

Research Staff Collegium
Tuesday, 7 March 2023

Via Zoom

Minute taker: Martina Selmi



Agenda

1) Notes of the last meeting and any matters arising

No comments on the minutes of the last RSC meeting (1 December 2022) were raised.

2) General update by SMT, including

- **Forum, finances and fundraising**

- **Forum:** The 2023 Forum will take place **on 15-17 May, at Münchenbryggeriet** (in a smaller section of the venue than the one we had in previous years). It will not be co-convened with the Swedish MFA, and in general, it will be a more modest event – shorter (It will start around lunchtime on Monday 15 and end with a late lunch on Wednesday 17), smaller, less high level (so the MFA doesn't have to meet with as many high level participants) and cheaper.

The theme we have chosen as the title is **Seeking solutions for turbulent times**. There has been a lot of interest from partner organizations, which have already put forward proposals for 45 sessions, with a few more to come.

- **Finances:** We closed 2022 with a **surplus of 1,6 million SEK**, on a turnover of 111 million SEK (in other words, just over 1% surplus). The aim is to have a 2-3% surplus each year but this is a good result.

For 2023, the **core grant has been secured**, whereas we are **still waiting to hear about the strategic grant**. We are expecting a cut, and hoping we can push that cut to be as small as possible. Due to inflation, the grant's actual value would in any case be automatically reduced, even if it were at the same nominal level.

Staff members were reminded that, if they need to plan for direct costs involving the future Strategic Grant, they should try to hold off as long as they can before making any financial commitments, because there is too much uncertainty surrounding the grant at this stage. Anything that can be done to raise money for an activity that one might be expecting and hoping to cover with the Strategic Grant should be attempted.

- **Fundraising:** SMT will be convening a brainstorming meeting and putting together some ideas. Fundraising generally works, but over a longer timeline than we would like at the moment. If we have good ideas, we present them well and are smart about where to do so, usually it should be possible to be resourcing the activities that we want to undertake. This of course requires a lot of work.

- **Proposals on training (dissemination, fundraising)**
- Dissemination → **Steph** will take the lead in convening a discussion and training on dissemination, relationship building, and learning to position yourself nicely with the right audience. A session will be planned for the second half of March, and this could be the start of a process if there is sufficient appetite for it.
- Fundraising → **Sibylle** will convene a similar session on fundraising, in the spirit of working and learning together, with the objectives to gather some of the experiences of those who have been very successful in fundraising and have an effort across different clusters. The date is forthcoming, and anybody who has fundraising as part of their job description will get an invite.
- **Working groups on research on resilience and on gender**
- Two SIPRI-wide working groups will be set up, drawing on people across the Institute: one on the question of gender (coordinated by Sibylle, who will convene a first meeting) and one on resilience, a concept that links to several thematic issues (coordinated by Jannie, who will likewise convene a meeting).

3) Governing Board matters

- **Suggestions for agenda items for May Board meeting**
- Staff members were invited to make suggestions about issues that they think could and should be discussed at the next Governing Board (GB) meeting (which will be held at the end of May). Those suggestions can also be forwarded to **Timo** (the elected Staff Observer to the GB), who is happy to receive any input.
- The agenda for the GB meeting will be circulated prior to the next RSC (in late April), and colleagues will be able to comment on that occasion as well. The GB will surely be talking about Ukraine, the world, the situation with the new Swedish government and with the funding, and fundraising.
- **Proposals for new and renewed Board members**
- The appointment of a new Board member has been on the agenda since Espen Barth Eide joined the Norwegian cabinet in October 2021. Marietje Schaake was offered the position and, though very interested, declined due to personal reasons. One of the names that has emerged from the discussion is **Ilona Szabó de Carvalho**, the Co-Founder and Co-Director of the Igarapé Institute in Rio de Janeiro. Ilona was also the driving force behind *Viva Rio's* campaign about getting the guns off the streets of Rio – one of the most impressive disarmament initiatives ever. She is also member of the High-Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism chaired by Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and Stefan Löfven and reporting to the UN SG. Stefan is enthusiastic about the contribution that Ilona has been making to that discussion.
The RSC decided to approve Ilona's invitation to become part of the SIPRI GB. The trade unions (ST and SACO) and the GB will now also need to give their approval for Ilona to be formally appointed.

- Two Board members will soon be coming to the end of their first terms (Board members are appointed for a 5-year term, which can be renewed once): **Jean-Marie Guéhenno** and **Patricia Lewis**.

A **silent procedure was instituted until Friday (10 March)** – if colleagues would like to vote against Jean-Marie and Patricia being asked whether they wish to renew their term as Board members, they are welcome to write to **Timo or Dan**.

Colleagues discussed also whether there might be opportunities to further diversify the GB – in terms mainly of geographical representation, but also age diversity and thematic knowledge. Even if SIPRI were to INVITE Ilona and she were to accept, we do have one more vacant seat, which we might now wish to fill.

4) Code of Conduct: process for the roll-out

- A **Code of Conduct** for SIPRI has been discussed for quite some time, and a document has now been prepared by SMT and the Cooperation Group. The Code of Conduct will apply to all SIPRI staff members, as well as to Associates, interns and GB members. **Joakim** explained that the roll-out process will now begin: the draft document will be circulated after this meeting, to give colleagues the chance to acquaint themselves with the text, and its content will be discussed in six smaller (around 12 people) group meetings, each chaired by one SMT member, in the next few weeks. Each group will include colleagues from different clusters and departments, and of different levels of seniority, to have different perspectives represented. The smaller group setting will allow better opportunities for people to exchange thoughts. **Priscilla** will be sending out invitations to join a working group, and if colleagues can't make the meeting they are invited to they can let her know, so that they can be reassigned.

5) AOB

No other issues were raised.

List of participants

Ian Anthony
Ana Assis
Cecilia Bagge
Anniek Barnhoorn
John Batho
Virginie Baudais
Sibylle Bauer
Barbara Becht
Alemnesh Belatchew
Noah Bell
Lucie Béraud-Sudreau
Stephanie Blenckner
Vincent Boulanin
Amal Bourhrous
Hedvig Brage
Emilie Broek
Simone Bunse
Daniele Crimella
Evelina Francesca Cristofano
Frederic Daudon
Shourjya Deb
Caroline Delgado
Louise Edgren
Elin Elmgren
Frank Esparraga
Shivan Fazil
Vitaly Fedchenko
Joey Fox
Priscilla Frimpong Boateng
Justine Gadon
Maria Gillgren
Lauriane Heau
Farah Hegazi
Ulla Hurtig Nielsen
Felicia Kihlberg
Shannon Kile
Kyungmee Kim
Florian Krampe
Xiao Liang
Diego Lopes

Amelie Lutz
Giovanna Maletta
Alexandra Manolache
Karen Meijer
Ahmed Morsy
Vongai Murugani
Olle Persson
Claudia Pfeifer
Emelie Poignant Khafagi
Nikos Politis
Nivedita Raju
Marie Riquier
Annika Salisbury
Kristina Sandberg
Lorenzo Scarazzato
Martina Selmi
Katongo Seyuba
Sepideh Soltaninia
Fei Su
Timo Smit
Dan Smith
Magdalena Söderqvist
Sofia Staderini
Alaa Tartir
Nan Tian
Caspar Trimmer
Luc van de Goor
Jair van der Lijn
Joakim Vaverka
Maria Volakaki
Sofie Waller Snygg
Pieter Wezeman
Siemon Wezeman
Jair van der Lijn
Lisa Wiklund
Lucas Wiktorsson
Emma Zetterström
Jiayi Zhou
Tamar Zuurveld