



SECURITY COUNCIL REPORT
Independent. Impartial. Informative.

annual report

'23



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Our Mission

Security Council Report (SCR), established in 2005, is an independent think tank with the mission of supporting the transparency, effectiveness and accountability of the UN Security Council. To do so, SCR presents accurate information, with scrupulous fact-checking; applies its own impartial analysis; and makes its products publicly available and accessible. SCR also provides expert capacity building for elected members of the Council, and hosts and contributes to forums for in-depth discussion of the Council's work.

SCR is the leading international voice providing balanced information and analysis on the UN Security Council. Its scrutiny of issues on the Security Council's agenda, and of the Council's procedures and practice, has helped catalyse ideas and action by Council members, civil society, and other decision-makers. By convening stakeholders, SCR has been able to deepen the analysis of issues before the Council and its working methods and performance.

SCR works from the assumption that better-informed Security Council and civil society members and more transparent decision-making processes will, over time, lead to better Council outcomes.



Letter from the Executive Director

Some 80 years ago, in late 1943, the Moscow and Tehran Conferences were held. On the path of creating the United Nations, the Declaration out of the Moscow Conference contained the first formal mention of the maintenance of international peace and security as the purpose of the emerging international organisation. The main instrument for this purpose—the Security Council—has proved to be resilient. As far as proving successful, this depends on our gauge.

Back in 2018, two permanent members of the Council assured me that the institution was functioning exactly as had been intended. I think of this often, as Security Council Report (SCR) goes about our work of reporting independently and impartially on Council decisions, activities, and trends, and working with incoming members to prepare them to be as effective as possible. Our work in 2023 is set out briefly in these pages.

At any given time, the Security Council will be just as good as its membership wants it to be. In the 1990s, it displayed fresh vitality and productivity. Optimistic analysts posited that this state of affairs might last longer than the Council's decades of Cold War paralysis—when, in one memorable year (1959), it adopted only a single resolution. But a consistent feature across its nearly 80-year history is that the Council usually fails when any permanent member decides that national interest trumps its Charter obligations. Ukraine and Gaza are only the two most recent high-profile examples of member state failure to respect international law. When this happens, the public gives the Security Council a share of the blame, further weakening its authority and credibility.

The year was a reminder, as the Secretary-General has said, that the world is transforming at breakneck pace. If the Security Council, during the Cold War, represented “decades where nothing happens”, then the barely twenty months between Russia's invasion of Ukraine, in February 2022, and the conflagration that began in Gaza, in October 2023, have been the proverbial “weeks when decades happen”, to quote Lenin. In this period, the Council's pre-existing polarisation hardened. It continued to function—to adopt resolutions,



extend peace operations, and even to travel as a collective—but ultimately the Security Council is judged by the toughest issues.

The Council's inability to prevent and to halt the conflicts in Ukraine and in Gaza has drawn sharp attention to the question of its reform. That discussion has tended to focus on formal Charter amendment, and on the Council's legitimacy and representation more than on what would constitute “effectiveness”. These and other crises have prompted thinking about roles other institutions can play—notably the General Assembly and, among regional organisations, the African Union. The General Assembly has repeatedly addressed both Ukraine and Gaza through Emergency Special Sessions, and 2023 was the first full year of the “veto initiative”, in which the General Assembly discusses every use of the veto within ten working days.

Reflecting the overall political reality, SCR's May 2023 research report is entitled Security Council Working Methods in Hard Times. It highlighted how the elected Council members have remained at the fore, with many actively using their Council terms to act in concord where possible and to draw attention to unresolved, and often little-discussed, matters threatening peace and security. As it noted, hard political times have also spurred creativity. It seems probable that many have paged through the UN Charter in 2023, and

found that it contains under-utilised provisions that might now, in time of need, be revitalized.

We are seeing greater use of some parts of the UN Charter, with the Secretary-General in December 2023 explicitly invoking Article 99 to warn the Council of an impending humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza, and the Council itself the same month adopting resolution 2719, on UN financing of AU-led peace support operations, implicitly engaging with Chapter VIII of the Charter on regional arrangements. Shifting issues the Security Council cannot resolve to the General Assembly, as both organs have done periodically since the “Uniting for Peace” resolution was adopted in 1950, has also been done in the cases of both Ukraine and Gaza.

The heightened attention to whether the General Assembly could do more in matters of international peace and security reflects frustration among some states at the stymied Security Council. Although the Council is spending many more hours in meetings, and the length of its members’ statements has also grown, it is, by many measures, less productive, and certainly less united. Of the 412 Council meetings in 2023, 42 were on Ukraine, as were eight of its 22 Arria-formula meetings, reflecting not only some members’ response to Charter violation, but also recourse to public shaming in tit-for-tat meetings.

Meanwhile, it has become harder for the Council to pass resolutions. 2017 was the last year that its resolutions numbered in the 60s, with 96% of those adopted unanimously. 2023 may prove the last year—for now—of 50 or more Council resolutions, with only 70% adopted unanimously. As well, the Council has become reluctant to use two of its principal tools, peacekeeping operations and sanctions. 2023 marked ten years since the Council last authorised a UN peacekeeping operation, in the Central African Republic. Its continued pullback from sanctions is also visible. Between 1990 and 2015, the Council set up an average of one new sanctions regime a year. Since the Mali sanctions regime (2017, abolished by a Russian veto in 2023), however, sanctions have been set up only for Haiti, in 2022.

Also reflecting the conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza, the Council’s regional scope is less concentrated than it has been until recently. There remains a widespread perception that African issues represent over 80% of the Security Council’s agenda, but the true proportion, in 2023, was around 38% of its country-specific meetings, and 51% of its decisions. This, too, reflects a fast-changing world.

The 2004 report on Threats, Challenges and Change said that the task was “not to find alternatives to the Security Council as a source of authority but to make it work better than it has”, noting that the front line in combatting the many and interconnected threats to peace and security “must be manned by capable and responsible states”. That remains the abiding, incomplete reform, particularly evident against a backdrop of genocide, ethnic cleansing, gender apartheid and gross human rights abuses.

SCR again addressed the UN Security Council in 2023, as well as briefing at an Arria-formula meeting and accompanying the Council on its field travel to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Addis Ababa for its meeting with the AU Peace and Security Council, and on a trip by Council members to the Rafah border crossing. We continued to produce valuable research reports on hot-button topics, including the financing of AU-led peace operations, and transitions in UN peace operations. Our nearly 300 What’s in Blue stories were characterised by painstaking attention to factual accuracy, detail and nuance—in addition to timeliness.

This tremendous work by the SCR team was met by an increase in readership. As well, SCR has continued to work closely with incoming Council members, providing capacity-building support, high-level briefings and accompaniment, helping to prepare members of the E10 to make a difference to the Council’s functioning. We are grateful to the donors, readers and partners who continue to make our independent reporting and reflection possible. It is an invaluable contribution to helping Council members—as my colleagues exhort them—to making the Security Council better.

Karin Landgren
Executive Director

SCR's Activities

SCR believes that better-informed Security Council members will contribute to a more transparent, effective, and accountable UN Security Council. To this end, SCR's activities focus on providing high-quality information and analysis for Security Council members and others who have an interest in the work of the Council.

Our core work comprises:

- publications
- public engagement activities
- capacity development for candidate countries

Conveying Information

Producing and disseminating timely, balanced, high-quality information about the activities of the Council and its subsidiary bodies



Convening

Bringing together stakeholders to deepen the analysis of issues before the Council, its working methods and performance

Encouraging engagement of the Council with all member states and civil society



Capacity Building

Helping candidate countries and incoming members develop an understanding of Council practice, issues and procedures through providing bespoke and interactive capacity building programmes.



Collaborating

Working with partners to deepen knowledge and understanding of the Security Council



2023 Highlights



Briefed at a Security Council meeting on UN Police and Arria-formula meeting on peacebuilding

Closely covered the unfolding situation in Gaza

Travelled with and reported on Council members' informal visit to the Rafah crossing

Accompanied and reported on the Council's visiting missions to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and to the AU in Addis Ababa

Published four research reports, including SCR's first research reports on UN peace operations transitions and on the financing of AU peace support operations, as well as reports on Security Council working methods, and Council elections

Enhanced use of LinkedIn and Instagram to publicise SCR's products



Trained incoming and prospective Council members in New York and Georgetown (Guyana), Freetown (Sierra Leone) and Seoul (Republic of Korea)

Co-organised a sanctions seminar for incoming members

Convened a seminar for incoming Council members on climate, peace and security



Launched SCR's report "Working Methods in Hard Times" with a panel discussion at the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency (ACT) Group's 10th anniversary

Spoke at the first informal discussion on Security Council reform organised by the IGN



Co-organised and rapporteured the annual "Hitting the Ground Running" workshop for incoming members

Partnered with other think tanks for seven workshops on the prioritising and sequencing of specific peacekeeping mission mandates



2023 by the Numbers

Publications

12 Monthly Forecasts examining the Security Council's prospective monthly programme, with 12 In Hindsight editorials

276 What's in Blue stories with day-to-day coverage of Security Council developments

Four Research Reports on key issues confronting the Security Council

52 The Week Ahead e-mails on the Council's activities



Public Engagement

33 regular briefings on the work of the Security Council for interested UN member states, UN entities, and human rights and humanitarian NGOs

Seven workshops on UN peace operations co-organised by SCR, the International Peace Institute and the Stimson Center

Discussion and launch of **four** research reports



Capacity Building

Bespoke capacity development training in New York for **four** incoming elected members and one candidate country, as well as joint training for **two** incoming members on thematic issues

Capital-based capacity building for **three** incoming members

One seminar on peace operations

Annual sanctions workshop for the incoming elected members of the Council

Co-organised and rapporteured, the annual "Hitting the Ground Running" workshop for Security Council members and incoming members

Social Media

14,135 active e-mail subscribers

533,348 website users

More than **1.6 million** page views total for www.securitycouncilreport.org

Some **30,000** X (Twitter) followers

1,554 LinkedIn followers

1,092 Instagram followers

Advancing the Transparency of the Council: Providing Clarity in a Tumultuous Year



2023 tested the Security Council’s ability to function in a world riven by conflict and shifting power dynamics. Two major conflicts absorbed much of the Council’s attention: the continuing war in Ukraine and the outbreak of war in Gaza between Hamas and Israel. In addition, the Council faced multi-dimensional crises in situations long on its agenda, including the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Myanmar, Somalia and Sudan. Yet established Council tools such as peacekeeping and sanctions faced opposition from Council members and host governments alike. Two UN peace operations—in Mali and Darfur—were terminated precipitously, as was the Mali sanctions committee’s panel of experts. A Russian veto shuttered the cross-border mechanism that was established in 2014 to ensure the delivery of aid into and within Syria.

These conflicts took their toll on already strained relations among Council members. Accusations of double standards and a widening north-south divide were evident. Negotiations were never easy and procedural matters continued to be politicised. A clear sign of the discord in the Council was the high number of vetoes, as well as draft resolutions tabled but not adopted due to insufficient votes. In 2023, six vetoes were cast on five draft resolutions: three on “The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian Question; one on Mali, and one on Syria. On seven occasions, draft resolutions or amendments were not adopted due to insufficient votes. SCR documented the Council’s voting patterns through its comprehensive coverage of the negotiations on the 50 resolutions adopted by the Council.

In a year where the Council spent ever more time in meetings yet agreed on fewer products, SCR published a record 276 What’s in Blue stories as it closely tracked the work of the Council.



The Middle East, including the Palestinian Question

The escalation of the conflict between Israel and Hamas in October quickly became a central preoccupation. The 7 October 2023 large-scale attacks against Israel led by Hamas and the ensuing Israeli airstrikes and ground operation in Gaza led to an additional fourteen meetings, besides the regular Middle East meetings, between October and December. Elected members led the way in seeking agreement on Council action but were often stymied by the entrenched position of the US, which vetoed three draft resolutions. Two resolutions were not adopted due to insufficient votes. However, by the end of the year, the Council managed to adopt two resolutions on the situation. **SCR followed these significant developments closely, publishing 4 Forecast briefs and 33 What's in Blue stories, 17 of them between October and December.**

Ukraine

As it had the year before, Ukraine dominated the Council's agenda, with 39 formal meetings, one meeting in closed consultations and two discussions under "any other business". However, the expectation that Russia would block any outcome has reduced any appetite to attempt outcomes. The Council settled into a pattern of rarely putting Ukraine on its programme of work at the start of the month but holding three to four meetings every month. Members used the Council to showcase their contrasting narratives on the supply of weapons to Ukraine, the Nordstream incident and nuclear safety issues. **SCR continued its extensive coverage of the Council's 52 meetings on this issue, publishing 12 Forecast briefs, 1 In Hindsight article and 26 What's in Blue stories.**

Sudan

In April, Sudan experienced a severe escalation of violence as the Sudanese Armed Forces clashed with the Rapid Support Forces in several parts of the country. Calls for a ceasefire went unheeded and concerns grew over the humanitarian impact, including the effect on civilians and food insecurity. The Council followed the situation in Sudan closely and met an additional seven times, outside the regular quarterly meetings. In spite of the deteriorating situation, the Council terminated the mandate of the UN Integrated Transition Mission in Sudan (UNITAMS) in December, at the request of the Sudanese government. [SCR documented the Council's activity as the situation in Sudan deteriorated. The Council met 25 times on Sudan and SCR published 8 Forecast Briefs and 14 What's in Blue stories.](#)

Syria

The Council continued to meet monthly on Syria on the political and humanitarian developments as well as the chemical weapons track although, in some months combining the political and humanitarian meetings. The humanitarian cross-border mechanism

established in 2014 was renewed in January 2023 for six months, but was brought to an abrupt end in July by a Russian veto. SCR provided comprehensive coverage of the tense negotiations and ultimate demise of this mechanism as well as of the Council's regular meetings on Syria. [SCR published 12 Forecast Briefs, 1 In Hindsight article and 14 What's in Blue stories.](#)

Haiti

Following a difficult 2022, Haiti continued to be a situation of concern for the Council as it faced a rise in violence, criminal activities and human rights violations. As the security and humanitarian situation deteriorated, the Council strove to find a solution to a security situation that threatened to have significant regional impact. In October, it authorised the formation and deployment of a Multinational Security Support Mission to Haiti for an initial period of 12 months and expanded the arms embargo. It also renewed the panel of experts and sanctions regime that was established in 2022. [SCR reported on these developments publishing 4 Forecast Briefs and 7 What's in Blue stories.](#)



Afghanistan

Following the August 2021 Taliban takeover, the Council has kept a close watch on the situation in Afghanistan, monitoring developments such as restrictions on the rights of women and girls, including those working for domestic and international NGOs. In 2023, these restrictions were expanded to include Afghan women working for the UN in Afghanistan. The Council has been united in its response, unanimously adopting three resolutions: extending UNAMA's mandate and showing unity, condemning the Taliban decision regarding Afghan women working for the UN in the country and extending the mandate of the Monitoring Team of the 1988 sanctions committee. It also asked for an independent assessment on responding to the current challenges. SCR reported the Council's responses to these changes in Afghanistan and provided detailed coverage of the complex negotiations that allowed for the robust resolution renewing UNAMA's mandate. [SCR published 4 Forecast Briefs and 14 What's in Blue Stories.](#)

The Democratic Republic of the Congo

As fighting continued in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the Council paid close attention to the deteriorating security and humanitarian situation. Increased regional tensions also needed close monitoring. In March, Council members visited the DRC, travelling to Kinshasa and Goma to assess the situation in conflict-affected areas in the country and the effects of insecurity on civilians. They also focused on the elections anticipated in December 2023. Over the year, the Council also focused on encouraging the ongoing regional peace efforts. In December, it adopted a resolution setting out a disengagement plan for MONUSCO. It also adopted a resolution renewing the DRC sanctions regime and panel of experts, two presidential statements and three press statements. SCR provided extensive coverage of developments in the DRC and Council activity on the issue, and accompanied the Council on its visiting mission, providing real-time reporting from the field. [SCR published 5 Forecast Briefs and 13 What's in Blue stories, including 4 dispatches from the field.](#)

Libya

The Council continued to monitor the political impasse in Libya between the UN-recognised Government of National Unity, and the eastern-based Government of National Stability. This stalemate and the indefinite postponement of elections scheduled for December 2021 has led to political, security and economic instability in Libya. SCR covered the Council's attempts to encourage Libyan actors to engage in negotiations that would result in a Libyan-led, inclusive political process. It also documented the dynamics over the Council's renewal of UNSMIL and of the authorisation for member states to inspect vessels on the high seas off the coast of Libya, bound to or from Libya, that they have reasonable grounds to believe are violating the arms embargo. [SCR published 9 Forecast briefs and 10 What's in Blue stories on Libya.](#)

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)

Over the year, the DPRK launched a series of tests of intercontinental ballistic missiles and tested its first military reconnaissance satellite, heightening tensions in the region. Although the Council could not agree any new products on the DPRK, it met eight times to discuss these launches. The Council also held its first meeting in five years on the human rights situation in the DPRK. SCR documented the Council's reactions to the launches as well as the Council's regular meetings on the DPRK sanctions regime. [SCR published 5 Forecast Briefs and 11 What's in Blue stories on the DPRK.](#)

Colombia

In 2023, Colombia marked the seventh anniversary of the signing of the 2016 Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace between the government of Colombia and the former rebel group Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia-Ejército del Pueblo (FARC-EP). It also held the second municipal and departmental elections since the agreement's signing. The Council kept an eye on the ongoing violence that affected certain communities, former FARC-EP members, human

rights defenders and social leaders and hindered the implementation of the 2016 Agreement. **SCR reported on these developments, publishing 4 Forecast Briefs and 7 What's in Blue stories.**

Myanmar

Three years after the military takeover in Myanmar, continued fighting between the military and the armed groups has led to a worsening humanitarian situation. Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh had meanwhile been in camps for six years. Towards the end of the year there appeared to be a shift in the political landscape as armed groups took over several towns in northern Shan State. In spite of these developments, the Council only met four times, all in closed session. Following the achievement of adopting its first resolution in December 2022, it failed to agree to any product in 2023, although a number of draft press statements were negotiated. SCR continued to contribute to the transparency of Council dynamics on Myanmar by covering all its meetings and negotiations. **SCR published 1 Forecast Briefs and 4 What's in Blue stories.**

Yemen

The Council continued to meet monthly on Yemen, receiving briefings on developments around the ongoing peace talks and efforts to establish a formal ceasefire and an inter-Yemeni political process under UN auspices, as well as on the humanitarian situation, which continued to be dire. By the end of the year, the war in Gaza and Houthi attacks against Israel and on international shipping in the Red Sea, added complexity to this situation. **SCR provided regular coverage of developments in Yemen, publishing 12 Forecast Briefs and 8 What's in Blue stories.**

Besides issues that are regularly on the Council's agenda, SCR covered Council briefings on a number of new or rarely discussed issues, including the situation in the Nagorno-Karabakh region and a territorial dispute between Guyana and Venezuela.

Beyond matters on the Council's programme of work, SCR tracks the Council's Arria-formula meetings—informal gatherings convened at the initiative of a Council member or members to hear from individuals or organisations with knowledge of developments on the ground. As informal meetings, they do not appear on the Council's programme of work, making them hard for non-Council members to follow. In 2023, Council members convened 22 such meetings. SCR published What's in Blue stories on 17 of these meetings, and maintains on its website an updated list of all Arria-formula meetings held since 1992 (with their topics, the organisers, the briefers, and the symbols of relevant documents).

The Security Council held six Informal Interactive Dialogue (IID) meetings in 2023. There were three on the humanitarian situation in Syria, and on conflict and hunger, the League of Arab States and the EU naval operation EUNOAFOR Med IRINI.

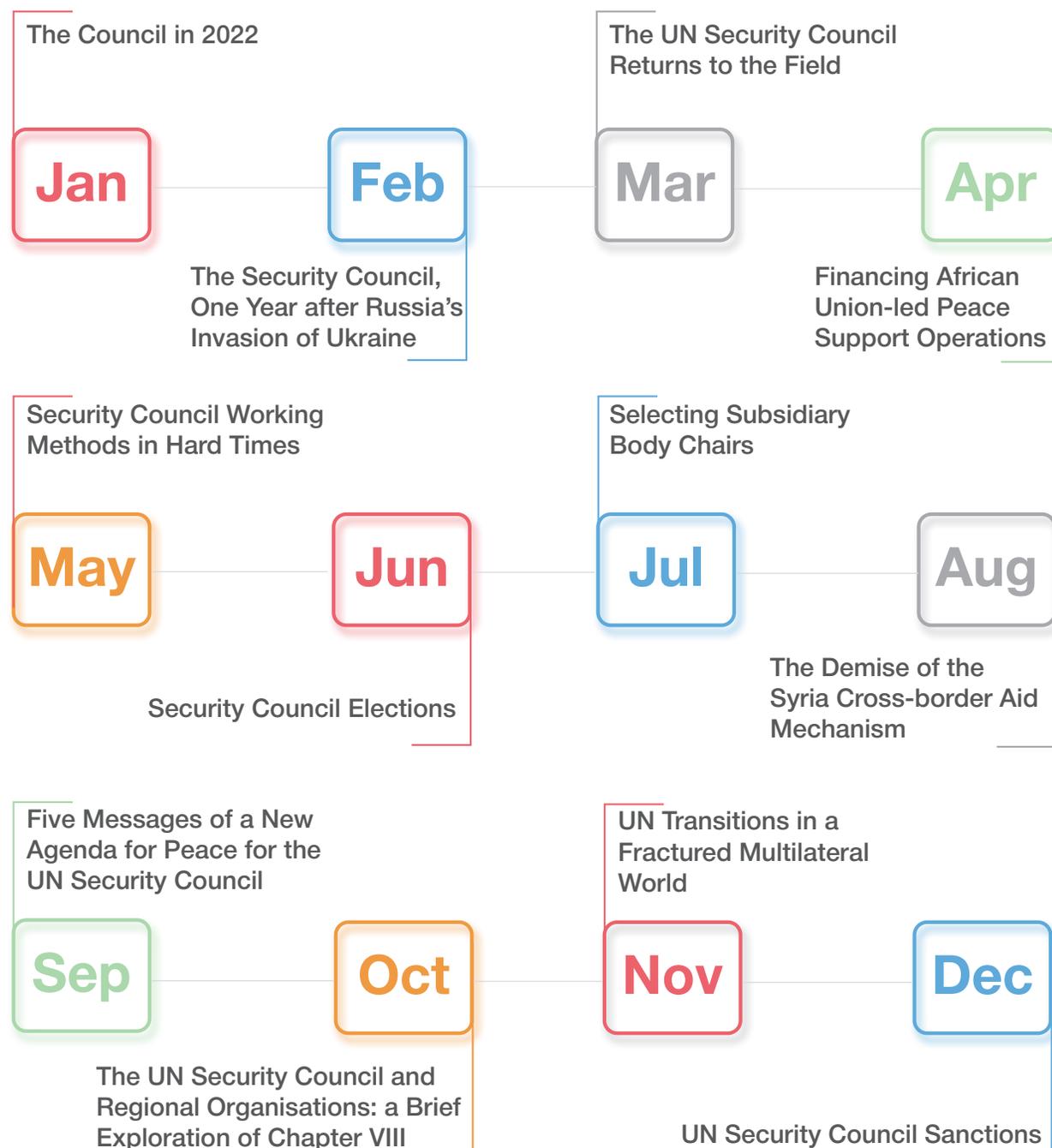
Through What's in Blue and the Monthly Forecast, SCR also reports consistently on the work of the Council's sanctions committees and working groups.

Regular Publications

SCR's Monthly Forecast and In Hindsight Articles

SCR published 12 Monthly Forecasts in 2023 on the upcoming programme of work of the Security Council. In January 2012, SCR published its first "In Hindsight" (IH) article in the Monthly Forecast, and since 2017 this has been a feature of every

Forecast, adding up to 130 by the end of 2023. Part editorial, part historical overview, these articles contribute to a better understanding of the workings of the Council. The In Hindsight articles in 2023 covered a range of topics.

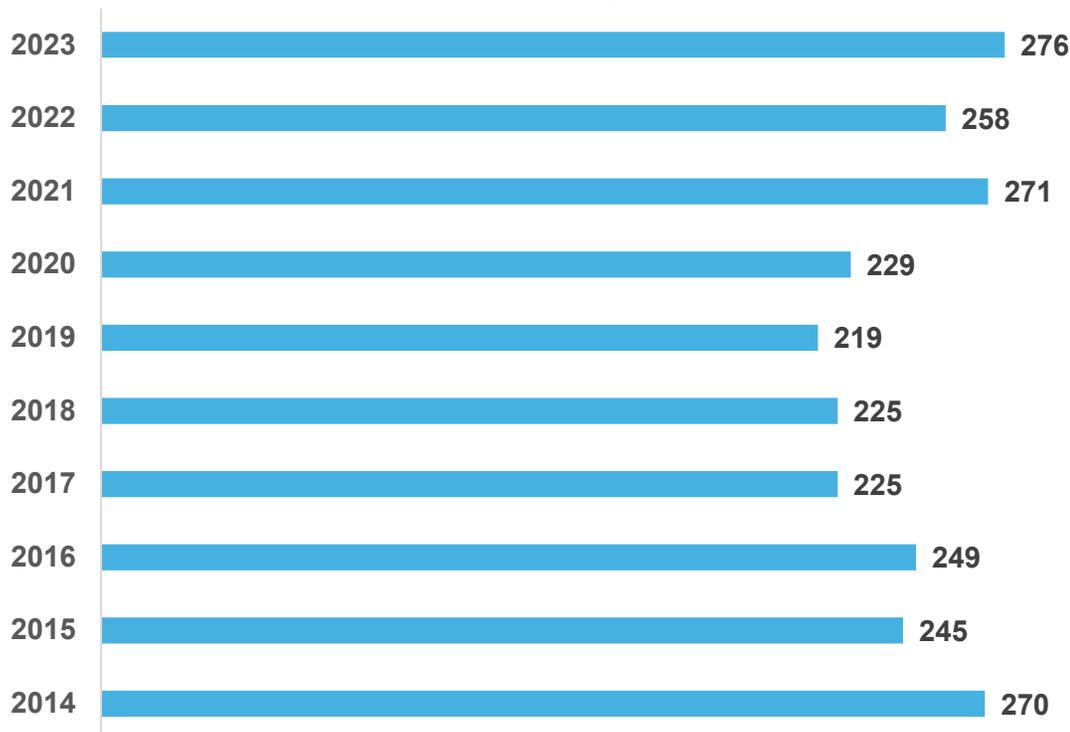


What's in Blue

What's in Blue (WiB) is an online publication that provides analysis of the latest developments in the Security Council on a near-daily basis. WiB offers insights on upcoming meetings, draft resolutions and the status of negotiations, as well as on the activities

of Council subsidiary bodies. It has become an indispensable resource for all those involved in or following the day-to-day work of the Council. In 2023, SCR produced 276 WiB stories, or an average of 23 per month.

What's in Blue Stories per Year



In-depth Reporting

SCR's research reports provide readers with deeper analysis of the most topical issues on, or off, the Security Council's agenda. These reports, which typically give a succinct historical overview and assessment of any previous Council involvement and suggest options for future work, are timed to be available as a resource ahead of major Council debates and decisions. They also track the performance of the Security Council in following through on thematic issues on its agenda and implementing previous commitments.

The Financing of AU Peace Support Operations: Prospects for Progress in the Security Council

In April 2023, SCR published a report on the financing of AU peace support operations as members were awaiting a report from the UN Secretary-General and discussing a possible resolution on this topic, which was finally adopted in December 2023. SCR's report provided insights into how the Council has dealt with the financing issue by examining past Council meetings and

outcomes. It covered efforts to revive the discussion in the Council, examined the prospects for progress and analysed potential Council dynamics on the financing issue in 2023 before offering some concluding observations. This timely report was a useful resource for Council members as they negotiated the draft resolution. This report also fed into the discussions in 2023 on the future of peacekeeping and working with regional bodies. As a result of this report, SCR was invited to participate in multiple discussions on the financing of AU peace support operations.



The Financing of AU Peace Support Operations: Prospects for Progress in the Security Council?

Research Report

2023, No. 1
26 April 2023

This report is available online at securitycouncilreport.org.

For daily insights by SCR on evolving Security Council actions please subscribe to our "What's In Blue" series at securitycouncilreport.org or follow @SCRtweets on Twitter.



Security Council Working Methods in Hard Times

SCR's report on working methods was published in May 2023. This report covers developments in working methods from 2020 to 2022, a period where global events had a powerful impact on the Council's working methods. The COVID-19 pandemic and the Ukraine crisis affected many aspects of life in the Council: how it meets, how it votes, whom it invites to participate in its meetings, and whom it hears from. These events presented elected Council members with challenges, but also opportunities to make a difference in the work of the Council. The report captures how the Council adapted to the new circumstances and the importance of working methods in allowing the Council to keep functioning in difficult times. It also covered the work of key groupings that helped shape the Council's working methods during this period, including the Security Council's Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions (IWG) and the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency Group (ACT). SCR launched the report in the ECOSOC chamber at an event commemorating the 10th anniversary of the ACT Group, which has working methods as a key focus.



Security Council Working Methods in Hard Times

Research Report

2023, No. 2
2 May 2023

This report is available online at securitycouncilreport.org.

For daily insights by SCR on evolving Security Council actions please subscribe to our "What's In Blue" series at securitycouncilreport.org or follow @SCRtweets on Twitter.



Security Council Elections 2023

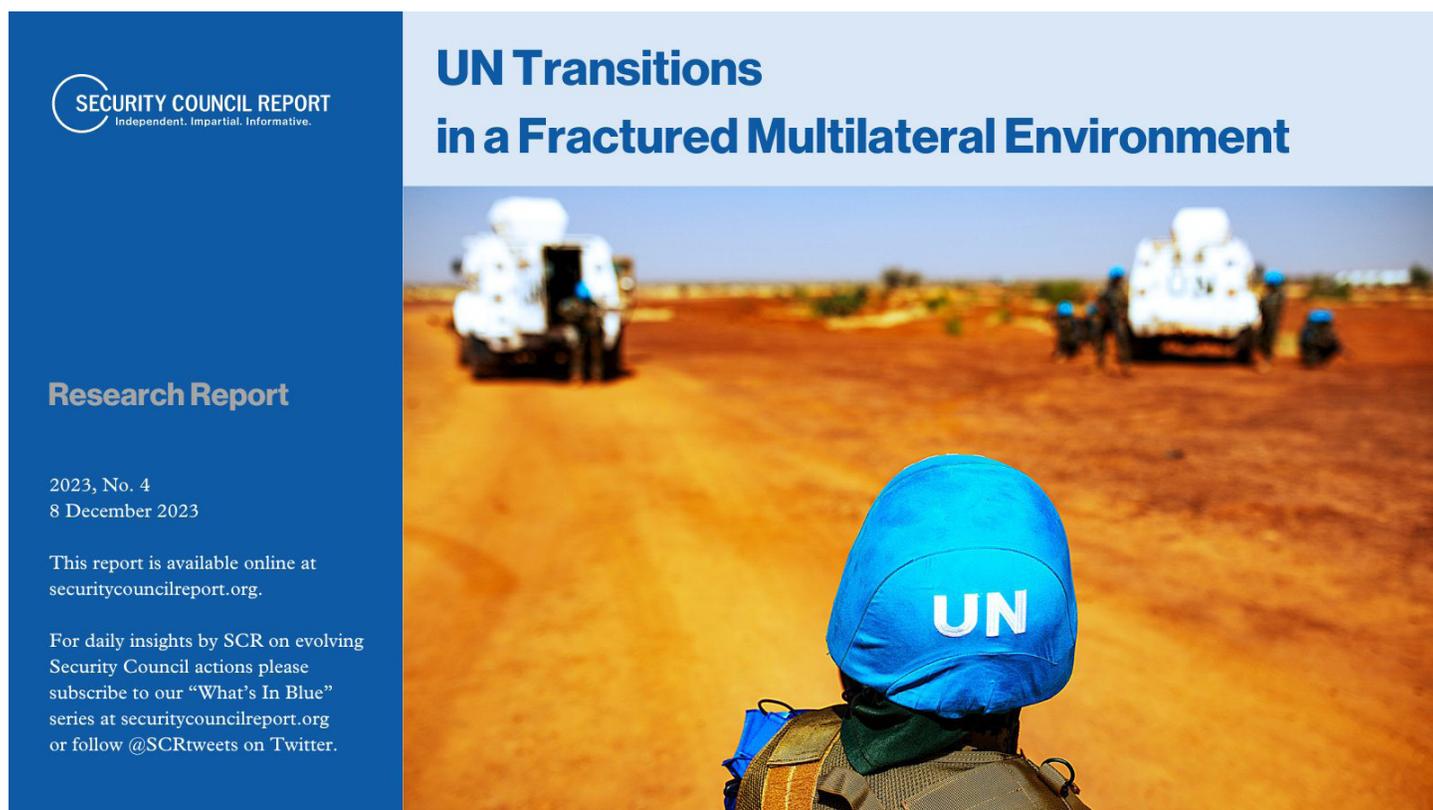
SCR's annual elections report provides information on the candidate countries ahead of the Security Council's election of five new non-permanent Council members each June. In 2023, five member states—Algeria, Guyana, Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone and Slovenia—ran for the five available seats. SCR's report presented the candidates, and possible issues with regard to the composition of the Council. This annual research report also gives an overview of relevant UN Charter provisions and rules of procedure for these elections, as well as historical background and established practices.



UN Transitions in a Fractured Multilateral Environment

This report was published in December 2023 following a year where there had been a spate of drawdowns, reconfigurations and terminations of UN peace operations. It provided insights into the evolving discussion on peace operation transitions. Through the use of transition case studies the report explored Security Council practice, analysed emerging trends, identified challenges, and drew

on lessons for planning and managing future transitions. Additionally, it looked at the efforts of the Peacebuilding Commission to build and sustain peace during and after transition processes. It also described Council dynamics and presented concluding observations. The timeliness of this report as transitions emerged as a major focus of attention led to numerous invitations to SCR to present its findings and engage in discussions with key stakeholders.



Public Engagement

SCR's public engagement is an important element in our success. This includes briefings and discussions with and for Council members, other member states, UN missions, the UN Secretariat, foreign policy and security institutes, NGOs, academic institutions and the media. SCR offers monthly briefings on the issues before the Security Council to three key constituents: NGOs, UN entities, and a select group of member states who have a special interest in our work and the Security Council. These briefings offer participants a forum for open and frank "off-the-record" discussions about the principal issues on the agenda of the Security Council and encourage in-depth analysis of its performance. They allow us to provide stakeholders with additional information and insight on the work of the Council--and also the opportunity to interact with each other.

SCR briefed the Security Council at the annual briefing of the heads of police components of UN peace operations and also briefed Council members at an Arria-formula meeting on peacebuilding.

The Executive Director spoke on the state of the Security Council at an event organised by the UN University in Tokyo, at a women, peace and security seminar in Mexico City and on a panel at the first informal meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiations framework. She also briefed on peace operations, engagement with regional organisations, and other aspects of the Council's work elsewhere, at the Alpach Forum, the Belgrade Security Conference and the Islamabad Security Dialogue.

The Chief Operating Officer and other staff members also spoke at multiple events. Staff members were also invited to participate in meetings organised by Council members, including a retreat of the African Council member and, the annual E10 workshop with incoming members. Staff members contributed to workshops on the Sahel region, Yemen, peacebuilding, peacekeeping and children and armed conflict. SCR also briefed at the Forum of Small States' annual year-end dialogue assessing the work of the Security Council.



Podcasts

In October, we added audio to the monthly In Hindsight, later expanded to a discussion of the issue covered in the editorial. This has allowed us to reach an audience that prefers an audio format.



Collaboration

Since 2016, SCR has co-organised close to thirty closed-door discussions of UN peace operations mandates with the International Peace Institute and Stimson Center. These workshops bring together member states, UN actors, and independent experts ahead of mandate renewals to share their assessments of the situations facing UN peacekeeping missions, and are followed by a publication summarising the discussion. The discussion is intended to help the Security Council make more informed decisions with respect to the strategic orientation, prioritisation, and sequencing of a mission's mandate and actions on the ground, in line with long-standing reform recommendations. These meetings are consistent with SCR's belief that better-informed Council members can lead to more effective decision-making. These workshops have allowed member states to have strategic discussions with key actors in the run-up to mandate renewals. In 2023, SCR co-facilitated workshops on mandates of the UN missions in Afghanistan, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali, and South Sudan; on options on reconfiguring the missions in the DRC and CAR, and on the DRC mandate renewal. A lessons learnt workshop assessed the sessions over the year.

SCR staff also guest lectured at Columbia University and NYU on Security Council-related issues.



Empowering Members

Training

SCR encourages incoming and candidate Council members to maximise the impact of their Council tenures by being well prepared before taking their seats on 1 January. SCR created its capacity development programme in 2012 to enhance the technical and procedural understanding of elected members. It is an intensive programme mixing lectures, case studies, interactive breakout sessions and simulations—to which SCR brings deep knowledge of Council practices and procedures, familiarity with current Council dynamics, and comprehensive assessments of Council agenda items. SCR updates and tailors its training to the participants' needs and interests.

SCR's capacity building programmes have become an essential element of incoming Council members' preparation. By supporting their preparation, SCR helps to strengthen elected members' understanding of how to operate in the Council, giving them the tools to help enhance the performance of the Security Council as a whole.



In 2023, SCR provided training for four incoming members and one member running for the 2026-27 term. SCR also conducted an in-depth seminar on climate and security for the five members entering the Council on 1 January 2023. In addition, SCR conducted capital-based training for three incoming members and a joint thematic training session for two of the incoming members.

SCR's tailored capacity development programme is offered to all interested candidate countries and elected Council members, and may be conducted in New York, in capitals, or both. By the end of 2023, 47 countries had participated in the programme, including eight of the current ten elected members.¹ SCR has provided training in capitals, as well as executive briefings for foreign ministers.

For the 13th year, SCR continued its cooperation with the Security Council Affairs Division (SCAD) of the UN

Secretariat on an annual seminar on Security Council sanctions for the newly elected Council members. The 2023 seminar, held in a hybrid format on 17 November 2023, was an opportunity for the five incoming members to learn more about the various sanctions regimes as part of their preparations to join the Council.

SCR, since 2006 part of Finland's "Hitting the Ground Running" annual workshop, has -co-organised, together with SCAD, and rapporteured this workshop since 2020. The report of this workshop is published as a UN document. This workshop brings together current members with the incoming five members to discuss the working methods of the Council and share experiences.



¹ Members trained include Albania, Angola, Bahrain, Belgium, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Ghana, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico, Malta, Mozambique, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Peru, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Senegal, Slovenia Spain, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, UAE, Viet Nam and Uruguay.

Advising

SCR is regularly consulted by member states and the UN Secretariat over Security Council developments as well as on procedural matters and precedents. SCR was consulted by the UN over parts of the New Agenda for Peace, including on the future of UN peace operations, prevention and sustaining peace, and strengthening international governance. SCR staff have also participated in discussions about the Pact for the Future. Our recent reports on climate, peace and security, peace operations reforms, including on the role of regional organisations and the financing of AU peace operations and working methods, are timely given discussions over the New Agenda for Peace, the Summit of the Future, and the anticipated Pact of the Future.



SCR's Outreach Tools

SCR publications have a broad and impactful readership. In April 2020, the Monthly Forecast went to an online-only format, with approximately 1,000 hard copies of research materials disseminated annually to targeted stakeholders. SCR's website (www.securitycouncilreport.org) provides free access to all of our organisation's publications. SCR maintains an active digital subscriber base of approximately 14,100 individuals, spanning the majority of UN member states, including senior government officials, UN staff, NGOs, academics, journalists, as well as members of the general public. In 2023, SCR's main website received traffic from roughly 533,348 users.

Throughout the year, SCR maintained a stable presence on X (formerly Twitter) with approximately 30,000 followers on @SCRtweets. Gaza, Ukraine, Nord Stream, Nagorno-Karabakh, and engagement with our various thematic report launches garnered consistent attention on both X and LinkedIn. Additionally, our tweets covering "The Week Ahead at the Security Council" and "The Week in Review" sustained high levels of engagement.

SCR continued its reach towards more academia-focused audiences through LinkedIn, ending 2023 with 1,554 followers, a 38% increase. LinkedIn, overall, continued seeing exceptional growth in 2023, with 55.1% growth in impressions and 61.7% growth in engagements.

In 2023, SCR continued successfully implementing a comprehensive digital strategy. SCR utilises Instagram to disseminate updates and insights to a broader audience through visually engaging content, leading to a 109% rise in impressions.



Financials

FINANCIAL SITUATION (STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION, STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES)

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES (YEARS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023 AND 31 DECEMBER 2022)

	2023	2022
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$1,103,059	\$621,299
Grants receivable, net	1,146,685	1,673,527
Security deposit	110,674	166,012
Prepaid expenses and other assets	52,972	95,751
Right-of-use Asset	722,243	1,060,719
Total Assets	\$3,135,633	\$3,617,308
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$263,364	\$168,971
Line-of-credit	32,489	15,971
Lease liability	843,494	1,204,790
Total Liabilities	1,139,347	1,389,732
NET ASSETS		
Without donor restrictions (including cumulative foreign currency losses of \$142,520 and \$140,226 in 2023 and 2022, respectively)	777,486	455,390
With donor restrictions :		
Time restricted for future periods	549,707	564,629
Purpose restrictions	669,093	1,207,557
Total net assets with donor restrictions	1,218,800	1,772,186
Total net assets	1,996,286	2,227,576
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$3,135,633	\$3,617,308

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES (YEARS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023 AND 31 DECEMBER 2022)

	2023	2022
REVENUE AND SUPPORT		
Grants and contributions	\$2,596,347	\$2,625,238
Other Income	1,795	62,997
Total revenue and support	2,598,142	2,688,235
EXPENSES		
Program services	2,183,985	2,037,203
Management and general	451,345	247,683
Fundraising	191,808	197,280
Total expenses	2,827,138	2,509,166
Change in net assets	(231,290)	107,649
Net assets, beginning of the year	2,227,576	2,119,927
Net assets, end of year	\$1,996,286	\$2,227,576

Our Supporters

SCR is grateful to its generous donors for the support we need to continue to extend most products and services to UN member states and other stakeholders at no cost. In 2023, SCR received funding from the following governments and foundations:

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Denmark	Luxembourg	Singapore	
Finland	Netherlands	Spain	

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