that is financially supported by a person/organisation/fund, that covers a percentage of the chair's payroll costs.
- 2) *Corporate funding* for events (as example). As SIPRI has tried already and wants to continue to try.
- 3) Charging for participation for conferences – try to cover costs.

- Comments that were brought up on this point were that the subscription costs were a thing to consider more actively, it could lower the differences between registered and actual attendees. The discussion landed on the need to carefully think how to approach this idea more actively.

Other discussions that stood out on the first day were:

The board is interested to *expand SIPRI's work in South and Southeast Asia*, and will look into who in-house can bring that idea/work forward. They also highlighted increased work on corruption issues. Further discussion was held on what is in the *SIPRI pipeline*, such as proposals submitted to Wallenberg foundation and the increased work SIPRI will do in Africa.

Regarding the *appointment of the Deputy Director*, the board has a strong interest that the new DD is a Swedish person, to carry on the idea to get it seconded through the Swedish MFA.

The change in the statutes were discussed and approved of, and the formal rules of procedure – as can be found in the two first chapters of the SIPRI handbook. For clarification, the statutes have been updated, but the rules of procedure will be updated shortly. The Director's changed role was discussed (from being a full member of the Governing Board to chief executive and a non-voting member of the board) and how to formalise the Director's job description and annual objectives.

Management also reported briefly on the situation with the Advisory Committee, which has been reconstructed to include Distinguished Associate Fellows along with those committee members who replied positively to queries from SIPRI about their continued interest in being members. In a brief discussion, it was agreed that it was important to aim for a better gender balance on the Advisory Committee.

As new members, the Governing Board strongly supported the nominations of Jean-Marie Guéhenno and Patricia Lewis. The board showed an interest to use their networks to reach out to new members. In this discussion it was also recognized that Wolfgang Ischinger left his position on the board in May this year.

Further, it was noted that the Board has decided to have two meetings per calendar year in Stockholm. **Upcoming meetings are set for 26-27 November 2018; 27-28 May 2019; and 18-19 November 2019.**

Lunch with governing board members and staff:

Comments from RSC centred on positive feedback. It was appreciated to get a chance to talk to the board members, discuss certain topics of interest, and briefly describe what the different SIPRI clusters are working on so as to make the board members more aware. The main thoughts raised were to keep this framework of informal talks with the governing board. Appreciation was expressed to those helping out with the event.

Executive section meeting (Staff rep. not represented):

Nothing to report.

2.2 Governing board meeting day 2

The day started off with the *Union Session*. **The staff representatives to the Union will share a reporting on that meeting in the coming weeks.** The main thoughts on it were that the meeting was constructive and the board showed interest in receiving information about any problems arising, to be able to respond and act

proactively. They also showed an interested in tenure issues and other work environment issues.

Relating to this JH shared during the board meeting information on the SIPRI working environment being an international institute but situated in Sweden following Swedish working legislations, practice and governing of the work place (reg. overtime, vacation etc.).

Institute research strategy session:

The aim is to have a final version of the strategy completed before the governing board meeting in November 2018. Discussions will be held in the RSC on changes during the Autumn (September, October). So far the initial thoughts from the board and the staff seem to be positive, but details need to be added.

Working lunch:

Discussions centred on doing work on *Europe-Russia dialogues*. The dialogue today suffers from a “diplomatic deficit”, and ideas were discussed on how SIPRI can do work on this - what current contacts SIPRI has, and connect this to other projects, for example, through the EU-leadership network, and Nuclear threat initiative. How to go about it is still not yet clear, but it was brought up this year’s launch of the translation of the yearbook into Russian, which coincide with the 25th anniversary of the Russian translation of the yearbook. So to do a bigger event in Moscow later this year. Another opening is to have a senior Russian figure to come and speak at SIPRI during autumn (November), potential name is: *Constantine Kosachev- Politician and Diplomat: current chair of the foreign relations committee of the senate, upper house*.

SIPRI lecture with Hans Blix:

Well attended, 350 turned up out of 380 who had registered. It was very successful and will be continued next year. Thanks for all who helped out. Discussions followed on who to invite till next year.

3 AOB

Deputy director replacement:

DS has made a recommendation to the governing board, sharing a list of four shortlisted candidates to be interviewed (3 women, 1 man). The board accepted the list,. Further steps to take, is that a panel of three people (Jan Eliasson, Dan Smith, Maria Kaemmerle) will interview. Together with a group of staff invited to participate. Interviews are held next week and final decision will be made by the Governing Board during the summer.

Feedback to the staff representative to the governing board:

Mark welcomes feedback on what the staff requires of him as staff representative, any changes to be made in reporting etc., contact him.