

**Research Staff Collegium
Wednesday 27 September 2017
Conference Room, 11.00**



Present

29 members of staff (see attached attendance list)

Notes

Timo Smit

Agenda

1. Minutes and any matters arising
2. Governing Board Meeting 20 November:
 - Agenda items
3. Election of Staff Observer on Governing Board
 - Timing and procedure
4. AOB

1. Minutes of the last RSC meeting and any matters arising

The minutes of the last RSC meeting were accepted.

The Director said that the key issue of this meeting was to consider items that might be added to the agenda of the (virtual) meeting of the Governing Board (GB), which is scheduled for 20 November 2017. The Director and Deputy Director will have an initial conversation on the agenda with the Chair of the GB on 27 September.

The next RSC meeting will be scheduled 10—14 days before the Governing Board meeting.

2. Governing Board meeting, 20 November 2017

The GB meeting is scheduled for 20 November 2017, from 1330—1630 hrs.

The agenda for the meeting will include reports to the GB by the Director and Deputy Director, a discussion on the institute's Rules of Procedure (which

2 BOOK TITLE

form the first chapter of the *Staff Handbook* and define how SIPRI is run), and the budget for 2018. The Director invited the RSC to suggest additional agenda items.

Aurelien said that the Mali team is moving ahead with the development of a strategy for an Africa programme. The team is currently revising the draft strategy based on feedback received from a group of in-house researchers. Depending on further progress and agreement in-house on the objectives of this programme, the Mali team may be able to propose an Operation Plan based on this strategy, which could be relevant to discuss with the GB.

Pieter suggested that a concrete proposal for an Africa programme could be embedded into a broader discussion on the utility of regional programmes at SIPRI, such as programmes on the Middle East and/or South Asia—although the next GB meeting would perhaps not be the appropriate occasion to discuss this in detail, and a discussion on a possible discussion on an Africa programme might suffice at this stage.

The Director said that the issue of a regional Africa programme—or, rather, Africa programming—had come up at meetings of the SMT, in particular as regards the overall look of SIPRI's research agenda, which is primarily known for its thematic and global work. He further said, in response to a question by Aurelien, that there is no need to wait for input from the GB on this before proceeding with the development of an Africa programme, as SIPRI already has several regional programmes and has been considering additional ones for a while (e.g. on the Middle East).

Pieter said that it would be important to include on the Agenda of the GB meeting a (periodic) assessment of the cluster structure to evaluate what works, and in which areas it can improve (both in terms of research content and management structure).

Maaike suggested also considering how the recurring issue of mainstreaming gender and climate into the work of SIPRI (e.g. into the Yearbook) applies to the cluster structure.

The Director said the GB will also have a discussion on new GB members. Mary Kaldor has left the GB, and Wolfgang Ischinger will leave after its general meeting in 2018. He said that the Chair of the GB will approach Jessica Matthews and Anne-Marie Slaughter again—both have been previously approved and contacted, but were not available at the time—to find out whether they would now be interested in joining the SIPRI GB.

The Deputy Director added that while the GB currently meets the quorum requirement, it will need more members once SIPRI's Statutes have changed. It is therefore important to start thinking about possible names that can be

approached starting this winter. Richard commented that it could be useful to have a GB member from China; the Deputy Director remarked that the difficulty there is to ensure that a possible Chinese GB member has an independent voice.

In response to a question by Siemon on the status of the new SIPRI Statutes, the Deputy Director said that, from what he had most recently heard, the Government intends to enact the new Statutes essentially as they have been suggested to them. The process has been somewhat delayed because the Foreign Minister and the State Secretary want to mention the changes of the Statutes to the Foreign Affairs Committee, which is very positive in light of ensuring bipartisan support for the issue. The changes of the Statutes should be finalized by 20 November, though, when the GB meets.

3. Election of Staff Observer on the Governing Board

The Director briefly explained the process for electing a staff observer on the GB (memo and description of the process are available in separate documents).

4. Any Other Business

There was no other business, so the Director closed the meeting.

Attendance List RSC 27-09-2017

Maïke Verbruggen

SB

Shannon Kile

Giovanna Melotte

Via Skype:

Aude Fleurant

✓ Lora Saalman

John Harry

✓ Sybille Bauer

Timo Smit

Jiayi Zhou

Simon Wezeman

Natalya.

Richard Glin

Pieter Wezeman

Lena Kappelin

Nan Tran

Yeonjin Jung

Jasmine Kobayashi

Alexandra Kuimova

Helena Berger

Ma Huriq Nielsen

Zoë Gommans

Gulzhan Asylbek kyzy

Damir Esenaliyev

Aurélien TOBIE

Vitaly Fedchenko

In Akhmet

Kolja Brinkmann

Dan Sun. R

JANOB HALSGREN