



Russian International
Affairs Council

2022

ANNUAL REPORT

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01

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Non-Profit-Making Partnership Russian International Affairs Council (NPMP RIAC) is a Russian membership-based non-profit organization. The partnership was established by the resolution of its founders pursuant to Decree No. 59-rp of the President of the Russian Federation "On the Establishment of the Non-Profit-Making Partnership Russian International Affairs Council" dated February 2, 2010.

RIAC MISSION

OUR MISSION IS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE PROSPERITY OF RUSSIA THROUGH ITS INTEGRATION INTO THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY.

RIAC SERVES AS A LINK BETWEEN THE STATE, THE EXPERT COMMUNITY, BUSINESS AND CIVIL SOCIETIES IN ADDRESSING FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES.

FOUNDERS



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Sergey Lavrov

Minister of Foreign Affairs
of the Russian Federation, Chairman
of the Board of Trustees of RIAC

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THE MINISTRY PUTS A PREMIUM ON OUR PARTNERSHIP RELATIONS WITH THE COUNCIL, WHICH HAS TRULY BECOME ONE OF THE KEY INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS THINKTANKS BOTH IN RUSSIA AND GLOBALLY. WE COMMEND THE COUNCIL'S EFFORTS TO PROVIDE INTELLECTUAL NOURISHMENT TO RUSSIAN DIPLOMACY AS WELL AS EXPERT AND ANALYTICAL GUIDANCE FOR THE COUNTRY'S FOREIGN POLICY.

RIAC 17

RUSSIAN INTERNATIONAL
AFFAIRS COUNCIL

ER
GLOBAL WORLD

сте в глобальный мир

Игорь
ИВАНОВ

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES



02

RIAC PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

2022 had a profound impact on the Russian International Affairs Council (RIAC) and its activities. The beginning of the Special Military Operation marked a radical change of the international landscape and the nature of Russia's relations with some foreign countries. As are others, Russia faced with foreign policy challenges such as the need to comprehensively modernize its relations with friendly countries, boost the efficiency of Russia's participation in international organizations within the UN, further develop a new generation of international organizations and networks (Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), BRICS), advance national interests in some key areas of the global agenda (climate, digital security, international finance, international law, etc.), and strengthen economic and security integration projects in Eurasia (the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU)). The new global reality also calls for the creative development of Russia's own intellectual and industrial resources, a wider involvement of Russian regions in international economic cooperation as well as integration of regional universities and research centers into the network of foreign policy expertise.

In 2022, RIAC carried on with its key activities: it produced various types of analytical documents and organized and hosted major international conferences, workshops, round tables, and lectures delivered by Russian and foreign experts, as well as other events. The Council extensively used these formats to drive a comprehensive analysis of pressing international issues, develop a dialogue with international partners, and promote the Russian perspective on global challenges both overseas and at home. All those events conducted in multiple formats aim to open new opportunities and mechanisms for cooperation with a wide range of nations in the Asia Pacific, the Middle East, Africa, Latin America, and the EAEU, which are expected to provide new drivers for Russia's growth and development.

Considering the new international context, RIAC worked hard in 2022 to expand its geographic coverage of countries and regions with a greater focus on engaging partners in Asia, Africa and Latin America. The Council stepped up its collaborations with Chinese research centers and institutes, while intensifying ties with India's think tanks as well. The latter include our long-established partners in Delhi (ICWA, ORF) along with other analytical centers. RIAC reviewed options for cooperation with Northeast and Southeast Asia. Some solid groundwork was laid down to develop relations with other friendly countries and economic partners: Turkey, Iran, Egypt and the UAE. We continued a series of Africa-related events with experts and representatives of African embassies, and supported efforts to take a closer look at Latin American affairs, including Venezuela's policy to counter external restrictions.

In 2022, RIAC doubled down on all matters Eurasia, mapping out optimized pathways for implementing integration initiatives. Several round tables were held with substantial input from the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC). These discussions resulted in a follow-up working paper "EAEU Development 2022+: Strategic Objectives and Imperatives of Today". Plans are ongoing to weave an increasingly dense network of ties with EAEU and CSTO member states and other partners in Eurasia.

RIAC managed to maintain working relations with a number of western think tanks. At co-hosted events or those attended by western experts, the Council focused on explaining the official position of the Russian Federation on the current issues of the global agenda.

The above workstreams were pursued in close collaboration with experts in relevant Russian institutes and think tanks, including research institutes of the Russian Academy of Sciences, the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO) under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Lomonosov Moscow State

University, St. Petersburg State University, and federal universities. A good illustration of our successful collaboration was a series of methodology workshops devoted to the study of current international relations held jointly with the Institute of World Economy and International Relations of the Russian Academy of Sciences (IMEMO RAN) and the World Economy and International Relations (MEiMO) Magazine.

Among the plethora of significant and pervasive subjects that stayed in the analytical spotlight throughout 2022, topics worthy of special note include sanctions, food security and green energy. RIAC immensely emphasized the need to provide expert support to boost the efficiency of Russia's participation in international organizations, advance national interests in a number of functional areas, including the climate agenda, digital security, international finance, international law, etc. and strengthen economic and security integration projects in Eurasia (CSTO and EAEU).

In addressing those central subjects, RIAC engaged deeply with the Russian business community and chambers of commerce and industry, and appropriate government authorities, including the Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation.

The Council held monthly workshops for Russian companies together with the Moscow Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) and regular sanctions policy workshops for the business audience jointly with Interfax Information Services Group.

This year, RIAC invested more effort to raise the Council's public profile in Russia and abroad. Starting January 2022, we relaunched our podcast project featuring leading Russian foreign policy analysts and scholars. Meanwhile, the RIAC website remains the primary communications tool demonstrating impressive traffic gains in 2022. We also built upon our successful partnerships with leading media outlets both as part of the Nationwide Contest for Young Foreign Affairs Journalists and in the form of RIAC's publications in the leading print media and expert commentaries on TV and radio.

The fast-paced transformation of the international environment sets new objectives for RIAC development. We are looking for new partners, project themes and formats. But our overarching goal is unchanged; RIAC is committed to providing an objective and unbiased analysis of global policies and international relations, while strengthening trust overseas towards Russia's positions.



Игорь
ИВАНОВ

Игорь
МОРГУЛОВ



РСМД
Российский совет
по международным
делам



МЕЖДУНАРОДНАЯ КОНФЕРЕНЦИЯ

РОССИЯ и КИТАЙ

сотрудничество
в новую эпоху

中国与俄罗斯
新时代的

REGIONAL AND BILATERAL PROJECTS



RUSSIA AND THE ASIA PACIFIC

In 2022, as the security architecture was falling apart in Europe, Russia continued to establish close ties all across the Asia Pacific region.

Beijing and New Delhi remained Moscow's largest partners and took a constructive position in the context of the conflict around Ukraine. Global tensions, however, had a direct effect on the balance of power in Asia. The measured approach adopted by the region's countries has played an important part in maintaining stability and preventing global escalation.

Developing Asia-Pacific partnerships is a huge and complex endeavor for Russia that has to deal with both financial and logistical problems, largely caused by Western sanctions against Russia, on the one hand, and to take maximum advantage of new cooperation opportunities, on the other. RIAC's collaboration with its partners in Asia aimed to gauge the potential for cooperation under the new circumstances.

RIAC worked extensively on its traditional projects with think tanks in China and India. As for engagements with China, we continued our collaboration with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), holding the annual conference

"Russia and China: Cooperation in a New Era" and a series of workshops on specific areas of communication.

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"China and Russia are always proactive in promoting a new type of international relations based on mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and mutually beneficial cooperation."

*Shi Taifeng, President of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences
(speaking at the 7th International Conference "Russia and China: Cooperation in a New Era")*

RIAC experts also worked together with Fudan University and the Institute of China and Contemporary Asia of the Russian Academy of Sciences (ICCA RAS) to review cooperation progress between Moscow and Beijing over 2021–2022, with the analysis published in the annual report "Russian-Chinese Dialogue".

RIAC's schedule was equally busy with India-related projects: the year started off with a joint conference with the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) followed by a series of round tables hosted throughout the year together with Gateway



House and the Vivekananda International Foundation (VIF). RIAC Program Director Ivan Timofeev joined the Task Force for Energy Transition & Climate Finance set up by Gateway House to design the agenda for India's G20 Presidency in 2023.

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“India is too big to be a junior partner. India sees itself as one of the pillars, as one of the poles of geopolitics, and therefore it wants to maintain strategic autonomy. It cannot align with any particular country because it has interests everywhere: it has interest in Russia, it has interest in the U.S., it has interest in both in the West as well as in the East.”

Dipanjan Roy Chaudhury, Diplomatic Editor at The Economic Times (from an interview for the RIAC website)

Moscow's ties with Beijing and New Delhi were also heavily discussed on campuses of RIAC member universities: Tomsk State University, North-Eastern Federal University, and Ural Federal University.

In addition to these major projects, RIAC continued to explore opportunities for cooperation with Northeast and Southeast Asia. As part of a round table hosted by Rossiya Segodnya, Russian experts discussed prospects for developing Russia's relations with South Korea. Also, RIAC established contacts with the National Resilience Institute in Indonesia and New Era University in the Philippines.





**РОССИЯ
СЕГОДНЯ**
международная
медиагруппа



KEY EVENTS

- January 28 – Conference “Strategic Vision of Russia–India Relations and the Changing World Order” (jointly with ICWA)
- March 17 – Round table “Russia–South Korea Relations in the New Environment: Future Outlook”, Rossiya Segodnya media center
- April 12 – Round table “Russia-India Cooperation in the Context of Sanctions” (jointly with Gateway House)
- May 18 – RIAC session “China’s Role in the Development of a Greater Eurasian Partnership. Russian and Chinese Perspectives”, Tyumen State University Conference “The Greater Eurasian Partnership: A View from the East”
- July 1–2 – 7th International RIAC/CASS Conference “Russia and China: Cooperation in a New Era”
- June 14 – Round table “Russia–China: Dialogue in the Face of External Challenges”, Rossiya Segodnya media center
- September 28 – Round table “Russia–India Collaboration in the Arctic: Interests and Opportunities” (jointly with Ammosov North-Eastern Federal University and the Northern Forum International Organization of Northern Regions)
- February–October – a series of round tables together with VIF on the consequences of the geopolitical crisis for Russia-India relations.

PUBLICATIONS

1. *Report No. 78/2022. Russian–Chinese Dialogue: The 2022 Model.* Andrey Kortunov, Kirill Babaev, Zhao Huasheng et al.
2. *Working Paper No. 64/2022. The Green Agenda in China’s Policy.* Anastasia Pyatachkova, Nikita Potashev, Veronika Smirnova
3. *Working Paper No. 65/2022. The European Union and the People’s Republic of China: A (non-)Strategic Partnership?* Vasily Kashin, Sergey Shein, Yulia Melnikova, Nikita Potashev, Lolita Krasikova
4. *Working Paper No. 72/2022. Advancing Russia’s Economic Interests in East Asia.* Evgeny Kanaev, Olga Danilova, Anastasia Pyatachkova, Mikhail Terskikh et al.
5. *Policy Brief No. 43/2022. Russia–India Economic Cooperation: Status and Outlook.* Lidia Kulik, Alexey Kalinin
6. *RIAC/CASS Collected Papers. Global Governance in a New Era: Concepts and Approaches.*
7. *The 7th RIAC and CASS Conference Report. Russia and China: Cooperation in a New Era.* Ksenia Kuzmina, Yulia Melnikova, Polina Bakulina, Amir Orusov

Key Publications on the RIAC Website

- *Zhao Huasheng.* China and Russia: Dialogue in the Face of External Challenges
- *Ivan Zuenko.* Logistics as a Factor in Russia’s “East Policy”
- *Kirill Babaev.* A Friendship Higher Than Alliance
- *Ekaterina Koldunova.* Asian Multilateralism: A Test of Strength
- *Georgy Bulychev.* At a Standstill: Russian-South Korean Relations
- *Dmitry Streltsov.* Moscow–Tokyo: “Freeze” Imminent?
- *Ivan Schedrov, Gleb Makarevich.* Why is India not China?



RUSSIA AND EURO-ATLANTIC COMMUNITY

The escalation of the crisis in relations between Russia and Ukraine into a military conflict opened a new chapter in modern history.

Though it is still too early to speak about any long-term or even near-term impact of the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict on future European and global security, one thing is clear: it is going to be massive. Instead of forming a common security space in the Euro-Atlantic region, which was the dream of many in the early 21st century, Western governments will most likely go ahead to bulwark their own security based on NATO, which they regard as a military tool for reaffirming their global dominance. The United States and their allies also take vigorous steps to set up limited-membership blocs in other regions that contribute to undermining the global world system and exacerbating the already formidable security challenges.

In spite of all the turbulence, RIAC continued its work related to Western affairs.

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“Today we again find ourselves at a critical turning point in the relations between Russia and Europe. They cannot and will not be as they were thirty years ago – it is impossible to go back to the past, anyway. We are entering a new and probably a rather long phase of Russian-European relations when both sides would have to shake off the burden of past illusions and fantasies, push aside emotions and mutual recriminations, and take a sober and realistic look at options for cooperation in the future. This is a challenge that confronts not only the leadership of Russia and EU countries, but also expert communities in the west and the east of the European continent, leading think tanks, and civic institutions.”

Igor Ivanov, President of RIAC, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (1998–2004), Secretary of the Security Council of the Russian Federation (2004–2007), Corresponding Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences (from Policy Brief “France and Russia in the New World Order”, May 30, 2022)





The analysis and discussions centered on issues and options of resolving the Ukraine crisis as well as on aspects of European security. Thus, RIAC held regular remote sessions involving Russian and western experts from Oxford Process and Harvard Negotiation Project to discuss different development tracks for Russia-West relations, scenarios for settling the Ukraine crisis, and the future of European and Euro-Atlantic security. These issues remained in the focus at the round table with experts from the Institute Montaigne and the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

Throughout 2022, we had regular discussions with experts from the European Leadership Network (ELN). RIAC continues to examine ongoing processes in western countries, sharing its findings with the broader expert community, the media, and the younger audience. We hosted round tables to discuss elections in France and Serbia, and the midterm elections to the U.S. Congress, which raised issues of developing relations between these countries and the Russian Federation.

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“Attempts to completely self-isolate from the West or the inclination to look at any Russia’s interaction with the West as an inevitable “zero-sum game” also seem counterproductive and even dangerous. The growing pressure of common problems—from non-proliferation of nuclear weapons to climate change – will one way or another push the parties to collaborate in areas where that may be mutually beneficial.

Apparently, such collaboration in the short term will be situational and will not change the overall negative background of these relations, but in the future, one can count on a gradual expansion of the range of areas in which it is possible to restore positive interaction.”

Andrey Kortunov, Director General and Member of the Presidium, RIAC (from Working Paper #69/2022 “Western Consolidation and Asymmetric Bipolarity”)

KEY EVENTS

- January 26 – Workshop “The Black Sea and European Security” (in collaboration with Friends of Europe think-tank)
- January 27 – Expert discussion “The Shared Past of Russians and Americans: Lessons of History for Today”
- February 4, June 13–16 – Meetings of the Younger Generation Leadership Network on Euro-Atlantic Security (YGLN)
- March 2 – Workshop “Brazil in the Run-up to Presidential Elections in October 2022: What Will Be the Impact on Relations with Moscow?”
- March 31 – Round table “Resolving the Ukrainian Crisis and Securing a Ceasefire” (in collaboration with the Institut Montaigne)
- April 14 – Workshop “Serbia After Elections: Foreign Policy in the Current International Reality”
- April 20 – Round table “Elections in France: Implications for the Country, EU and Relations with Russia” (in collaboration with Rossiya Segodnya)
- April 27 – Round table “U.S. Energy Policy in the New Environment”
- May 20 – Round table “Russia and NATO in the Framework of Euro-Atlantic Security” with the participation of Ambassadors Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Sweden and Finland to Russia
- June 8 – Workshop “From the Yugoslav Crisis in the 1990s to the Present: Russia’s Foreign Policy in the Balkans”
- June 27 – Round table “NATO Summit in Madrid: Yet Another Claim to Dominance?” (in collaboration with Rossiya Segodnya)
- September 1 – Round table “Relations between Russia and the West in the Context of Ukrainian Crisis” (jointly with SIPRI)
- September 21 – Workshop “Key Military Strategies of the United States: National and Global Consequences”
- September 21 – Round table “What Would Be the Place of the West in the Emerging World Order?” (in collaboration with Rossiya Segodnya)
- September 28 – Russia–NATO International Expert Dialogue Meeting, an online session
- November 9 – Round table “U.S. Midterm Elections: Preliminary Results and Implications” (in collaboration with Rossiya Segodnya)
- November 30 – Workshop “Understanding the Outcomes of the 10th NPT Review Conference: What Lies Ahead for the Non-Proliferation Regime?” (in collaboration with PIR Center)
- December 19 – Workshop “The Future of Russia-West Relations: Possible Ways Out of the Crisis” (jointly with SIPRI).

PUBLICATIONS

1. *Policy Brief No. 44/2022. Predicting a Tripolar Nuclear World: Where Does the United States Fit In?* Prokhor Tebin
2. *Working Paper No. 68/2022. The Nuclear Triad: Alternatives from the Days Gone By and Possible Futures.* Alexander Yermakov
3. *Working Paper No. 69/2022. A New Western Cohesion and World Order.* Andrey Kortunov.

Key Publications on the RIAC Website

1. *Vladislav Belov. Germany–Russia Relations in the Shadow of the Ukraine Crisis*
2. *Mark Entin, Ekaterina Entina. On the State of Affairs in the European Union*
3. *Alexander Kramarenko. Russia and the West: a Transrational Nonstrategy*
4. *Veniamin Popov. The Collision between Russian (Eurasian) and Western Civilizations*
5. *Artem Sokolov. Other Germany: The Opposition’s Take on the Republic’s Foreign Policy*
6. *Alexander Pivovarenko. Serbian Foreign Policy in the Fabric of Regional Relations*
7. *Milan Lazovich. Sitting on the Fence Is Getting Harder for Belgrad*
8. *Alexey Chikhachev. Macron, Encore: Results of Presidential Elections in France*
9. *Igor Ivanov. France and Russia in the New World Order*
10. *Alexander Kramarenko. 60 Years After the Cuban Missile Crisis: Important Lessons for the Present Ukrainian Crisis*
11. *Alexey Gromyko. Diplomacy vs Brinkmanship*
12. *Sergey Andreev. The Long Road to NATO: Accession Challenges Ahead for Sweden and Finland*
13. *Igor Istomin. Mechanics of Division: Origins, Forms and Limits of Polarization in America*
14. *Andrey Kortunov. A Red Line of Indefinite Color*
15. *Alexey Arbatov. The Ukrainian Crisis and Strategic Stability*
16. *Dmitry Razumovsky. 9th Summit of the Americas in Los Angeles: Outcomes in 2022*
17. *Igor Ivanov. Russia-NATO: On the History of the Current Crisis*
18. *Natalya Vyakhireva. Will the Freedom Convoy Steer Canada Off to the Right?*

RUSSIA–UK RELATIONS: THE NEW AGENDA

2022 was marked by rising tensions between Russia and NATO over the Ukraine crisis and by escalating belligerent rhetoric on both sides. This darkening background imparted a particular relevance to the Russian-British expert discussion of Russia–NATO relations and their role in preserving the architecture of European security.

In the absence of any top-level relations between Russia and the United Kingdom, RIAC continued its collaboration with the UK's Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) as part of a bilateral project started in 2016.

This project has a crucial role as a second-track channel that, along with discussing security aspects of Russia–UK relations, can be used to assess risks of military confrontation in Europe and work out steps towards better trust. The project was suspended but informal discussions still continue between experts.

Following up on the suggestion of our British counterparts, we held a number of round tables in July and August 2022 in partnership with Oxford Process, another British think tank. These discussions focused on potential ways of resolving the Russia–Ukraine crisis.



“Regardless of significant souring of relations between Russia and European states, it would be a grave mistake to shut down the dialogue over arms control, including nuclear weapons, over European security and other relevant global issues of a long-term nature.”

“Issues of non-proliferation cannot be addressed exclusively through bilateral U.S.-Russian relations, and this process should involve European and other nations.”

(UK experts speaking at the Expert Round Table on Strategic Stability on June 22, 2022)

KEY EVENTS

- February 10 – Expert Round Table on Strategic Stability (jointly with RUSI)
- May 20, June 22 – Expert Round Tables on Security and the Russia–Ukraine Conflict (jointly with RUSI)
- July 21 – RIAC/ Oxford Process round table “Russian-Ukrainian Conflict: Options for Achieving Neutrality”

PUBLICATIONS

Key Publications on the RIAC Website

1. *Aleksandr Ginzburg*. Nuclear “Frost” in the Summer of 2022?
2. *Nikita Lipunov*. An Extremely Northern Defense: How London Plans to Protect Its Interests in the Arctic
3. *Andrey Gubin*. A Little Britain’s Reach-out to The Big Indo-Pacific
4. *Lidia Kulik*. The First Ever British Prime Minister of Indian Origin

SECURITY SYSTEM IN THE MIDDLE EAST

In 2022, Russia continued and strengthened cooperation with Middle East countries and Iran. In this context, analysis of the region's development becomes increasingly relevant. Therefore, RIAC revised its priorities to give a fitting place to Middle Eastern affairs its program activities.

Discussions in 2022 focused on such issues as the impact of developments in Afghanistan on regional security, prospects of a settlement in Syria, and potential scope for expanding cooperation with Iran. RIAC continued to collaborate with leading think tanks in the region (Egypt, Turkey and Iran) and beyond (China, UK and Germany).

The Council produced analytical publications on security challenges in Afghanistan and the political-economic analysis of the conflict in Syria. Coming as the flagship Middle East publication was the joint report by RIAC and the Institute of International and Strategic Studies (IISS) at Peking University, "Russian-Chinese Strategic Cooperation to Ensure Security in Afghanistan Following U.S. Withdrawal".

RIAC's event program on Afghanistan opened with a workshop held in collaboration with the Shiller Institute (Germany) and devoted to the humanitarian crisis in that country. Later, participants of the RIAC/MIRNaS round table, "Views of Russia and Turkey on the Current Situation in Central Asia", discussed the impact of the Afghanistan problem on regional security. Among other Afghan-agenda events, it is important to highlight the RIAC round table hosted by Rossiya Segodnya on the anniversary of Kabul's seizure by the Taliban.

In July 2022, the region saw two almost simultaneous landmark visits: one by Russian President Vladimir Putin to Iran and the other by U.S. President Joe Biden to Saudi Arabia. RIAC held a round table at Rossiya Segodnya to discuss Russia's relations with Iran and Turkey. Furthermore, RIAC conducted a closed-door discussion of the U.S. factor in the Middle East.

RIAC also maintained its focus on the matters related to the Syrian settlement. We worked with the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs (ECFA) to organize a workshop for sharing Russia's and Egypt's perspectives on the situation in Syria. In addition, RIAC hosted a round table, "Future of the Settlement of the Situation in Syria in the Context of the Ukrainian Conflict".

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"The Syrian issue cannot be considered separately from the broader context of the Middle East. Russia's position in Syria is influenced by Russia's relations with Israel and Iran. Changes in Afghanistan also have their effect on what is going on in Syria."

Andrey Kortunov, Director General and Member of the Presidium, RIAC (speaking at a RIAC round table, "Future of the Settlement of the Situation in Syria in the Context of the Ukrainian Conflict")





KEY EVENTS

- February 9 – Workshop “Russian and British Perspectives on Turkey’s Foreign Policy and the Middle East’s Regional Dynamics” (jointly with RUSI)
- February 10 – Workshop “Humanitarian Crisis in Afghanistan: Toward a Long-term Solution” (jointly with the Schiller Institute)
- March 1 – Round table “Views of Russia and Turkey on the Current Situation in Central Asia” (jointly with MIRNaS)
- April 26 – RIAC workshop “Views from Russia and Egypt on the Situation in Syria” (jointly with ECFA)
- July 20 – Round table “Putin’s Visit to Iran: Moscow’s Ties with Teheran and Ankara Looking Forward” (jointly with Rossiya Segodnya)
- July 25 – Workshop “The U.S. Factor in the Middle East in the New Conditions”
- July 28 – Round table “Future of the Settlement of the Situation in Syria in the Context of the Ukrainian Conflict”
- August 15 – Round table “Situation in Afghanistan: One Year After the Taliban’s Takeover of Kabul” (jointly with Rossiya Segodnya);
- December 20 – Round table “Russian-Chinese Cooperation for Security in Afghanistan” (jointly with Izvestia).

PUBLICATIONS

1. *Working Paper No. 67/2022. Settling the Syrian Conflict Amid the Ukrainian Crisis: Political Economy Perspective.* Igor Matveev
2. *Report No. 80/2022. Russian-Chinese Strategic Cooperation to Ensure Security in Afghanistan Following U.S. Withdrawal.* Andrey Kortunov, Andrey Kazantsev, Mikhail Konarovskiy, Sergey Lebedev, Mohammad Omar Nessar, Ivan Bocharov, Guan Guihai, Qiang Xiaoyun, Qian Xuemei, Wu Bingbing, Zhu Yongbiao, Zhao Huasheng
3. *Report No. 85/2022. The Middle East: the Impact of Events in Afghanistan and Ukraine on Key Regional Trends.* Ivan Bocharov.

Key Publications on the RIAC Website

1. *Igor Matveev. Economic and Trade Cooperation between Russia and Arab Countries in the Context of the Ukraine Crisis*
2. *Kirill Semenov. Finishing the Job: Turkey Preparing for Military Operation in Syria*
3. *Nikita Smargin. Tilting Towards Iran: Why Russia Needs to Look Deeper into Iran’s Story*
4. *Alexey Khlebnikov. Russia’s Approach to Cross-Border Aid Delivery to Syria*
5. *Nikolay Surkov. An Arab Summit for the American President*
6. *Aleksandr Aksenok. U.S. Policy Case for Middle East under New Conditions*
7. *Dmitry Maryasis. Turkey and Israel Rebuilding Bilateral Relations. How Long Will They Last?*

EURASIAN INTEGRATION

The acute relationship crisis between Russia and the West that broke out in 2022 had a substantial impact both on the integration process within the framework of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) and on implementation of the initiative to establish the Greater Eurasian Partnership (GEP).

On the one hand, the shifting conditions offer new incentives for cooperation between the countries involved in the integration processes. On the other, the crisis generates external pressure on EAEU member states and other partners of Russia in Eurasia. Unilateral restrictions hamper normal economic exchanges and are harmful for development of the region's countries that have close economic ties with Moscow. Considering the above, RIAC revved up its activity on the Eurasian front in 2022 to develop

optimized roadmaps for advancing integration initiatives.

With substantial support from the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC), RIAC held round tables, "Eurasian Integration Pathways: Developing Best Practices and Adapting International Experience" and "Potential Dimensions of the EAEU Development in the New Environment and New Opportunities for Collaboration with Other Partners in the Context of Their Transforming International Trade Strategies", which took place shortly before the meeting of the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council in Yerevan. Based on these discussions a team from the Institute for Development of Integration Processes, which is part of the Russian Foreign Trade Academy, produced a working paper, "EAEU Development 2022+: Strategic Objectives and Imperatives of Today".





KEY EVENTS

- April 28 – Round table “Eurasian Integration Pathways: Developing Best Practices and Adapting International Experience”
- October 19 – Round table “Potential Dimensions of the EAEU Development in the New Environment and New Opportunities for Collaboration with Other Partners in the Context of Their Transforming International Trade Strategies.” (jointly with the Integration and Development Organization and the Eurasian Expert Club in Armenia)

PUBLICATIONS

Key Publications on the RIAC Website

1. *Elena Kuzmina*. Eurasian Integration in the New Geopolitical Reality: Challenges and Opportunities
2. *Alla Levchenko*. Is Eurasian Integration Possible in Education?

THE SOUTH CAUCASUS

The political climate in the Caucasus changed dramatically over the last year, prompting renewed interest to the region in both academic and political circles.

New developments were mostly linked with the still unresolved but smoldering conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia that flared up again as the Second Nagorno-Karabakh War in 2020. The border clashes in September 2022 raised precarious tensions up another notch, making the prospects of a constructive dialogue between Baku and Yerevan ever more remote.

RIAC's role vis-à-vis the Caucasus affairs was to organize a platform for dialogue between Armenia and Azerbaijan and provide expert opinions regarding their possible rapprochement. Supported by the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO) we set up a permanent forum for dialogue between Azerbaijani, Russian and Armenian experts, "Dialogue About Peace", designed to provide a framework for discussing such pressing issues in Baku-Yerevan relations as the status of Nagorno-Karabakh, delimitation of borders between Armenia and

Azerbaijan, unblocking transport corridors in the South Caucasus, exchange of war prisoners and illegally detained persons from both sides, etc.

In the course of this dialogue program, RIAC held meetings with experts and government officials of Azerbaijan and Armenia in Baku, Yerevan and Moscow. The project is supported by the Center for Analysis of International Relations (Baku) and the Orbeli Center (Yerevan).

In April 2022, RIAC together with DIALOG NGO led a round table on Russia's relations with the countries in the South Caucasus. Russian and Armenian experts discussed the current issues of collaboration between the two countries in various areas of interest. For example, the experts reviewed Russia-Armenia cooperation to promote security in the South Caucasus, economic partnership in an era of sanctions, logistics in the South Caucasus, and energy needs and interests of Moscow and Yerevan.

Following the above sessions, RIAC signed a memorandum of cooperation with the Center for Analysis of International Relations (Baku) and DIALOG NGO.



KEY EVENTS

- April 8 – Round table “Russia and Armenia: 30 Years of Allied Relationship” (jointly with Dialogue NGO)
- July 15 – Kickoff session with experts from Russia, Armenia and Azerbaijan to launch the Dialogue About Peace, a new Russian–Armenian–Azerbaijani expert discussion forum.

PUBLICATIONS

Key Publications on the RIAC Website

1. *Alexander Skakov. The Armenia–Azerbaijan Deadlock: A Pointless Wait for New Formats*
2. *Hayk Khalatyan. Armenia’s Foreign Policy: The New Reality and Uncertain Horizons.*

RUSSIAN STRATEGY ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT

In recent years, Russia has been intent on making a comeback to Africa to reinvent its entire relationship with the continent.

On Ukraine, the overwhelming majority of our African partners either made neutral-toned statements or altogether refused to condemn Russia's Special Military Operation, a telling testament to their friendly stance towards Moscow.

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“Security problems of the Sahel region should be tackled not only locally or regionally but also internationally. The fight against terrorism and the security policy need to receive institutional support on both regional and international levels.”

Dr. Hussein Solomon, Senior Professor, Department of Political Studies and Governance, University of the Free State (South Africa) (speaking at the RIAC round table hosted by Rossiya Segodnya on the African Liberation Day)

Russia is a key player on the grain market which supplies wheat to many African countries. The current geopolitical crisis ratcheted up grain prices, thrusting food security center stage for the whole continent.

As part of its project, “Russian Strategy on the African Continent”, RIAC hosted events to discuss key security issues in Africa, geopolitical implications of the Russia-Ukraine conflict for Russian-African cooperation, and challenges to food and economic security such as rising prices for food, mineral resources and fertilizers.





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“It would be good for Russia to consider implementing some large-scale projects in Africa that could serve a big group of countries at the same time and become a symbol of Russia’s presence on the continent (launching a communication satellite, construction of a Russian-African university, a museum of African culture, a hospital, etc.)”

Mohamed Yongavo, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Sierra Leone to the Russian Federation (speaking at the Strategic Session on New Prospects for Cooperation and Honest Communication between Russia and Africa)

KEY EVENTS

- April 20 – Round table “Consequences of Russia–Ukraine Conflict for African Food Security” (in collaboration with the Africa Business Initiative)
- May 25 – Round table “African Pressure Points: Sahel (situation review and future prospects)” (jointly with Rossiya Segodnya)
- June 23 – Strategic Session on New Prospects for Cooperation and Honest Communication between Russia and Africa (in collaboration with the Africa Business Initiative)
- September 8 – Round table on Security and Conflict Resolution (in collaboration with the African Global Security Foundation).

PUBLICATIONS

1. *Report No. 77/2022. African Pressure Points: Sahel (situation review and future prospects).* Andrey Kortunov, Ikhtiyar Aslanov, Hussein Solomon, Stanislav Mezentsev et al. (jointly with the International Committee of the Red Cross).

Key Publications on the RIAC Website

1. *Ivan Loshkarev. Reactions of African Countries to the Special Military Operation in Ukraine*
2. *Zurab Gachechilidze. The Position of South Africa on the Ukraine Crisis*
3. *Leonid Isaev. Russia’s Comeback to Africa: Surprising or Predictable?*
4. *Kirill Semenov. Libya: Fighting in Tripoli or the Specter of a New Civil War*
5. *Elena Nesterova. A “Fruitful” Cooperation Between South Africa and China*

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE ARCTIC

2022 could be regarded as a turning point for international cooperation in the Arctic due to the suspension of the Arctic Council and uncertainty around its future operating format, as well as the intention of Sweden and Finland, two Arctic states, to join NATO.

RIAC experts discussed European security and future relations in the Arctic at a round table together with Ambassadors Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Sweden and Finland to the Russian Federation, and then as part of RIAC and SIPRI expert discussions. RIAC participated in the International Young Researchers' Forum "Russia in the Arctic Dialogue", which was held as part of the program of Russia's Presidency in the Arctic Council.





KEY EVENTS

- May 25–27 – International Young Researchers' Forum "Russia in the Arctic Dialogue: the Global and Local Contexts" (in collaboration with the Northern (Arctic) Federal University, NArFU)
- July 6 – Round table "New Geopolitical and Geostrategic Reality in Northern Europe" (jointly with SIPRI)
- November 14–18 – RIAC's participation in the International Model Arctic Council
- November 16–17 – RIAC's participation in scientific conference "The Russian Arctic: New Concepts and Values" (NArFU)
- November 29 – RIAC round table "Russia and Asian Actors in the Arctic: Interests and Cooperation Opportunities" as part of the 6th Northern Forum on Sustainable Development

PUBLICATIONS

Key Publications on the RIAC Website

1. *Andrey Gubin*. Military Aspects of Russia's Stance in the Arctic
2. *Natalia Vyakhireva*. On Pause: Dialogue with Russia in the Arctic
3. *Nikita Lipunov*. An Extremely Northern Defense: How London Plans to Protect Its Interests in the Arctic



FUNCTIONAL PROJECTS



SANCTIONS AGAINST RUSSIA: ESCALATION TRACKS AND COUNTER-POLICIES

Sanctions are a key focus area for RIAC's program activities.

Dominating the 2022 agenda were restrictive measures against Russia, countermeasures and ways of adapting to western sanctions, consequences of secondary sanctions and coercive measures for business, and global trends in their enforcement. Event analysis shows that sanctions have been increasingly used as a tool of pressure to influence policies of sovereign states. Russia became the absolute leader in terms of the sheer number of sanctions initiated against it over the last year alone.

Under this project, we continued to develop and use our Sanction Events Database. The analysis completed on the basis on this data resulted

in a series of research and analytical publications available on the RIAC website as well as in leading academic journals and media sources (Contemporary Europe, World Economy and International Relations, Russia in Global Affairs, Vestnik of Saint Petersburg University, etc.). We believed it was highly important to review lessons learned the hard way by other nations that, like Russia, have been targeted by massive sanctions and at the same time offer significant potential for developing cooperation in the current geopolitical environment. To this end, RIAC produced a report, "U.S. Foreign Policy Towards China: Outlook and Implications for Russia", which explored the main trends in sanctioning policies introduced by the United States against China and respective countermeasures employed by China.

RIAC deepened its collaboration with universities and organizations involved in sanctions research projects. In February 2022, RIAC and Kutafin Moscow State Law University hosted an International Conference for Scholars and Practitioners "Arbitration Disputes Involving Blocked Persons. Lessons for Russia and the EU" that helped illuminate some more complicated and less obvious legal aspects of sanctions in terms of their damaging effects on civil-law relations. In October, RIAC organized a breakout session, "Cooperation with Friendly Countries amid Sanctions Pressure on Russia" within the framework of the 14th Russian International Studies Association (RISA) Convention.

Considerable attention was given to sanctions risk management at private companies. A series of events were held together with the Moscow Chamber of Commerce and Industry, covering a broad scope of issues related to primary and secondary sanctions and corresponding enforcement measures as well as to business strategies for adapting to the new conditions. Finally, RIAC and Interfax had a round table discussion to revisit sanction highlights and outcomes of 2022.





KEY EVENTS

- February 16 – Webinar “Sanctions-Related Risks” (jointly with Interfax and X-Compliance)
- February 17 – International Conference for Scholars and Practitioners “Arbitration Disputes Involving Blocked Persons. Lessons for Russia and the EU”. (jointly with Kutafin Moscow State Law University)
- March 17 – Webinar “Explosive Escalation: New Sanctions and Russian Business” (jointly with Interfax);
- May 18 – Webinar “Sanctions Against Russia: What You Need to Know about New Risks” (jointly with Interfax);
- June 30 – Conference “Financial Stability in an Unstable Environment: Sanctions. Banks. Business” (jointly with the International Bank Committee of the Financial & Business Association of Euro-Asian Cooperation; the Finance & Banking Subcommittee of the Committee on International Cooperation of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs (RSPP); and the Moscow Chamber of Commerce and Industry)
- October 14 – RIAC session “Cooperation with Friendly Countries amid Sanctions Pressure on Russia” within the framework of the 14th Russian International Studies Association (RISA) Convention
- December 15 – Expert workshop “The Sanctions Policy: 2022 Review and 2023 Outlook” (jointly with Interfax).

PUBLICATIONS

1. *Report No. 83/2022. U.S. Foreign Policy Towards China: Outlook and Implications for Russia.* Lev Sokolshchik, Yulia Sokolshchik, Eduard Galimullin, Anna Bondarenko

Key Publications on the RIAC Website

1. *Ivan Timofeev.* Dubious Effectiveness? Sanctions Against Russia Before and After February
2. *Ivan Timofeev.* The Policy of Sanctions Against Russia: A New Phase
3. *Ivan Timofeev.* The UK’s Policy of Sanctions: Institutional Design and the Russian Track
4. *Anna Kireeva.* Sanctions Imposed by Asian Governments on Russia: What Do They Mean?
5. *Ivan Timofeev.* An Executive Dimension of the U.S. Sanctions Policy
6. *Alexey Kuznetsov.* Financial Sanctions Against Russia: The Boomerang Effect
7. *Lev Sokolshchik.* U.S. Sanctions Against Energy Exports: Why Did the USSR Survived the Blow?
8. *Vadim Voynikov.* Legal and Political Aspects of EU’s Possible Visa Sanctions Against Russian Nationals
9. *Ruslan Mamedov.* U.S. and EU Sanctions against Syria

DEVELOPING MECHANISMS AND TOOLS OF SCIENCE AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY IN RUSSIA

Since February 2022, the ensuing geopolitical turbulence has limited Russia's options for developing science and public diplomacy.

Having run up against unforeseen restrictions imposed by the global community, including those that affected science, Russia had to consider new trajectories for advancing its diplomacy and capacity to use soft power. The most urgent tasks were to develop concepts and strategies for accomplishing Russia's public and science diplomacy objectives, and define appropriate mechanisms and tools to make Russia's efforts more effective in consolidating its position on the international arena.

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“On the one hand, science diplomacy facilitates “horizontal” communications between scientists and by its nature is the opposite of hierarchy. On the other, this is a tool of the government's foreign policy which relies on hierarchy and compliance with certain rules of the game. So the interests of scientists and the interests of their country or institutions they represent need to be coupled in some way.”

Andrey Kortunov, Director General and Member of the Presidium, RIAC (speaking at a round table on February 9, 2022)





In 2022, RIAC continued reviewing Russian and international cases of using various tools of science diplomacy in order to generate proposals and recommendations on the way forward for cultivating science diplomacy in Russia in the current reality. The main focus was on the role of Russian diplomacy in fostering international cooperation on science and technology.

The anchor event was a round table, “How to Make Russian Science Diplomacy More Effective?”, where experts discussed institutional objectives and limitations and challenges of science diplomacy in Russia. Working on the project, RIAC established regular ties with the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research and the Russian Foundation for Basic Research.

KEY EVENTS

- February 9 – Round table “How to Make Russian Science Diplomacy More Effective?” (jointly with Rossiya Segodnya)
- November 29 – Round table “The Role of Non-Government Organizations in Russian Public Diplomacy in the New Geopolitical Environment” (together with Rossiya Segodnya)

PUBLICATIONS

1. *Report No.81/2022. Russian International NGOs in Russia’s Public Diplomacy: Types, Government Relations Challenges, and Image in the Context of Sanctions.* Natalia Burlinova
2. *Report No.86/2022. Public Diplomacy Practices in Russian Regions, 2017–2021.* Natalia Burlinova, Darya Bozhko, Vera Tabak, Ekaterina Melnikova, Anastasia Tolokonina (in collaboration with the Center for Support and Development of Public Initiatives “Creative Diplomacy”).

Key Publications on the RIAC Website

1. Roman Reinhardt. Science Diplomacy: Flashing the Hazard Lights
2. Gulnara Krasnova. The Potential of Science Diplomacy in New Geopolitical Conditions
3. Roman Reinhardt. Science Diplomats: The Idealist and the Pragmatist Archetypes
4. Natalia Burlinova. The Political Manifesto of Who We Are
5. Natalia Burlinova. The Art of Bonding with Allies: When Soft Power Works

GREEN AGENDA: THE POLITICAL DIMENSION

In 2022, the green agenda and climate change was set aside and was largely overshadowed by the energy crisis, which had been caused, among other things, by the West's sanction policies towards Russia.

Western sanctions introduced in 2022 inflicted collateral damage on some of the climate projects in Russia. A number of renewable energy businesses had to shut down their Russian operations because of financial and logistical difficulties as well as for fear of facing sanctions by European and American regulators.

Russia's falling out with the West not only spelled economic hurdles for the green transition, but also resulted in shrinking opportunities for dialogue in this area. Moscow, however, continues to work on the climate policy and the green agenda together with other countries, specifically in Asia.

RIAC has been looking deeply into the global green agenda since 2021. Along with analytical

studies and publications, the Council's project involved continuous monitoring of legislation adopted by global leaders in environmental policy-making and interactions with the expert community in Russia and abroad.

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“Although there are common rules of the game, such as the Paris Agreement, some countries are already setting up “Climate Clubs” where they are applying their own rules as well. The European Union is a graphic example of such a “club” today.”

Elena Maslova, Senior Research Fellow, Institute of International Studies, Moscow State Institute of International Affairs (MGIMO); Docent, MGIMO; Senior Research Fellow, Institute of Europe of the Russian Academy of Sciences (speaking at a research symposium hosted by RIAC and Kutafin Moscow State Law University, “Legal Mechanisms of Climate Policy in Russia and the EU”



KEY EVENTS

- January 20 – 1st RIAC/RABCC Expert Dialogue on the Potential Scope for Climate Cooperation between Russia and the United States held by RIAC and the Russian-American Business and Culture Council (RABCC, Minnesota)
- February 28 – 2nd RIAC/RABCC Expert Dialogue on the Potential Scope for Climate Cooperation between Russia and the United States
- April 15 – Round table “Global Food Market: Challenges Ahead”
- April 25 – Workshop “Green Transition in Russia and the EU: Regional Cooperation Outlook” (with Trocadero Forum)
- September 15 – Research symposium “Legal Mechanisms of Climate Policy in Russia and the EU” as part of the 5th International Legal Forum “Law and Economics in Europe and Asia: Current Issues” (with Kutafin Moscow State Law University)
- December 16 – Round table “The Future of Russia’s Green Transition under Western Sanctions”

PUBLICATIONS

1. *Report No. 82/2022. The Future of Russia’s Green Transition under Western Sanctions.*
Konstantin Sukhoverkhov

Key Publications on the RIAC Website

1. *Elena Maslova. Russian National Security: The Food Aspect*
2. *Mikhail Butusov. Human Civilization: Destroying as We Create?*
3. *Kirill Fenin. Atomizing France: How the Fifth Republic Is Tackling the Energy Crisis*
4. *Konstantin Sukhoverkhov, Alexander Shepovalov, Daniil Prokazov, Artem Kashedov, Yulia Solovyeva, Olesia Semicheva. The Legal Framework of the EU’s Environmental Policy*
5. *Maxim Sigachev, Andrey Bardin, Tatyana Khaynatskaya. The Green Political Agenda in Nordic Model Countries*

INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION OF INFORMATION SECURITY

Cyberattacks on critical infrastructure, personal data leaks, dissemination of harmful content and fakes on the Internet, fragmentation of the digital space, runaway expansion of global technology corporations – all of these are factors of today’s reality which make the information and communication technology (ICT) environment unstable and dangerous.

Nevertheless, the international community continues to seek pathways towards building an open, safe and free cyberspace, trying to develop universal principles, standards and rules of behavior for all stakeholders, with Russia taking a most active part in that effort. Regrettably, the process is flagging, not least because of the volatile geopolitical situation.

In the absence of a universal “Cyber Code” enforceable on a global scale, the recent few years have seen the emergence of a distinct trend towards tighter regulation and control of digital platforms on both national and international levels. Therefore, RIAC put much emphasis on that topic in 2022.

The Council published a Working Paper “Big Tech vs Regulators: A Long-Term Global Trend”, which examines regulatory frameworks and

policies targeting technology giants on global, regional and national levels in the European Union, United States, China and Russia. The conclusions of the study were presented in leading Russian universities, such as the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO) under the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs as part of the 2022 Digital International Relations Conference, and in Saint Petersburg State University at the First St. Petersburg Congress of International Relations Researchers “Global and Regional Challenges in a Changing World”, at a breakout session, “The Digital Turn in International Relations”.



“In today’s challenging geopolitical conditions, it is critical to prevent escalation of antagonisms between states in the information space and ensure a peaceful and stable development of the global ICT environment.”

Elena Zinovyeva, Deputy Director, Center for International Information Security, Science and Technology Policy, Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO) under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (from a publication on the RIAC website)

PUBLICATIONS

1. *Working Paper No. 71/2022. Big Tech vs Regulators: A Long-Term Global Trend.* Anastasia Tolstukhina, Konstantin Matveenkov

Key Publications on the RIAC Website

1. *Denis Degterev.* Dissemination of Social Norms and Values in the Postpandemic World: From Reactive to Proactive Approach
2. *Leonid Tsukanov.* Digital Chimeras of the Persian Gulf: Who Could Replace Iran?
3. *Elena Zinovyeva, Elizaveta Mishchishina.* Standardizing Terminology in International Information Security: Political Aspects
4. *Oleg Shakirov.* Mutual Warning: What Ended the Short Cyberspace Detente Between Russia and the United States
5. *Sergey Sebekin.* The Role of the Private Sector in Building International Information Security Through Engagement with the UN, SCO and BRICS
6. *Ilona Stadnik.* Sanctions Against Internet Infrastructure in the Context of the Ukraine Crisis: Stakeholders' Response
7. *Anastasia Tolstukhina.* American Big Tech: No Rules (originally published on the Valdai Discussion Club website)
8. *Leonid Kovachich.* China's Big Tech: From Free Development to Strict Regulation
9. *Andrey Nikitin.* Quantum Race Leaders: Global Investment Dynamics
10. *Leonid Tsukanov.* Pro-Iran Hackers: Teheran's "Security Belt"?
11. *Konstantin Matveenkov.* Artificial Intelligence, China Style: Will China Lead in AI by 2030?
12. *Yury Linde, Aleksandr Kapitanov.* Deepfake: A Harmless Entertainment Technology or a Threat to Modern Society?
13. *Anastasia Tolstukhina.* EU Technological Sovereignty and Its Limits (originally published on the Valdai Discussion Club website)

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION: THE INSTITUTIONAL DIMENSION

The migration project is an important part of RIAC's research scope as the analysis of geographic and social mobility offers valuable insight into ongoing conflicting processes fraught with profound effects for the social fabric.

The previous year witnessed a conspicuous outflow of Russian citizens, primarily to EAEU countries, and foreign nationals from Russia, whereas the number of labor migrants who came to Russia in the second quarter of 2022 hit record levels.

Migratory flows across Eurasia were the biggest issues that attracted analytical scrutiny in 2022.

In December, RIAC and the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration (RANEPA) hosted a conference, "Eurasian Migration System: Current Trends and Development Outlook". The speakers and discussion participants shared their findings from the analyses of regional trends and assessments of Russia's attractiveness to migrants. In 2022, RIAC experts presented their pilot analytical studies on migration, including a keynote working paper, "Implementing Migration Policies: International Best Practices".

KEY EVENTS

- December 23 – Conference "Eurasian Migration System: Current Trends and Development Outlook"

PUBLICATIONS

1. *Policy Brief No. 39/2022. Human Mobility in the Age of Pandemic.* Vladimir Malakhov, Nadezhda Kokoeva
2. *Working Paper No. 70/2022. Implementing Migration Policies: International Best Practices.* Maria Apanovich



BROKERING INTERNATIONAL PEER REVIEWS FOR THE RUSSIAN SCIENCE FOUNDATION (RSF)

Today, international peer reviews of research projects are an integral component of developing international education, science and innovation networks and communities. The current practice shows that international peer reviewing of research projects provides the most objective, impartial and independent evaluation of submitted competitive project bids, and helps benchmark the overall quality of such proposed projects and programs against leading international schools, science project teams, and individual researchers. International peer review is one of the most powerful tools for promoting national science on global markets.

RIAC has historically put significant emphasis on international cooperation in academic research and promotion of Russian research findings and products across the international community.

In 2022, RIAC continued its collaboration with the Russian Science Foundation (RSF) in terms of organizing and supporting international peer reviews of R&D programs and projects submitted to the RSF for competitive bidding. Despite the turbulent geopolitical situation, RIAC organized and provided follow-up support to peer reviews of 186 projects as part of the RSF competition for grants, “Basic and Exploratory Scientific Research Conducted by Individual Research Teams”; updated the existing RSF international experts database; selected 100 international experts to be included in the RSF pool of international reviewers; and conducted a study and issued recommendations on expanding the scope of grant support for research projects in the Russian Federation, taking into account research financing reforms worldwide and best practices of leading international science foundations.

JOINT WORKSHOPS PROJECT: RIAC, IMEMO INSTITUTE AND THE WORLD ECONOMY & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS JOURNAL

In 2022, we continued to co-host a series of round tables as part of a collaborative project involving RIAC, the Primakov Institute of World Economy and International Relations (IMEMO) of the Russian Academy of Sciences, and the World Economy and International Relations Journal.

These workshops focused on theoretical and practical aspects of current international relations, examining best research practices, exchanging expertise in the application of empirical methods as well as fundamental theories, and discussing major items of the global political agenda.

Our project events customarily attract a strong interest from a broad audience and analytical reviews resulting from these discussions are published in the World Economy and International Relations Journal.

Five workshops took place this year, covering such topics as the crisis in relations between Russia and the West, Russia's collaboration with key partners in the Asia Pacific, and the process of Eurasian integration. At the final workshop in the series, the participating experts recapped the highlights and outcomes of the outgoing year.





KEY EVENTS

- February 24 – Round table on the situation around Ukraine at the Rossiya Segodnya media center
- April 6 – Research & practice workshop “Russia – West Relations: The End of a Beautiful Era?” Presentation of a monograph by Vladimir Baranovsky, Fellow of the Russian Academy of Sciences, “International Landscape: The Age of Change. Collected Analytical Papers”
- June 21 – Research & practice workshop “Russia, India, and China: The Balance of Forces in Asia and the World”
- November 7 – Research & practice workshop “The Economic Dimension of Eurasian Integration: Problems and Solutions”
- December 22 – Research & practice workshop “Year 2022 in Review: Russia and the World”



EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS



DIGITAL INTERNATIONALIZATION OF RUSSIAN UNIVERSITIES

For quite some time Russian universities have been busy overhauling themselves through digital transformation and sharpening their competitive edge on the global education market.

The Covid-19 pandemic prompted a sweeping wave of digitalization across all operational dimensions of Russian universities. This transformation had a considerable impact on their international activities by expanding the share of digital communication channels with overseas high-school graduates, college students, scholars, partners, etc. in the overall toolkit of global outreach.

In 2022, RIAC continued to work hard on the content analysis of the English-language pages of Russian universities' websites. The results were published in the 7th RIAC Report No. 79/2022 "Digital Internationalization: English-Language Versions of Russian Universities' Online Resources (2022)", complete with recommendations on the content of the English versions of key university webpages. The report was presented at Boris Yeltsin Ural Federal University during a workshop, "Digital Internationalization: Opportunities for Advancing Universities' Global Outreach in the New Environment".

In the course of the session, experts and participants discussed a range of points concerning the

promotion of Russian universities at international venues and platforms in today's world, tools for attracting overseas students and ways of adapting them to access new countries and regions.



"Today our main job is to provide prospective students with highly specific, accurate and practical information about universities and education opportunities in Russia."

Ivan Timofeev, Program Director and Member, RIAC (speaking at the workshop on September 23, 2022)

RIAC's team also investigated the challenges encountered by the Russian higher education system due to geopolitical shifts and subsequent restrictions for international education programs. The Council held a round table, "Global Marketing of Russia's Higher Education: A Look Ahead", to discuss the prospects for further collaboration between universities, recent trends in global education marketing and options for adapting them to the new reality, tools for promoting universities amid ongoing and potential restrictions, and changes in online strategies of universities worldwide.



KEY EVENTS

- March 29 – Round table “Global Marketing of Russia’s Higher Education: A Look Ahead”
- September 23 – Workshop “Digital Internationalization: Opportunities for Advancing Universities’ Global Outreach in the New Environment” (together with Boris Yeltsin Ural Federal University, UrFU)
- November 15 – RIAC round table “Russia–China Cooperation in Higher Education: Potential for Deeper Collaboration and Areas of Its Development” as part of the UrFU Conference “Pathways and Countries: Civilizations of the East in the Flux of History”

PUBLICATIONS

1. *Report No. 79/2022. Digital Internationalization: English-Language Versions of Russian Universities’ Online Resources.* Ivan Timofeev, Elena Karpinskaya, Olga Bakumenko, Ekaterina Shvetsova
2. *Policy Brief No. 40/2022. Potential and Opportunities for Russian Universities to Enter Chinese Education Market.* Alexey Maslov

Key Publications on the RIAC Website

1. *Olga Bakumenko. International Digital Communications for Universities: Challenges in 2022*
2. *Olga Bakumenko. Content Marketing and Development of Universities’ Global Outreach*
3. *Maria Frantsuzova. The Potential of Social Media and Restrictions of Their Operations in Russia in 2022*
4. *Elena Karpinskaya, Ekaterina Shvetsova. Global Marketing of Russia’s Higher Education: A Look Ahead. RIAC Round Table Takeaways*
5. *Elena Karpinskaya, Ekaterina Shvetsova. Opportunities for Advancing Universities’ Global Outreach in the New Environment*

INTERNSHIPS

In 2022, over 70 students completed an internship program at RIAC, including those from Russian universities (Moscow State University, Moscow Institute of International Relations, (MGIMO) under the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Higher School of Economics (HSE University), Russian State University for the Humanities, St. Petersburg State University (SPbU), Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, etc.) and foreign schools (Gothenburg University, Sweden; Geneva School of Diplomacy and International Relations, Switzerland; Paris Institute of Political Studies (Sciences Po Paris), France; etc.).

It is notable that many interns came from Russian regional universities. During the Covid-19

pandemic, RIAC had set up a remote internship scheme that has helped sign up a wider range of junior international analysts under the internship program.

The interns had a chance to join live RIAC's projects in line with their subject field of interest. As part of the internship, students would combine participation in current project activities (preparing RIAC events, searching for information, and compiling databases) and work on their own research and papers closely supervised by mentors – RIAC's program managers and coordinators.

In the course of its 2022 internship program, RIAC expanded the network of future foreign policy experts and held a series of exclusive lectures for the graduates. Details about RIAC interns, their fields of research and publications are available on the Council's website. We expect that following the internship they will continue to be actively involved in our projects.



"My internship at RIAC was a useful and exciting experience that helped me expand my knowledge horizons in international relations. Working on an article for the RIAC website was an excellent way of practicing and improving my skills and competences that I learned at the university. The internship was also a great opportunity to work in a team of top-notch specialists in international affairs and try my hand in analytical research."

*Yulia Solovyova,
RIAC intern, undergraduate student
of the Moscow State Institute
of International Relations (MGIMO)*



"The internship at RIAC was indeed an enriching experience for me. I learned how professionals conduct foreign policy research, giving me invaluable experience that I need to succeed in my future career. Also, I had an opportunity to write up analytical material for the RIAC website, which enhanced both my practical skills and academic knowledge. Furthermore, RIAC gave me a chance to participate in various conferences and round tables where I could see real professionals at work, communicate with them and gain new knowledge in international relations."

*Emil Vildanov,
RIAC intern, undergraduate student
of Lomonosov Moscow State University*



PUBLIC OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

In 2022, RIAC held a number of public outreach events targeting a broader audience beyond the expert community.

The new season of the Urbi et Orbi city breakfasts covered a wide range of topics, from risks of nuclear war to the role of BRICS in global governance. This discussion format continues to be highly popular with the general public as well as with the expert community. City breakfasts help establish horizontal links between experts and the broader public who have interest in the international agenda. This is made easy by an open and relatively informal style of such sessions, which, however, does not compromise the quality of the discussion.

City Breakfasts:

- March 16 – Russia's Prospects for Energy Cooperation in the New Environment
- April 21 – The China Factor in the Mediterranean Sea
- July 29 – The Role of BRICS in Global Governance
- August 31 – Nuclear War: A Hypothetical Scenario or a Real Threat?
- September 29 – The Future of the Climate Agenda
- November 1 – Midterm Elections to U.S. Congress
- December 21 – The Year in Review with RIAC

Another important highlight was RIAC's participation in non/fiction, an international book fair in Moscow. The Council stalls showcased new publications that attracted hundreds of readers who commented on their data-rich and insightful content.



JOURNALISTS' COMPETITION

The Nationwide Contest for Young Foreign Affairs Journalists has been conducted by RIAC since 2012 in partnership with the Russian Union of Journalists and the International Affairs magazine and supported by the Interfax news agency, Russia in Global Affairs magazine, and the Gorchakov Public Diplomacy Foundation. Over these years, the Contest has proved to be a leading platform for shaping a new generation of Russian journalistic talent writing about international affairs.

In November 2022, RIAC presented the results of the 10th Annual Nationwide Contest for Young Foreign Affairs Journalists. A total of 156 papers were received, 96 of which were accepted for consideration. The information partners of the 2021/2022 season included TASS news agency, Teacher's Newspaper ('Uchitelskaya Gazeta'), and Expert Media Holding.

Best analytical article on international relations:

[Nikita Smagin](#) – Surviving the Sanctions: Is Iran's Case a Success Story? (Profile magazine)

Best interview on international relations:

[Zilya Mubarakshina](#) – A Ballerina in Hijab: The Long Journey of an Australian Tatar Girl to Her Dream (Tatar-inform news agency)

Best report on international relations:

[Elvira Asmakiyan](#) – "A Black Girl All Alone": The Story of a Rwandan Girl Who Fled Ukraine (PostNews)

Best analytical article by a novice foreign affairs journalist:

[Aleksandra Fokina](#) – The African Kalifate. How the Islamic State* Turned into a Franchise and Why Governments Struggle to Quash It for Good? (Lenta.ru)



*Designated as a terrorist organization by the Russian Federation

PODCASTS

In January 2022, the Russian International Affairs Council relaunched its podcasting project.

Each episode in the podcast is a discussion devoted to a particular topic of today's international agenda. As our expert guests, we invite RIAC members and other leading Russian foreign policy analysts and scholars.

Today, podcasts are viewed as some of the most comfortable and popular sources of high quality content and learning, especially by the younger audience. Podcasting interviews with invited experts, RIAC can share the professional analysis of current events in the global economy and politics in a format accessible to wider audiences. RIAC podcasts are available on major Russian and international online platforms: Yandex, VK, Google and Apple.

From January to November 2022, RIAC released 15 podcasts:

- Between Diplomacy and War: Ivan Timofeev explains the sanctions policy of the West // RIAC. January 12, 2022
- Unrealized Ambitions and Remaining Potential. Russia and European Institutions: Podcast with Sergey Utkin // RIAC. February 02, 2022
- Doomed to Conflict? Russia and NATO Before February 2022: Podcast with Igor Istomin // RIAC. March 05, 2022
- Partner Number One. Relations Between Russia and China in the Context of the Ukraine Crisis: Podcast with Vasily Kashin // RIAC. March 23, 2022
- On Two Levels. Problems and the Future of Russia's Relations with Latin America: Podcast with Dmitry Razumovsky // RIAC. March 30, 2022
- G7 is Not Everybody: Victoria Panova about BRICS and Russia in the New World Order // RIAC. April 18, 2022
- The "Balancing Mouse" of the ASEAN in the World of Global Elephants: Podcast with Alexander Korolev // RIAC. May 16, 2022
- This Process Is Hardly Reversible: On Finland and Sweden Joining NATO: Podcast with Yulia Melnikova // RIAC. May 25, 2022
- The Arctic Is No Longer the Territory of Peace and Cooperation? Podcast with Andrey Todorov // RIAC. June 09, 2022
- Chinese-Style Democracy: Podcast with Ivan Zuenko // RIAC. July 08, 2022
- Serbia and Kosovo Are Back on the International Agenda: Factoring In the EU, US, and the Special Military Operation: Podcast with Ekaterina Entina // RIAC. August 08, 2022
- Indian Hill in a Globalizing World: Podcast with Alexey Kupriyanov // RIAC. August 17, 2022
- Taliban for Afghanistan. For Want of An Alternative: Podcast with Mikhail Konarovsky // RIAC. September 12, 2022
- The New Right-Wing Italy and Its Skeletons in the Cupboard: Podcast with Elena Alexeenkova // RIAC. October 07, 2022
- Why Africa Needs the African Union: Podcast about African Integration with Lora Chkonia // RIAC. October 17, 2022



03

RIAC IN THE MEDIA

In 2022, the Russian International Affairs Council continued to be one of the most recognizable and influential sources of information on Russia's foreign policy and international relations. The Council maintains its collaborative ties with the Russian Media. RIAC holds regular round tables and press conferences on global political issues with RIAC experts and partners at the media centers of Rossiya Segodnya and Izvestia MIC.

RIAC stays in touch with leading Russian news agencies, Rossiya Segodnya, TASS, Interfax, and Sputnik. RIAC members and experts provide analytical commentary regarding the foreign policy agenda on major Russian and foreign TV channels and are invited as experts to speak on radio shows. The Council continues its collaboration with a number of Russian online media outlets. RIAC experts publish their materials in such newspapers as Kommersant, Rossiyskaya Gazeta, Izvestia, Nezavisimaya Gazeta, and RBC. In spite of heightened global tensions, RIAC has not given up on its links with leading international media that enables it to communicate the views of RIAC members and experts to audiences worldwide.



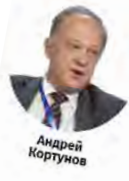
Игорь Иванов: Ситуация в Европе сейчас даже сложнее, чем она была в 90-е

Для всех было бы лучше, чтобы национальная безопасность России стала со временем органической составной частью всеобъемлющей безопасности Европы XXI века



ИЗВЕСТИЯ | Новости | Статьи | Мнения | Фото | Видео | Инфографика | Рубрика

В Москве этой зимой



Семь отличий

Генеральный директор РСМД Андрей Кортунов — о разнице между Карибским кризисом и сегодняшним российско-американским противостоянием

Сегодня стало модным проводить параллели между нынешним состоянием российско-американских отношений и знаменитым Карибским кризисом 1962 года. Тем более что мы вплотную приблизились к 60-летию юбилею последнего — решение администрации Джона Кеннеди о введении блокады Кубы было принято в Белом доме вечером 20 октября, после чего кризис перешел в острую фазу.

При очевидной схожести двух эпизодов войн Москвы и Вашингтона между ними есть несомненные различия, которые наглядно иллюстрируют нынешнюю ситуацию, — даже по сравнению с начала 60-х годов прошлого века. Перечислим

профиль | Экспертное мнение

ОПЕРАЦИЯ НА УКРАИНЕ | MILITARY | КОРОНАВИРУС | ЭКОНОМИКА | ЭКСПЕРТНОЕ МНЕНИЕ | ДЕЛО

Пошли войной на «Мир»

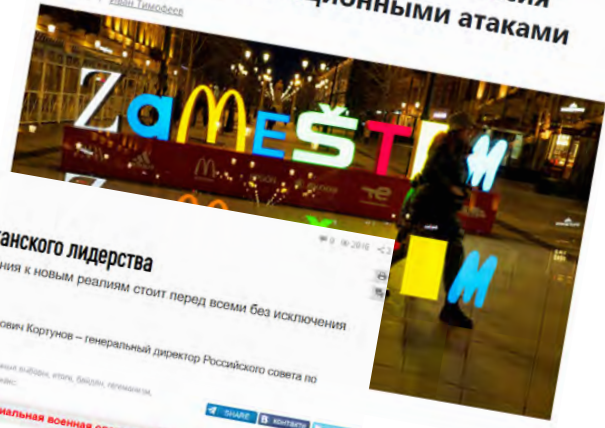
Смогут ли США выдать систему «Мир» из дружественных России стран



Заместитель директора Российского совета по международным делам (РСМД) Иван Тимофеев

Крепость и поджигатели: как Россия справляется с санкционными атаками

20.09.2022 | Иван Тимофеев



Судьба американского лидерства

Задача приспособления к новым реалиям стоит перед всеми без исключения странами

Об авторе: Андрей Владимирович Кортунов — генеральный директор Российского совета по международным делам.

Игорь Иванов: Открывается новая глава истории Европы - со своими вызовами и возможностями

Сегодня открывается новая глава современной истории Европы - со своими вызовами и возможностями

Итак, дорогие коллеги, Россия официально перешла к суверенитету и независимости. Долготный и труднейший путь российской дипломатии к этому моменту, пройдя который, мы достигли для себя государственности новых субъектов международной жизни.

Балканская турбулентность. Белград остается проводником интересов России в регионе

19.08.2022 19:03:06



В последние месяцы Балканы вновь показывают, что недаром носят название «пороховая бочка Европы». Наряду с украинским кризисом, где события развиваются драматично, на Балканах также день ото дня нарастает напряженность.

Масла в огонь подливают такие события, как возвращающиеся давнейшие на Сербии с целью принудить ее ввести санкции против России, недавнее заявление властей непризнанной республики Косово о желании вступить в Совет Европы, ЕС и НАТО, Зорана Даликовича о присоединении Швеции и Финляндии к НАТО, которое он удерживал с и положительными хорватов в Боснии и Герцеговине (БиГ), раскол в антитеррористических савцах, когда решением о присоединении к restricting против иняно в обход позиции Милорада Додика, лидера боюначских сербов.

со, то непризнанная республика особенно активно лтяется стать частью

Сирийская партия

Программный координатор РСМД Иван Бочаров — о последствиях возможной турецкой операции в САР

Новая наземная операция Турции в Сирии, о начале которой регулярно предупреждает Анкара, — один из главных вопросов, которые волнуют международное сообщество. При этом еще в ноябре 2022 года вооруженные силы Турции нанесли авиаудары по северным районам Сирии в рамках кампании «Коготь-меч». Поводом стал теракт, произошедший в Стамбуле 13 ноября. Турция нанесла авиаудары по позициям сирийских и иракских курдов. В воздушной операции принимало участие свыше 50 самолетов и 20 беспилотных летательных аппаратов.

US domestic woes could push Ukraine to sidelines of American public discourse

By Andrey Kortunov



04

RIAC WEBSITE

RUSSIANCOUNCIL.RU

ANNUAL AUDIENCE IN 2022

18,187,695

VISITORS

Growth vs 2021: **150%**

AVERAGE MONTHLY TRAFFIC IN 2022:

1,515,641 sessions

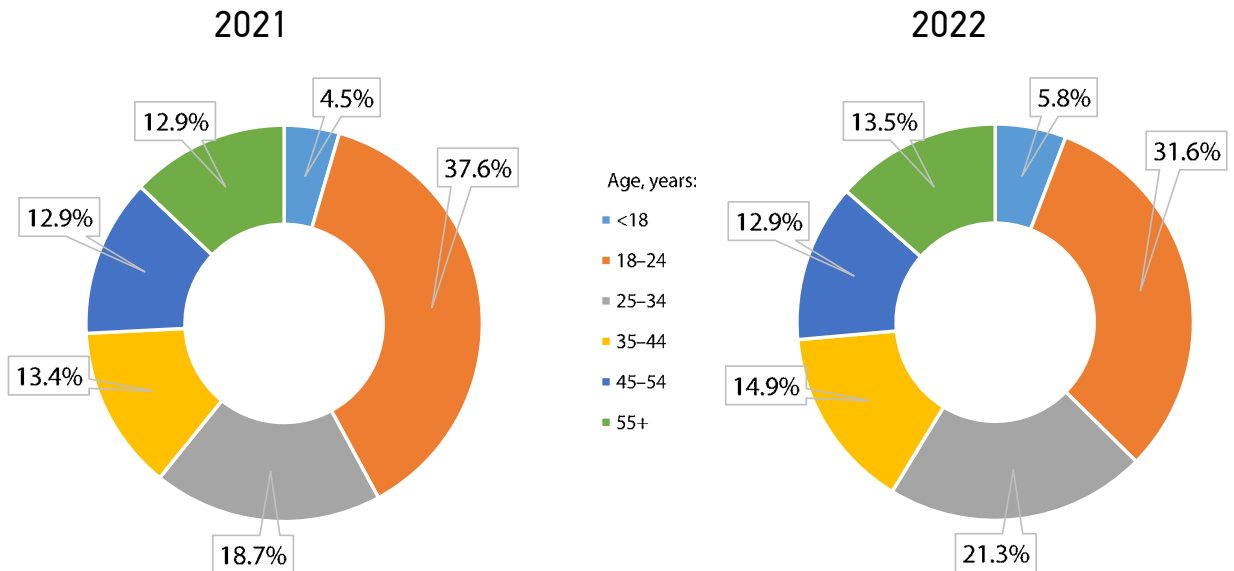
For over 10 years, the website of the Russian International Affairs Council has ranked among the top authoritative and popular online resources on foreign policy. In 2022, its average monthly audience exceeded 1.5 million visitors, which is more than double the traffic numbers last year.

Such steep growth was driven by user activity peaking in the eventful first half of 2022 which boosted the interest of the general public in professional international analytics, whereas the “student segment” in the 18 to 24 age bracket—the historical leader of the RIAC website audience — lost its relative share of traffic versus the previous year. In terms of geographies, 2022 saw a growth of the audience share in Russia, the United States, Germany, and some other European countries.

RIAC WEBSITE TRAFFIC IN 2012–2022 (VISITORS)

2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
408,000	884,000	1,003,641	1,100,000	1,560,000	1,836,000	3,066,406	4,427,311	6,212,485	7,273,145	18,187,695

WEBSITE TRAFFIC BY AGE



WEBSITE TRAFFIC BY COUNTRY



TOP-20 COUNTRIES BY NUMBER OF VISITORS

1	Russia	63.2%
2	United States	9.85%
3	Kazakhstan	2.09%
4	Germany	1.96%
5	China	1.93%
6	Belarus	1.55%
7	UK	1.46%
8	India	0.98%
9	France	0.94%
10	Ukraine	0.89%

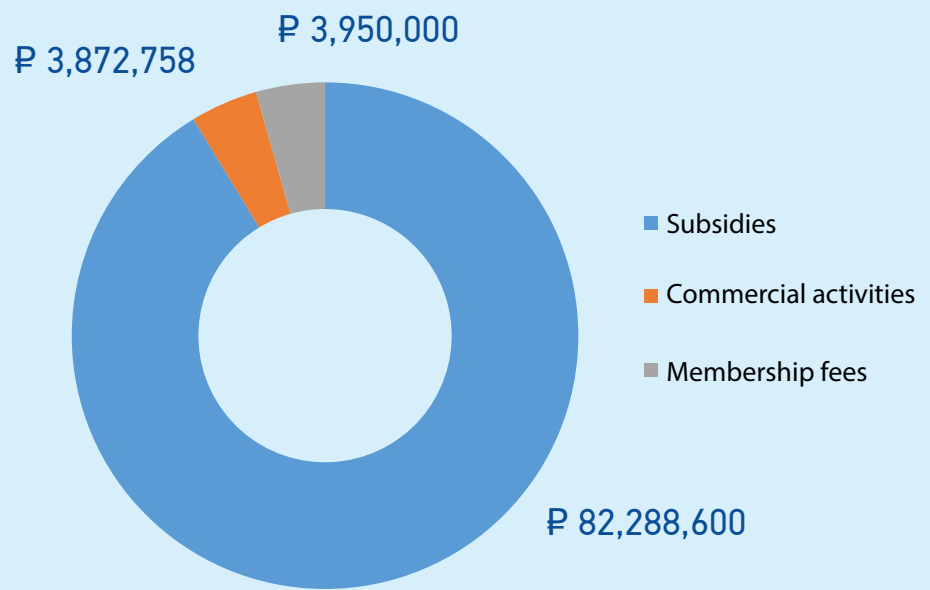
11	Italy	0.72%
12	Uzbekistan	0.71%
13	Netherlands	0.68%
14	Poland	0.65%
15	Turkey	0.64%
16	Canada	0.62%
17	Kyrgyzstan	0.53%
18	Sweden	0.49%
19	Japan	0.48%
20	Armenia	0.47%

05

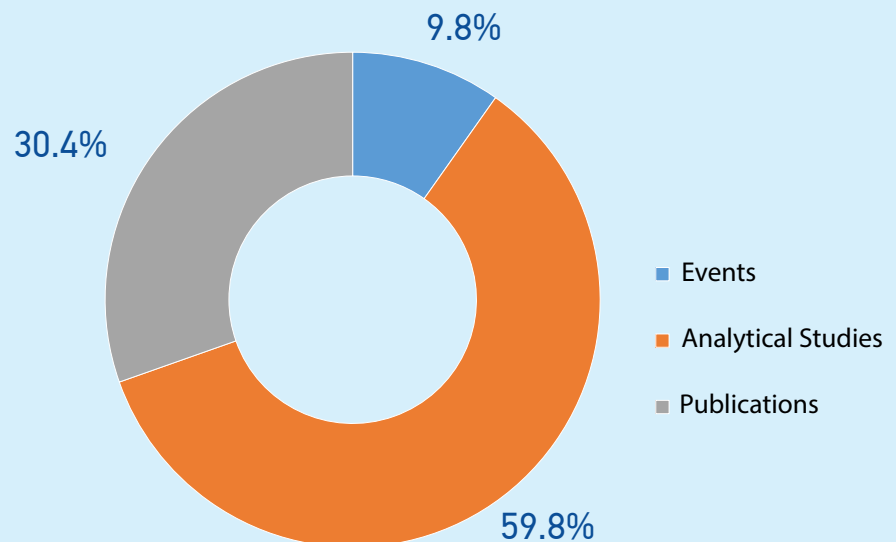
FINANCIAL INDICATORS

2022 BUDGET

₱ 90,111.3



SPENDING BY PROGRAM ACTIVITY IN 2022



06

RIAC MANAGEMENT AND MEMBERSHIP

GENERAL MEETING

The RIAC General Meeting is the highest governing body of the Partnership. The key function of the General Meeting is to ensure the compliance with goals of the Partnership.

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The RIAC Board of Trustees is a supervisory body of the Partnership that monitors activities of the Partnership and their compliance with statutory goals.

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The Presidium of the Partnership is a permanent collegial governing body that consists of not less than five and no more than 15 members, including the President and Director General of the Partnership, who have a vote in the decision-making process. The President of the Partnership chairs the work of the Presidium. The members of the Presidium have a renewable four-year term of office.
составляет четыре года с возможностью последующего переизбрания.

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Igor Ivanov

President of the Russian International Affairs Council

Andrey Kortunov

Director General of the Russian International Affairs Council

Fyodor Lukyanov

Editor-in-Chief of Russia in Global Affairs magazine, Chairman of the Presidium of the Council for Foreign and Defense Policy

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Andrei Klepach

Chief Economist, VEB.RF

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Evgeny Kozhokin

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Sergey Lebedev

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School of Economics (HSE University); Professor,
Moscow State Institute of International Relations
(MGIMO) under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Russian Federation

Ziyavudin Magomedov

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(MGIMO) under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
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of the Russian Federation to Uzbekistan

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Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
of the Russian Federation

Mikhail Margelov

Executive Vice-President, AFK Sistema

Aleksey Maslov

Director, Institute for Asian and African Studies,
Lomonosov Moscow State University

Vladimir Mau

Rector, Russian Presidential Academy of National
Economy and Public Administration

Andrey Melville

Director of Research, Faculty of Social Sciences,
National Research University Higher School
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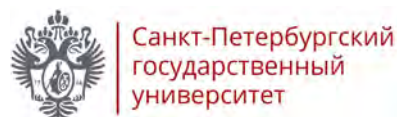
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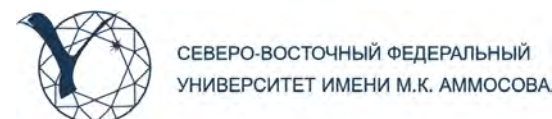
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