



Via Zoom

Minute taker: Lauriane Héau

Agenda

1) Notes of the last meeting and any matters arising

No comments on the minutes of the last RSC meeting (7 March 2023) were raised.

2) General update by SMT

○ **Strategic grant and financial situation**

- At this stage, a strategic grant is still to be expected but with around a one third cut. SIPRI made a request for a three-year strategic grant (2023 to 2025), similar to the past grants received, but it is not yet entirely clear if that will be approved. The strategic grant can cover a whole year and we can use it strategically (different from a project grant).
- At the end of 2022 the financial situation was good, with SIPRI ending with a small surplus. Kristina has been working on the forecast for 2023. Thanks to the fundraising efforts from staff, the financial horizon across the institute looks reasonably healthy. The current projection is a small deficit, but ongoing fundraising efforts should lead to positive results.

○ **MILEX data launch and media attention**

- Steph congratulated the MILAP and outreach teams for the recent MILEX data launch – the 8000 mark was passed, which is a record high. More than a week later, the story is still running, and on several aspects of the launch (inflation, military aid, regional dynamics...).
- Dan added that the current media attention and interactions with relevant international actors and organizations show that SIPRI is well-identified internationally. For example, SIPRI was recently approached by the Finnish MFA for a meeting with Finland's Foreign Minister; Filippo Grandi, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees visited SIPRI last week; also last week, Dan met with the OECD and the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis to discuss setting up a partnership including SIPRI.

○ **SIPRI strategy**

- There were many interesting inputs from the discussions that took place with the clusters and with the operations and outreach teams. SMT will discuss these at their next Away Day on 3 May and put together some bullet points for the Governing Board (GB) meeting on 22-23 May.

3) Forum update

- Martina provided an update of the Forum, which will take place on 15-17 May, on the theme 'Seeking solutions for turbulent times'. This year SIPRI is hosting the

Forum by itself. Around 40 sessions are scheduled over 3 days and gather 42 partner organizations, who all made a financial commitment. This shows a strong interest in participation, but also means SIPRI had to balance and in cases limit participation, to keep numbers manageable given space and financial constraints.

- There are 250 confirmed registrations, and full capacity has been reached. The forum team will not be able to accept new external registrations from now. That said, the Forum team is very keen for interested SIPRI staff to join specific sessions, and will be sending an updated program along with a sign-up sheet for individual sessions. In addition, the three plenary sessions will be lived streamed on SIPRI's YouTube channel.

4) Governing Board matters

a. Candidate (s) for Board membership

o Ilona Szabó de Carvalho

At the last RSC, the decision to invite Ilona Szabó de Carvalho, Co-Founder and Co-Director of the Igarapé Institute, to become part of the GB was approved. However, she is currently unable to commit to joining the GB due to other ongoing commitments. While she asked for delaying a GB nomination until next year, Dan refused, due to the lack of guarantee that she will have less engagements at this time. SIPRI will continue to think about possible GB members.

o Suggested names for new board members

Alaa previously shared some names for potential GB members with Dan, and listed them again at the RSC – they are:

- Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein (Jordan), Former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, veteran Jordanian diplomat and peacekeeping expert
- Rima Khalaf (Jordan), Former Under Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), and served as Jordan's Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Industry and Trade, and Minister of Planning
- Ghassan Salamé (Lebanon), Former head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya from, UN Special Advisor to Secretary-General, and former Lebanese Minister of Culture
- Hanan Ashrawi (Palestine), Former member of the PLO Executive Committee and chief peace negotiator, former Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, and a founding members of key civil society institutions in Palestine
- Salam Fayyad (Palestine), Economist, former Prime Minister of the Palestinian Authority and Finance Minister, and Distinguished Fellow at the Brookings Institution, Atlantic Council and Princeton University
- Moza bint Nasser (Qatar) Chairwoman of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), and former first lady of Qatar

Simone also shared the following names:

- Marta Lucia Ramirez Blanco - former Vice-President and Defence Minister of Colombia
- Rut Diamint - Political Science Professor from Argentina

- Lucia Dammert - IR Professor from Chile

These names will be shared with the GB at the next meeting on 22-23 May. Staff can email suggestions for new GB members. It was reminded to staff that the decision to invite a new GB member has to be taken jointly by the RSC, the GB and the trade unions, jointly.

- o **Current board members**

Following the silent procedure at the last meeting, there was agreement for Jean-Marie Guéhenno and Patricia Lewis to stay on in the GB for another five-year term.

Staff members discussed the position of the Russian member of the GB, Feodor Voitlovsky (Director of IMEMO). At the next GB meeting, Dan will report that this conversation was raised at the RSC and ask how the GB wants to take it forward.

b. Agenda, Board meeting on 22-23 May

Joakim went through the draft agenda of the upcoming GB meeting, which includes some standard items as well as new ones. In particular:

- There will be a lunch between the GB and SIPRI staff, to allow for more informal interactions
- A discussion of the situation of Turkey was requested by the GB at the last meeting, and has therefore been scheduled. Members of the MENA programme will participate in that discussion
- GB members will be introduced to the SIPRI Code of Conduct and then will be asked to sign on to it
- There will be an all staff interaction with GB members similar to the speed dating set up during the last GB meeting. This time it will be slightly different, as the staff will be in cross-cluster groups.

In addition, Kristina indicated that the forecast for 2024 will be made in the Autumn. It was suggested to dedicate a future RSC to discussing the 2024 forecast and the financial situation.

Joakim provided additional background on fundraising. At the last GB meeting, the GB discussed fundraising issues, and given the new Swedish government in office since November 2022, it was expected that SIPRI should prepare for changes in the government's approach and in funding opportunities. Since then, there have been good discussions within SIPRI to which programme directors have been invited, to share thoughts about what we could do to engage more strategically in fundraising – to find more long-term grants, and more diverse sources of funding. Following this process, Joakim is putting together a paper to be submitted to the GB. It will be helpful to gather insights from the GB to move forward.

Noah asked whether GB members can also have a role in fundraising for SIPRI, by using their networks. GB members have very good networks and have been generous with them. Dan replied that in Europe, the norm is more for GB members to provide general guidance to institutes. Steph added that a challenge in the past has been that GB members come from completely different funding environments.

5) AOB

No other issues were raised.

List of participants

Abeer Ahmad
Ian Anthony
Ana Assis
John Batho
Virginie Baudais
Sibylle Bauer
Barbara Becht
Noah Bell
Lucie Béraud-Sudreau
Mirella Bilalagic
Stephanie Blenckner
Vincent Boulanin
Amal Bourhous
Kolja Brockmann
Laura Bruun
Simone Bunse
Vladislav Chernavskikh
Ding-rui Chuang
Evelina Cristofano
Frederic Daudon
Shourjya Deb
Elin Elmgren
Tytti Erästö
Franck Esparraga
Vitaly Fedchenko
Joey Fox
Priscilla Frimpong Boateng
Maria Gillgren
Luc van de Goor
Lauriane Héau
Farah Hegazi
Ulla Hurtig Nielsen
Noel Kelly
Kyungmee Kim
Florian Krampe
Xiao Liang

Jaïr van der Lijn
Diego Lopes
Amelie Lutz
Giovanna Maletta
Vongai Murugani
Karen Meijer
Olle Persson
Claudia Pfeifer
Emelie Poignant Khafagi
Nikos Politis
Nivedita Raju
Marie Riquier
Annika Salisbury
Kristina Sandberg
Lorenzo Scarazzato
Martina Selmi
Katongo Seyuba
Timo Smit
Dan Smith
Magdalena Söderqvist
Sepideh Soltaninia
Fei Su
Kheira Tarif
Alaa Tartir
Nan Tian
Joakim Vaverka
Maria Volakaki
Sofie Wallersnygg
Wilfred Wan
Pieter Wezeman
Siemon Wezeman
Lisa Wiklund
Lucas Wiktorsson
Emma Zetterström
Tamar Zuurveld
Mathew George