

1) Minutes of the last meeting and any matters arising

The minutes of the last RSC (31/03) were approved.

2) Governing Board May meeting:

Discussion on the Governing Board

a) Outline agenda (Joakim)

Board meeting on 22-23 May will be in-person meeting for the first time since pandemic. Agenda was circulated prior to RSC, Joakim detailed each agenda item. Special focus on Russia / Ukraine for the board and how it affects the Institute's work. At the Board's request there will be a special session related to China too.

All staff encouraged to join the open session online on Monday – “Evolving global politics – future challenges for SIPRI”. To allow more staff participation, Board member responses are to be time limited, and alternate between staff and Board members who wish to speak.

New board member: Dr Mohamed Ibn Chambas

There is still a vacant board seat to be filled and a dormant vacant seat.

Incoming Chair, Stefan Löfven, will be in attendance also.

Some members of the Board will be participating at the Stockholm Forum too.

b) Staff Observer reply (Timo)

Contact Timo or union / Health and Safety Officer if you have any questions / concerns. Timo will speak with local union representatives and the Health and Safety officer prior to the Board Meeting.

c) Questions arising from Board Meeting

Russia / Ukraine: Three categories of concern raised:

Institute finances: There will be an impact on funding due to the war. We don't know what it will be or how long it will last but when rebuilding in Ukraine occurs, it may draw heavily on budgets for overseas development assistance.

Research/policy questions: Peacebuilding questions, European security architecture, future of relations with Russia, the Black Sea, knock on affects geopolitics, food security.

NATO Membership of Sweden and Finland: Effects on the Forum? On people's perception on Sweden and on Swedish events?

d) Staff questions/comments

Nature of the Board conversation – will it be high-level and long-term strategic planning?

– No expectation that the Board will want to discuss matters at a detailed or operational level, rather a broad vision of what SIPRI should be doing with questions such as

- Concerns about fundraising with the Board, securing financing for the future.
- Are there any gaps in SIPRI's research the Board thinks need to be filled?

There was a suggestion about being open to a 'networked approach' to RU/UA research.

– Dan is open to this approach. Among other things, SIPRI could be a grant holder to support Ukrainian researchers, though this could be difficult as many wish to remain in Ukraine and financial transfers are complex. SIPRI needs further discussion about how internally we cooperate about RU/UA research.

Concerns that NATO membership could alter how SIPRI is perceived – should the Board address this?

– Hope that the Board can give guidance – but they are difficult questions to answer.

3) &frankly Survey and SIPRI Policies Development

a) Follow up

Joakim reminded RSC that the staff survey was carried out in February 2021, focussing on organisational and social factors of the working environment. A plan of action was developed (diversity, discrimination, workload/stress). SMT has been working on this through updating/drafting new policies. The October 2021 inspection visit by *Arbetsmiljöverket* and SIPRI's response to it helped in this regard. A follow-up visit in February 2022 found all issues had been covered satisfactorily.

SMT has been working on more policies since the last RSC, there have been informal working groups and the cooperation group will also assist.

b) Forthcoming

Code of conduct at SIPRI.

A new &frankly survey is expected to happen in October 2022. SIPRI will tailor the questions to assist in clarity of understanding. This means that a comparison to 2021 will be difficult in some respects.

After a draft of the questions has been approved by the SMT and cooperation group, staff consultations will be undertaken through line managers.

4) AOB

No other business was raised.