

Organization of the SIPRI Research Staff Collegium (RSC)

These statutes of the RSC were adopted at the RSC meeting 26 May 1986.

Membership and mandate of the RSC are regulated in §§ 11, 4 and 7 of the SIPRI statutes.

In RSC discussion prior to the adoption of these statutes it was pointed out that new members were expected to abstain from voting on sensitive matters arising immediately upon their arrival at the institute.

§1. Collegium mandate

The RSC is an advisory body to the Director of the Institute and to SIPRI's Governing Board in the planning of research and in other questions of common interest related to research. The RSC deals with matters which are to be decided upon by the Governing Board or the Director and which concern planning and conduct of the Institute's research activities and dissemination of the research findings. The RSC also deals with matters concerning SIPRI's research policy. In accordance with the SIPRI statutes, the RSC nominates candidates for Chairmanship and membership of the Governing Board (§4) and for the post of Director of the Institute (§7).

§2. Guiding principle

The guiding principle is that the Director and the Governing Board consider the opinion of the RSC before decisions are taken on research matters. The Director shall inform the RSC about his and the Board's decisions.

§3. Participants in the RSC

3.1 Membership

Members of the RSC include researchers and research assistants who are employed by SIPRI for a continuous period which includes work at the Institute for 1 year or more; the Director and the Deputy Director.

3.2 Chairmanship

The Director of the Institute is Chairman of the RSC. In his absence the Deputy Director acts as Chairman. In the absence of both the Director and the Deputy Director, the RSC elects a Chairman from among its members.

3.3 Other participants

Meetings of the RSC are open to the heads of the Editorial Department, the Library and the Press and Information Department and to consultants; and to guest researchers upon invitation. Other SIPRI staff will be called upon to attend meetings when their presence is required.

Meetings of the RSC may be closed to all but its members if so decided by simple majority of the members present and voting.

3.4 Working Committee

The RSC elects a working committee of 4 members including at least 2 researchers and 1 research assistant, to prepare the agenda of its meetings and to facilitate its work. The Committee is elected for a period of 1 year.

§4. Frequency of meetings

Regular meetings should be held once every two months. When fewer than 50% of the members are able to attend the meeting, the meeting must be adjourned and reconvened later. The date for each meeting shall be fixed at the previous meeting. Extraordinary meetings may be convened on shorter notice

by the Chairman, by the working committee or upon request by one- third of the RSC members.

§5. Decision making

The opinion of the RSC is, as a rule, expressed by consensus of its members. In cases where consensus cannot be reached, decisions are reached by a simple majority of the members present and voting, which majority must include a majority of the researchers present and voting.

By virtue of the fact that the RSC is an advisory body to the governing bodies of the Institute, neither the Director nor the Deputy Director shall have a vote.

A substantive matter to be discussed by the RSC may be deferred once, until the next meeting, if at least four members, present or not present at the meeting, so request.

§6. Minutes

Minutes shall be taken at meetings of the RSC. The minutes shall indicate those present at each meeting, the decisions taken concerning recommendations to the Director and the Governing Board, and dissenting views of the members if so requested.

A secretary shall be appointed by the RSC. Minutes shall be signed by the secretary and a voting member. Minutes are distributed to all members and other participating staff and transmitted to the Chairman of the Governing Board. Minutes are filed with the secretary to the Deputy Director and are made available on request to SIPRI staff.

§7. Matters to be dealt with in the RSC

7.1 SIPRI policy

Matters concerning the direction of SIPRI's research and research policy as well as changes in current SIPRI positions on other questions related to SIPRI's research activities are subject to consideration by the RSC.

7.2 New research projects

Proposals by SIPRI staff for new research projects shall be discussed by the RSC before being presented to the Governing Board. The Director may be asked to communicate project proposals not supported by the RSC to the Governing Board.

New projects proposed from outside the RSC—for example by the Board, the Scientific Council or persons not formally associated with SIPRI, etc.—will be discussed in the RSC and the Board informed of the RSC's opinion.

The RSC may request that its proposal be presented at the meeting of the Governing Board by one of the RSC members, especially the member directly involved in a proposed project.

7.3 Conduct of ongoing research projects

Discussion of ongoing research projects should take place in project meetings attended by the Director, the project staff and other interested research staff members. In addition to the substance of the projects, the RSC should be informed about, and has the right to express opinions on, the timetable, the budget, the staff or outside consultants to be recruited as well as of the need of assistance from the editorial and secretarial staff, from the library and the information department.

7. 4 Publication matters

Questions concerning the publication and dissemination of SIPRI's research findings will be discussed in the RSC before a decision is made by the Director or the Governing Board.

7. 5 Recruitment of research staff

After a decision is made to recruit a researcher, or a research assistant, the Director seeks the opinion of the RSC on the particular method of recruitment—for example through advertising, seeking proposals from other institutes or individuals, submission of names of candidates by RSC members, etc. The RSC recommends from case to case members to participate in an ad hoc recruitment group. The ad hoc group short lists the applicants before the Director decides on the recruitment. If the recruitment concerns a research assistant, the project leader shall be member of the recruitment group.

7. 6 Review

These rules of procedure may be revised, as needed. In cases where consensus cannot be reached, decisions are reached by a simple majority of the members present and voting, which shall include a majority of researchers. Dissenting votes may be recorded in the minutes at the request of members concerned.

7. 7 Other Institute meetings

RSC meetings will not replace other meetings and seminars held at the Institute.