

24

**COMMITTEE
ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(2022-23)**

SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

**‘INDIA’S POLICY PLANNING AND ROLE OF THINK TANKS
WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO ICWA AND RIS.’**

TWENTY FOURTH REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

JULY, 2023 /Sravana, 1945 (Saka)

TWENTY FOURTH REPORT
COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(2022-23)

(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

**‘INDIA’S POLICY PLANNING AND ROLE OF THINK
TANKS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO ICWA AND RIS’**

Presented to Lok Sabha on 07 August, 2023
Laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 08 August, 2023



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

JULY, 2023 / Sravana, 1945 (Saka)

COEA NO.

Price: Rs.

© **2023 by Lok Sabha Secretariat**
Published under Rule 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha
(_____ Edition) and printed by

CONTENTS

PAGE

COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE (2022-23).....	(ii)
INTRODUCTION.....	(iii)

REPORT

CHAPTER - I Foreign policy planning in India and Role of think tanks

I Foreign Policy Planning in India.....	1
II Role of Think Tanks in Foreign Planning.....	33

CHAPTER - II Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA)

I. Historical Background.....	33
II. Organisational Structure of ICWA.....	34
III. Funding of ICWA.....	35
IV Mandate and Activities of ICWA.....	35
A. Research and Dissemination.....	38
B. Publications	41
C. Events: Seminars, Lectures, Conferences, Dialogues and Other Activities.....	44
D. Outreach.....	48
E. Expanding Role of ICWA.....	51
F. Sapru House Library.....	55
G. ICWA Website/Social Media.....	57

CHAPTER-III Research and Information system for Developing Countries (RIS)

I. Overview.....	69
II. Historical Background.....	70
III. Funding of RIS.....	70
IV. Organisational Structure of RIS.....	71
V Mandate and Activities OF RIS.....	72
VI Frame work of RIS work Programme.....	76
VII RIS and India's G20 Presidency.....	83
IX Dissemination Programmes of RIS.....	88
X RIS Human Resources Base.....	91
XI Overlapping of Mandate of ICWA and RIS.....	93

ANNEXURE

Annexure I	Conferences and Research Studies Organised By MEA with various Think Tanks.....	105
------------	--	-----

APPENDICES

APPENDIX – I	Minutes of the Fifth Sitting of the Standing Committee on External Affairs (2022-23) held on 22 November, 2022.....	110
APPENDIX- II	Minutes of the seventh Sitting of the Standing Committee on External Affairs (2022-23) held on 12 December, 2022.....	112
APPENDIX -III	Minutes of the Sixteenth Sitting of the Standing Committee on External Affairs (2022-23) held on 05, April 2023.....	115
APPENDIX –IV	Minutes of the Twenty Second Sitting of the Standing Committee on External Affairs (2022-23) held on 03, August 2023.....	118

COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (2022-23)

Shri P.P. Chaudhary - Chairperson

Lok Sabha

2. Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal
3. Shri Abhishek Banerjee
4. Shri Kalyan Banerjee
5. Shri E. T. Mohammed Basheer
6. Shri Dileshwar Kamait
7. Smt. Preneet Kaur
8. Smt. Goddeti Madhavi
9. Smt. Poonam Pramod Mahajan
10. Shri Srinivas Reddy Manne
11. Shri P. C. Mohan
12. Smt. Queen Oja
13. Shri Ritesh Pandey
14. Dr. K. C. Patel
15. Shri N.K. Premachandran
16. Smt. Navneet Ravi Rana
17. Shri Soyam Bapu Rao
18. Shri Vishnu Datt Sharma
19. Shri Rebaty Tripura
20. Dr. Harsh Vardhan
21. *Vacant*

Rajya Sabha

22. Smt. Jaya Bachchan
23. Smt. Misha Bharti
24. Shri Anil Desai
25. Shri Ranjan Gogoi
26. Shri Deepender Singh Hooda
27. Shri Prakash Javadekar
28. Dr. Wanweiroy Kharlukhi
29. Dr. Ashok Kumar Mittal
30. Shri Kapil Sibal
31. Shri Abdul Wahab

Secretariat

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------------|---|-----------------|
| 1. | Dr. Ram Raj Rai | – | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Smt. Reena Gopalakrishnan | – | Director |
| 3. | Ms. Maya Menon | - | Under Secretary |

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Committee on External Affairs (2022-23) having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Twenty Fourth Report (17th Lok Sabha) on the subject 'India's Policy Planning and Role of Think Tanks with Special Reference to ICWA and RIS'.

2. The Committee selected the subject 'India's Policy Planning and Role of Think Tanks with Special Reference to ICWA and RIS' for detailed examination during 2022-23. Briefing on the subject was held on 22 November, 2022. Thereafter, the Committee took oral evidence of the representatives of the ICWA and RIS on 12 December, 2022. The representatives of the Ministry of External Affairs, ICWA and RIS were again called for evidence on 05 April, 2023.

3. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their Sitting held on 03 August, 2023. The Minutes of the Sittings of the Committee are appended to the Report.

4. The Committee wish to express their gratitude to the Ministry of External Affairs as well as ICWA and RIS for placing material information as well as tendering evidence and views before the Committee.

5. For facility of reference, the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold letters in the Report.

NEW DELHI
August, 2023

Sravana, 1945 (Saka)

P.P. CHAUDHARY,
Chairperson,
Committee on External Affairs

CHAPTER-I

FOREIGN POLICY PLANNING IN INDIA AND ROLE OF THINK TANKS

I. FOREIGN POLICY PLANNING IN INDIA

a. History and Evolution of Foreign Policy Planning Division in India

1.1. Prior to independence and immediately after, the 'historical division' in MEA was responsible for research inputs. The first Policy Planning Department was established in the World in 1947 in the USA. In 1960, MEA established the Policy Planning & Review Committee which was chaired by Foreign Secretary and included all Secretaries of MEA. Commerce Secretary and Chairman, Joint Intelligence Committee were members. The Policy Planning & Research Division was established in 1966, reporting to Foreign Secretary. It functioned concurrently with the Committee and served as the main feeder of inputs for the Policy Planning & Review Committee. The Division and the Committee existed in parallel, and played a major role in 1971 in developing policy inputs on Bangladesh. In the 1980s, the Policy Planning & Review Committee was wound up.

1.2 In 1984, the Policy Planning Division in MEA received an increased mandate- to assist in foreign policy formulation, prepare position papers, carry out in depth analysis of international affairs, make assessments of critical situations of concern, prepare drafts for speeches of President, PM, EAM etc., conduct seminars and studies, etc. The Division's mandate was extended further in 2015 with a thrust towards creating Indian global flagship platforms. The objective was to create an Indian platform wherein global leaders can gather and discuss policy matters. Also, this would allow India to articulate its foreign policy directions to a global audience. In addition to the above four focus areas, the Policy Planning Division endeavors to take the Policy discourse beyond Delhi, and involve think tanks and organizations across India.

1.3 Elaborating further about the history of the Policy Planning Division, the Foreign Secretary stated during the sitting of the Committee, held on 22.11.2022, as under:

"Initially, when we became independent in 1947, essentially it was a Historical Division in MEA which was more or less in-charge of research and intelligence. I remember that ... the Historical Division used to provide us phenomenal support in terms of the history of what has happened between the two countries. These are not necessarily there in the files

individually; these are there as research in the intelligence products. Then, into 1960s, we converted it into a Foreign Policy and Review Committee, and in 1966, the proper PPR Division was established under Foreign Secretary. In 1970s and again in 1989, at the time of Soviet Union's break up, the Policy Planning Division came up with a plenty of scenarios, options and how do we position ourselves as India *vis-à-vis* other countries. Everybody knows that Bangladesh Liberation was a very tricky time in terms of global politics. Again, in 1989 when the Soviet Union broke up, everybody in the world was looking for policy options and how do we position *vis-à-vis* not just the centre piece Russian Federation, but also the peripheral States, the European part of former Soviet Union, the Asian part of former Soviet Union, which were the Central Asian republics, and the two were very different, and the policy option for Uzbekistan in Central Asia could not be the same for Kazakhstan which is partly Central Asia but the North parts of Russian Steppes for example. So, it played a crucial role.

Then, since 2014, it has been playing one of the critical roles - xxxx- and that is the creation of India-centric thinking, India-centric think tanks, and based on that, the India-centric conferences. The idea is that the world outside should know what I think; not just know, appreciate what I think; not just appreciate, accept that this is one of the things which is out there, and this was done through the Raisina Dialogue. Xxxx in 2015, when the section session of the Raisina Dialogue was done – xxxx xxx..it was a very conscious decision that the Raisina Dialogue will become the global benchmark to reflect Indian thinking. So, with regard to anything happening in the world, what is the Indian point of view in that situation, the ORF Conference, the Raisina Dialogue should reflect that. Today, Raisina Dialogue is a permanent fixture in the international calendar for any think tanker you ask for. For any opinion global-maker you want, they all want to come for Raisina Dialogue. They want to come in large numbers”

1.4 When the Committee sought clarifications on how the Raisina Dialogue of Observer Research Foundation (ORF) which is an independent think tank relates with the Government, the Foreign Secretary, replied as under:

“It is an independent think tank, but we work with ORF because they do invite political leadership to their conferences. That is where the synergy between ORF and the Government plays out.”

1.5 On being asked further about the importance of the Raisina Dialogue to the Government, Foreign Secretary responded as below:

“Raisina is not the only Dialogue that the Government of India is working on. We have worked with several other institutions, including ICWA and domain-specific institutions to bring about domain-specific conferences. xxxxx It is just that when we started these dialogues, Raisina Dialogue was the first one and it has evolved over a period of time.

Sir, if you look at the list of sponsors which Raisina Dialogue puts out when they do it, you will find the entire world is a co-sponsor to that Dialogue. You will also notice in those conferences that at some point, there is a degree of, xxxx, critical appraisal of Government's foreign policy and various other things. For example, I have myself spoken

last year at one of the sessions which was essentially on global transitions, what are the major transitions which are taking place in the world, which had nothing to do with Government of India's position. What was remarkably useful to know how 40 academicians and other think tankers look at the global transitions, which was very useful for the Policy Planning Division to assimilate in itself and then do go about it.

We do associate with them but we also look at some of the signature participations because obviously there is a Government commitment to it. For example, last time when the EU Commissioner Ursula von der Leyen came, there was a time commitment for the leadership to also meet with her. So, we need to be very careful of what we commit and what we do not commit. If a Foreign Minister is coming, then EAM's commitment tends to be there, so we need to be very careful whether EAM is available or not, for how much he is available, and for whom he is available. It is a complex exercise but it is not a complicated exercise. We are able to maneuver it in a manner that the Government's view, Government's interest, and the national interest is center to it.

We have a platform which today rivals any other international conference. I must submit this is something which every other country is trying to do. For example, Singapore has Shangri-La dialogue. In the old world, and even now, there used to be Davos Economic Forum but Davos is no longer necessarily central to foreign policy. There was a time in 1990-91 xxx...where you would see there is an economic forum but it talks of foreign policy. Perhaps, it is no longer so. There are now platforms in Abu Dhabi, in the Middle East which are coming up as a key center. Then, you have Munich Security Conference which focusses on global security issues. Likewise, there is no shortage of such initiatives which every country is trying to do. So, it is important that we also position not just one but multiple structural conferences, which I call as products essentially."

b. Mandate of Policy Planning Division

1.6 The Policy Planning and Research Division is the nodal division of the Ministry for policy planning and public diplomacy initiatives with the strategic and academic community. The Division is tasked with the responsibility of providing inputs for Foreign Policy Planning. The Ministry also has specialized divisions and centers to undertake focused research and develop policy on specific matters. The Division along with its network of autonomous bodies (Indian Council of World Affairs and Research and Information Systems), think tanks and academic collaborations provides a well-organized mechanism for the purpose of Policy Planning and Research in foreign affairs. These think tanks include both Government funded organizations and private organizations. The Division also utilizes external expertise of domestic scholars by inducting them as Consultants. These consultants are used for producing research papers, policy briefs, coverage of strategic conferences and seminars, preparation of template speeches, think-tank compendium, as well as daily analysis of significant global events.

1.7 During the sitting held on 22.11.2022, Foreign Secretary explained the mandate of the Policy Planning Division as follows:

“If you look at the work of the Ministry of External Affairs, xxxxxx, we have structured it into different territorial jurisdictions, what we call territorial divisions. So, Americas will do America, PAI will do Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran, and likewise. The entire globe is divided into different jurisdictions. Now, these jurisdictions, by their very nature, look at the day-to-day work relating to those relationships, and naturally that includes the policy planning also. So, if I have to make a policy framework vis-à-vis the United States of America, Russia, UAE, Australia, Canada, these territorial jurisdictions play a very important role in assimilating information relating to that relationship putting it together in a form along with the policy recommendation for the senior leadership to take a decision, what to do and what not to do in a given situation.

The classic situation xxxxxx is Russia-Ukraine conflict, for example. Right since February of this year, because of the changing situation of the Russia-Ukraine Conflict, the ERS Division has been working pretty much on 24x7 basis to come up with what is happening in the field and come up with policy options, and even with operational options. When our students were evacuated from Ukraine, these were operational options, not necessarily policy options. Policy was given that you have to evacuate them. But to be able to execute them, to be able to send and coordinate with the people on the ground, to coordinate with the Russian Federation, to coordinate with Ukraine both ways were all operational options. That is also a place where Policy Planning Division comes in because it is a dedicated Division which looks beyond daily emergency.

The Policy Planning Division may not be occupied with the daily emergency of crisis between Russia and Ukraine but yet on the other hand they are involved because they need to assimilate information regarding what is happening on a daily basis, and present first to the Territorial Division, which actually prepares policy, and then to the higher leadership, and come out with what exactly needs to do. So, it is a dedicated Division, I would say, a landing zone of ideas, an originator of ideas. This is one Division in my Ministry, which I can truly call the junction box of all thinking. Russia Division may be thinking something; Pakistan Division may be thinking something, but the Policy Planning Division, the junction box will know about the thinking of all these Divisions. If there is a cross sectoral decision that the Ministry has to take; if today a decision, for example, has to be taken, which involves Russia, UAE, Australia, US – altogether to be factored in, the Policy Planning Division will have a key interface into those territorial divisions to come up with a distinct element, which can be presented to the leadership in order so that a decision can be taken which is in the best national interest, and which serves our perspective very well.

Two, the way the world is changing, the policy planning is not just limited to what Government makes. In this policy planning, the Government also has to respond to what is happening outside the Government. So, what is civil society thinking about India's position on, let us say, Russia-Ukraine conflict; what does a certain think tank think of India-US relationship; how do individual entities, individual thinkers, individual writers, former ambassadors, former leaders, former academicians look at different elements of different relationships that we have all over the world. So, policy planning has to be a response to that. Now, who will interface with them? Territorial divisions do try their level best but there

is a limitation in that across the spectrum interface. That work is done by the Policy Planning Division. So, they would interface, for example, with the policy research institutes, and I would say not just in Delhi, not just in India but across the world, and we would come to that later on how they do that.

They would also interface regularly with the key opinion makers in the civil society. They may not be in the academia but they hold a view, and that view in today's world of, I would say, truly democratized media holds significance. Xxx..

So, it is helmed by Policy Planning Division which interfaces with these elements which are external to the Government, but yet are very crucial for the Government also should know where we are wrong and where we need to correct ourselves going forward. Likewise is the case with the business and the corporate community because economic dimension of relationship is a very crucial part of the policy making these days. Hence, that is important. And also with other individuals, when it comes to this.

We have also noticed that there is a bit of a revolving door in the policy making when you look at the civil society. Sometimes, the retired people from the Government become think tankers; and sometimes, think tankers closely interface with the Government. All those kind of revolving door issues do take place. As a result, if there is one division at least in the MEA which keeps itself up to date with the latest thinking, views of different people, right or wrong, would be the Policy Planning Division. So, in terms of its role whether it is to receive all the ideas, assimilate them; to generate ideas, spread them across; to know what is happening outside, bring it in; and put this all together into a policy framework; use all this to build India narrative abroad; to use this to create ideas, thinking, conferences in India which can project Indian point of view, India-specific point of view, India-anchored products - all this makes Policy Planning a very crucial Division. Of course, this policy planning works with the entire Government of India approach.

We are doing so many conferences which are actually not MEA specific. We work with the State Governments. For example, we have now started taking the discourse on foreign policy outside Delhi. There is a very interesting piece in today's media, for example, which talks of role of foreign policy in State elections. This is obviously because the impact which the foreign policy has on the people becomes a part of a constituency. It is a constituency in the end. I think, that is somewhere where Policy Planning Division, over a period of last seven decades, has continued to play a role – different roles at different times because the world around us kept changing, our surroundings kept evolving, and the world outside kept changing. So, Policy Planning Division essentially got centred in that and then moved around outside it.

1.8 Regarding the mandate of Policy Planning division, the Ministry in their written reply have stated as under:

“The overall mandate of the Policy Planning Division today can be summarized into three main categories.

The first is Thinking: Policy Planning Division receives information input from different sources- within the Ministry, and outside including from Policy Planning Dialogues. Its job is to analyze this information and generate meaningful output.

The Second is Knowledge Creation: Using the different inputs that Policy Planning receives, the Division creates functional and useful research output that builds the

knowledge base of the Ministry and our Missions abroad. The Division's research output goes to several Government agencies/departments/ministries including PMO, Ministry of Defense, NSCS, etc. as well as to heads of some prominent think tanks in India.

The third mandate of the Division is Narrative Building: This is a crucial function that is achieved through flagship conferences, Policy Planning Dialogues, Track 1.5/Track 2, as well as by engaging the strategic community, both in India and abroad. In such conferences, policy ideas are also gathered from specialists from outside the government, for seeding into and deliberation in the government apparatus.

1.9 Explaining further on the same, the Foreign Secretary stated:

"These are the three key tasks. You may call it mandate, tasks, objectives, roles. I would structure them broadly into these three. I have already briefly spoken about the first one, which is the thinking part. Then, there is the idea part. In this, there is assimilation of idea. After assimilation, there is production of those ideas into a policy narrative or into a public narrative, then putting it as a policy space for the Government, and then is the policy product. I will explain that. I would say I must admit how that works in actuality, not necessarily in perfection, is not as much as we would want it to but that is actually a work for us to do but it does work. And then there is the policy recommendation.

This is just in terms of how does it assimilate ideas. The assimilation of idea begins, I would say, where the media reporting ends. We have to credit media that sometimes they do come out with information which perhaps may or may not be known in the Government's space, like a sudden development anywhere in the world. Sometimes when that happens, the work of the policy planning and the territorial division immediately starts. There is feedback from the Missions, feedback from the division. Today, for example, there is the Russia-Ukraine conflict. At this time, every country in the neighbourhood of that part of the world, the immediate neighbourhood, which includes six-seven countries, then the extended neighbourhood of that country, which is essentially the rest of Europe, then the broader neighbourhood which are the key players, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, US, UK, Canada, France, thinking on those parts, all those divisions feed into policy planning, feed into the Russia division to know what is their thinking and the situation is changing every day, events are changing every day. We have to be up to date on all these. Inputs come from these 10-12 places. They get consolidated, filtered through, interfaced with the territorial division and results into a consideration for the leadership for a policy precision. And of course, leadership gets other inputs also which are political in nature.

Then, there are policy planning dialogues. I will talk about it, both at Track 1.1, 1.5, even interface with Track 2. There is commission research, and then we come out with the different kind of reports and the publications. We bring out our think tank compendium. We have all these products here. These are very sharply written products which are immediately circulated."

1.10 **Main functions of the Division:**

- (i) Interface with the Strategic Community by organizing collaborative conferences and seminars with various think tanks, as well as supporting and facilitating India's participation in major international conferences. In addition, the PP&R Division organizes flagship conferences,

both in India and abroad in partnership with prominent think tanks and academic institutions. The four flagship annual conferences of the Ministry- Raisina Dialogue, Global Technology Summit, Asian Economic Dialogue, and Indian Ocean Conference - facilitate greater interaction of academia with the policy-making community.

In addition to these, the Division also organizes national level seminars in collaboration with universities and academic institutions in different locations across the country to generate greater awareness on foreign policy issues.

(ii) Encourage Research: Through the Policy Planning Division, the Ministry funds various research projects, with a view to fulfill its mandate of encouraging research in the foreign policy domain. Research projects are regularly commissioned in Think Tanks and academic institutions for the consumption of the Ministry. Officers in the Division maintain regular contact with academics and researchers working on areas of interest to the Ministry. There are multiple mechanisms for engaging with academics. For example, the division funds universities and think tanks for the conduct of national/international seminars and thematic conferences on a regular basis. In addition, seminars and discussions organized by think tanks are covered by consultants/officers of the PP&R Division and useful inputs filtered into the Ministry's information stream and decision making apparatus.

Details of research funded by the Ministry in the last 5 years are placed in **Annexure-I**.

(iii) Conducting bilateral and multilateral policy planning dialogues with other Foreign Offices and organizing Track 1.5 dialogues with our important diplomatic partners is another key function. This way, the Division also maintains a connection with the Policy Planning and Strategic Community of other partner countries. The Division also liaises with the Policy Planning offices of partner countries to exchange ideas, perspectives, expectations and future orientations from time to time.

(iv) Prepare research papers, policy briefs and situation reports pertaining to global developments and international affairs in general and India's foreign policy in particular. Throughout the year, the PP&R Division issues a range of publications. This includes Daily Reports covering major news developments and interesting foreign policy related snippets, Monthly Think-Tank Compendium on important policy events organized by think tanks, global conflict monitor, etc.

The research is circulated within the Government as well as shared with the wider strategic community.

(v) Preparation and publication of the Annual Report of the Ministry which is tabled in Parliament. This is an intensive, three-month-long process during which this Division collates and synthesizes inputs from all Divisions and presents a comprehensive overview of the Ministry's activities on an annual basis. On a Monthly basis, the Division also prepares Monthly Summary of the Ministry for the Cabinet. Through these monthly and annual reports, the Policy Planning Division also performs the function of being the record keeper of the Ministry's key foreign policy actions.

1.11 When the Committee sought to know the contribution of the publications issued by PP&R Division in shaping India's foreign Policy, the Ministry in their written reply have inter-alia stated as under:

“All these inputs are then distilled into several reports and products, such as the daily report on global affairs, monthly reports, the Ministry's annual report, etc. Records of discussion and core recommendations/ideas from Track 1.5/Track 2 seminars are summarized and shared by the Division in the form of a think tank compendium. The Division also shares summaries of research, and makes other issue specific reports such as Global Conflict Monitor, etc. The Division also plays an important role in providing inputs for speeches for senior leadership.

1.12 On the issue of availability of these publications for public consumption, the Ministry have stated that the publications of Policy Planning Division are non-classified, and shared mostly within the government apparatus, and also to heads of leading think tanks.

Activities of Policy Planning Division

1.13 Informing the Committee on the activities undertaken by the Policy Planning Division, the Foreign Secretary stated as under:

“Now, the activities which the Policy Planning Division, in association with Policy Planning Research Division and other such bodies, have done essentially fulfill one of these tasks, two of these tasks or all of these tasks at any given point in time. xxxx since November 2022, the Policy Planning Division has been coordinating the holding of the BRICS Policy Planning Dialogue in virtual format in January 2023. xxxxxx. So, BRICS is an inter-governmental plurilateral organisation. So, the Policy Planning and Research Division organised the BRICS Policy Planning Dialogue in January this year. Three out of the four

flagship conferences were held and coordinated by PPNIR. One is the Global Technology Summit. Xxxxx. Then, the Asian Economic Dialogue took place. The Raisina Dialogue which took place earlier in March this year saw the presence of the Prime Minister of Italy and at least thirty Foreign Ministers. We saw representation and delegations from over 100 countries which participated in the Raisina Dialogue in March 2023. I can mention for the purposes of record that Raisina Dialogue from its very humble beginning in 2015, when we had sum total of only 100 people in the room – xxxxx- within a short period of eight years, today is a centre piece of global think tank deliberations. It is a go to place. It is a permanent fixture now in the international calendar for any think tanker for any speaker of repute to be on. There was a time when we used to look for sponsors for the Raisina Dialogue. Today, sponsors fight with each other to come to Raisina Dialogue. Such has been the nature of transformation. I must put on record here that the one thing that actually transformed the journey was when the hon. Prime Minister attended and spoke at the Raisina Dialogue in 2016. In 2015, the first Raisina Dialogue was addressed by late External Affairs Minister, Shrimati Sushma Swaraj ji. And, hon. Prime Minister addressed the 2016 one. After that, the entire attention, the entire framework and the entire reference point of Raisina Dialogue changed remarkably. It has now transformed to a stage in where it is one of the most significant global level think tank events in the world.

I would also like to mention another signature event which we have done at political level, but which is now feeding into the think tank world, I would say. That event was in January 2023 which was chaired by the hon. Prime Minister which was the Voice of Global South. It was an inter-governmental event spread over 10 sessions, two at the level of Heads of the State in Government and remaining eight at the level of Ministers. All the countries of the Global South, except two, were invited. Out of 135 countries invited, 125 attended in person. There were 10 or 15 who gave their recordings. But by and large, an overwhelming majority of them attended it in person. One of the decisions of the Voice of Global South Summit was to create a centre for global south. We are currently working with RIS to set up such a centre. It is still in very initial stages. So, we would hopefully try and fructify it. We are trying to see how the notion of the centre for global south can actually have multiple branches. But right now, we are at the conceptual stage. So, Summit, as I said, was a big success, and an initiative which has generated great excitement in the think tank community also.

Policy Planning and Research Division also organised the third Atal Bihari Vajpayee Memorial Lecture, which was held last month. This is a lecture which is organised in the memory of the visionary contribution and the statecraft of the late hon. Prime Minister. For this year's lecture, we had invited Ambassador Bilahari Kausikan, who is the Chairman of the Middle East Institute of National University of Singapore and former Foreign Secretary of Singapore. xxxx. It was attended full house. Hon. External Affairs Minister was himself present for the duration of the lecture. Again, it is something which actually gives a huge outreach to the work of the Policy Planning and Research Division because when speakers like Mr. Bilahari Kausikan come and speak at the event organised by the Policy Planning and Research Division, the other think tanks take note of it and realise the significant value proposition that the Policy Planning and Research Division of the MEA brings to the table.xxx the rest of the routine activity of the Policy Planning and Research Division in terms of daily report, research insights, think tank compendium, global conflict monitor, weekly reports, etc., have continued since the last Summit meeting.

Policy Planning and Research Division also connects in a participatory fashion with other think tanks. For example, whether it is the Munich Security Forum; whether it is the Shangri-La Dialogue; whether it is the India Global Forum which was held in December 2022 in the UAE; and whether it was the Sydney Forum again held in the month of February-March, Policy Planning and Research Division participates in these global events and connects to the thought streams which they come across in these events and use them then as an input for developing, as I said, policy planning products which the MEA and the rest of the policy making ecosystem in India can make use of.

We have also undertaken some of the activities specifically under the guidance of the esteemed Committee which came out at the last evidence presentation and also, after carefully going through the reports on Demands for Grants for 2023-24 for the Ministry of External Affairs. The esteemed Committee had made three key recommendations and we are working on them. The first being that closer interaction and deeper collaboration with the policy planning divisions of the other countries. xxxxx. Secondly, the Committee had desired MEA should take the lead in developing research culture through its PP&R Division and create more think tanks and directly impact, interact with the universities. xxxxxx you would have noticed that the hon. External Affairs Minister travels all over India, and speaks directly to the students of the universities. Pretty much every weekend, he is travelling one university or the other in India, and speaking to the students there. He is travelling to the one university or the other in India and speaking to the students there. We cannot ask for a more direct interface with the university when the External Affairs Minister himself travelling to these locations, going to the universities, the most recent being when he spoke to the student in more or less in open town hall setting in the State of Karnataka which was in the last weekend. This is the highest level of interface, we in the ministry do, directly with the universities at a more functional level as part of G-20 and also on our own, we are currently in the processing of shaping and engagement with 75 identified universities all over India for the purposes of generating research content, using our interface with these universities to build narrative, encouraging greater interest on topics of foreign policy particularly those topics which also have a huge domestic resonance because that is where the connect becomes very organic. It is not just limited to books and what we do in the seminar halls, but it is also connected to the ground realities of what they do.

xxx...We also have a series of events which are coming up during the course of this year which will further reinforce this point which is the interface with the universities, wide-ranging spread of interaction with the think tanks. We have listed out a much of the interface that the Policy Planning Division maintains with these think tanks in terms of research studies and products in the annexure for the last five years. xxxx. It is our effort, it is going to be as sincere effort going forward to further 1) strengthen this network of interaction with the think tanks; 2) extend it further, go regional, may be so sub-regional in that sense. We do not just do that in terms of going and visiting them, we also try and do that by sponsoring research studies with those think tanks, with those universities. Naturally, we will be the sponsor; we will also try to provide – depending upon resources we have – budgetary support also to many of these think tanks all over the country. Another key element, xxxxx, which is happening again as part of India's G-20 residency, is the G-20 university connect. So, we are currently doing about 200 meetings of the G-20 spread over each and every State and Union Territory of India. Under the directions of the hon. Prime Minister, every G-20 meeting that takes place in any part of India, tries and pretty mandatory and obligatory on them to connect with the local universities, to connect with

whatever is the think tank ecosystem which is available there, and engage them through a side event of the G-20 meeting. So, whether it is an engagement group meeting, the working group meeting or the Ministerial meetings, overwhelming majority of these meetings have a side event. The idea is to interface through the side event with the university and the think tank ecosystem, which would be prevalent in those areas. It can take any form. For example, we have just concluded the Tourism Working Group Meeting in Darjeeling. While it was actually held in Siliguri, it had an interaction with the city of Darjeeling and one with another city. So, we used Siliguri as a base, but expanded the scope of our interface with the institutions, with the universities, with the places of tourist importance. Essentially, we used G20 events as force multipliers wherever possible and in most cases positively so for establishing a university connect and a think tank connect.”

Extended mandate of Policy Planning and Research Division of MEA

1.14 The Committee sought to know the objectives of extending the mandate of the Policy Planning Division in 2015. The Ministry in their written reply have inter-alia stated that the main objectives for extending the mandate are to provide greater visibility to Indian foreign policy; articulate the Indian view on major emerging global developments; receive and deliberate on new ideas from outside the Ministry; attract high-level international participation to these flagship events; provide useful exposure to the Indian think-tank institutions and raise their capabilities and ambitions; provide opportunities for our political leadership to interact with visiting foreign dignitaries in a more informal setting on the sidelines of the events; help advance India's leadership projection in the world; etc.

Taking policy discourse beyond Delhi

1.15 Asked to provide in detail the endeavors being taken by the Policy Planning Division to take the policy discourse beyond Delhi, the Ministry in their written reply have stated as under:

“The Policy Planning Division has been mandated with the organization of dialogues at the international and national levels involving think-tanks and academic institutions. In this regard, the Ministry organizes flagship conferences such as Raisina Dialogue, Global Technology Summit, Indian Ocean Conference and Asia Economic Dialogue. Among these, earlier editions of the Global Technology Summit were held in Bengaluru. Indian Ocean Conference has been held in various countries in the Indian Ocean Region, such as: 5th Indian Ocean Conference in Abu Dhabi (2021), the 4th Indian Ocean Conference in Maldives (2019), and the 3rd Indian Ocean Conference in Vietnam (2018). Asia Economic Dialogue is held in Pune. Besides these there are various national level seminars held from time to time in collaboration with think tanks, universities and academic institutions in different locations across the country to generate greater awareness on foreign policy issues such as the NADI Dialogue (Guwahati), Maha Rana Pratap Annual Geopolitics

Dialogue (Udaipur), Policy Dialogue “Act East to Indo-Pacific: Role of North-east Indian states in ‘Connecting the Connectivities’” (Imphal), Third India-Japan Intellectual Conclave (Agartala), etc. The Ministry has also supported the organization of the India Global Forum in UAE (2022).

Consultations with academics and subject experts

1.16 The Ministry have further submitted that the Officials in Divisions/Missions routinely hold consultations with academics and subject experts on matters of interest to the Ministry. They monitor research studies conducted by think-tanks. They also commission studies by engaging think-tanks/institutions. The research output of the academic activities is compiled into reports and compendiums which are utilized by the ministry. Separately, Indian Missions/Posts abroad also have a structured mechanism to interact with subject experts, think-tanks and policy advocacy groups in their country(ies) of jurisdiction to discuss, formulate and convey Indian policy, as well as collect feedback from partner countries. This also contributes toward a continuous engagement and study of political processes in foreign countries. Further, the Ministry has institutional arrangements with various Indian and foreign academic institutions for capacity-building of our diplomats which enables knowledge exchange between them and faculties of these institutions. The Policy Planning Division also serves as the lead agency for coordination with line Ministries on functional policy matters. The Division provides policy inputs on inter-agency/inter-ministry matters related to foreign policy and India’s engagement with international stakeholders. The Division also liaises with other Ministries, Departments and Agencies as per functional requirement.

1.17 In response to specific query about the mechanism put in place to interact with subject experts, think-tanks and policy advocacy groups in their country(ies) of jurisdiction, the Ministry in their written reply have submitted as under:

“Indian Missions/Posts interact with subject experts, think-tanks and policy advocacy groups in the following manner:

Mission level engagement: Missions and Posts abroad maintain an active engagement with prominent think tanks, research scholars and experts in their countries of jurisdiction, to discuss, convey Indian policy as well as collect feedback and find convergences with the country of accreditation towards the furtherance of mutually beneficial goals. This is periodically shared with Ministry in the form of political reporting and assessments by Missions.

Collaborated engagement: The Policy Planning Division of the MEA also conducts Policy Planning Dialogues with partner countries- for example, USA, UK, Germany, etc. The

Division not only interacts with Policy Planners in the counterpart Ministry, but also holds interactions with Think Tanks and Members of Strategic Community during an outbound Policy Planning Dialogue visit. Mission officials also participate in such interactions. The outcome of such visits is then compiled and shared appropriately in the Ministry.

Track 1.5 engagements: During a Ministerial / High Level Visit, events are held in Track 1.5 format- involving both Government Officials and other members of the strategic community. In addition, Indian Think Tanks also conduct events outside India with partner countries- with the support of our Missions/Posts from time to time. The Ministry receives feedback in the form of a summary of discussions. In addition, several ideas are discussed and deliberated in above engagements, which are then suitably reported or utilized by the Ministry”.

1.18 On being asked how the matrix of Policy Planning Division interface takes place, Foreign Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs during the sitting held on 22.11.2022 stated as under:

“We have dialogues at Track 1, which are essentially Government to Government dialogues. Then we have Track 1.5 dialogue, which is part Government and part independent think tank community. Then there is Track 2 that is purely think tank. There is zero involvement of the Government but Government is either an invitee, Government is either a participant, Government is either an observer, or in some cases Government is even a contributor to their debate. If only a think tank discussion is taking place where Policy Planning Division has no association, but they invite us and say we want to hear the perspective of MEA, Government of India on a foreign policy issue, or as a Policy Planning Division, we invite you to come and speak to us, that is purely Track 2.

So, the Policy Planning Division interfaces with all these three. Track 1, it is directly responsible. Track 1.5, it is semi-responsible. Track 2, it is not majorly responsible, but it is majorly responsible to present Government of India’s viewpoint.

Now, this interface generates ideas, and it generates initiatives, which then translate into processes, conferences or conference themes. For example, if they are looking for a theme for a conference, sometimes they ask us as to what are our views, how should we keep the theme for this year’s annual conference, etc. It is just a thought. They do take our views. Sometimes our views are accepted. Then the thinking that we want to project gets captured. I am giving a concrete example of how this works in conferences. BRICS is a classic case of it. BRICS started as a Track 2 idea at some stage, got into Track 1.1, then got into Track 1, became a process, and now it is a new grouping. It took a long time. It took a couple of decades. Another example is G20. If you go back to 1997, when G20 was essentially an organisation of finance track. When the 2008 crisis happened, then the thinking started that why we do not have an organisation which captures the key 20 countries in the world. So, this is how the dynamism of the thinking results in creation of different elements of products.

Products, as I said, perhaps not the correct word. But just for the sake of identifying the basket in which to put it, we are using the word basket. These are all the 21 Track 1 dialogues that India has with different countries, which are piloted and chaired by the Joint Secretary, Policy Planning on our side. Of course, when he goes, he goes along with the delegation. If I am doing a policy planning dialogue with Russia obviously, he would take the officer from the Russia Division also. We might even take some officers from the NSA

because it would involve security related discussions. Besides these two dialogues, we also have two multilateral dialogues, one relating to the Quad, which is a very recent one; and the BRICS-related policy planning discussions. So, these are all formats. Quad discussion feeds feed only into Quad in terms of new thinking. BRICS would naturally feed only into BRICS. But these 21 bilateral discussions discuss everything under the sun. xxxxx”

1.19 Asked about whether the Government has any plans wherein Indian Parliamentarians, policy makers, young Indian leaders etc. can be part of foreign policy planning, Foreign Secretary responded as under:

”I would like to say something about the role or the potential responsibility of the select Parliamentarians who would be interested in engaging with the foreign policy questions in a manner that put forward India’s position and India’s narrative, both in terms of offensive interest and defence interest. xxxxx. It is very serious thought, Madam, and it is an idea, I think, whose time has come. It is also reflective of maturity of our own discourse on foreign policy issues. So, I would say, yes, the idea is definitely worth taking forward and we are already working on it, Madam. A point which I would flag for your consideration, xxx, is that if you go to the US Congress and the Senate, you will find that one of the systems strengths is that they have a set of staffers to backstop them on different policy related issues. If not related to foreign policy issues, it is related to any policy. So, even on domestic policy issue, you will have the Congressmen and the Senators with the staffer who backstops his thinking, etc. They have a dedicated office. It allows us also to build our own eco-system or our own systemic strengths in that sense. With regard to the allowing opportunity for the young minds to interface with the daily routine process of the foreign policy making and how different wings of Ministry of External Affairs come together to shape a view, we have a fairly robust internship programme in the MEA, xxxx. It is robust that it undergoes a fairly rigorous selection process because it is in huge demand and these interns are placed all across the Ministry of External Affairs including with the Policy Planning and Research Division. These interns are graduates and undergraduates from the universities who apply, get selected and get an opportunity to associate and to see very closely the functioning of the Ministry of External Affairs. Is it large enough? Perhaps, not. Can it grow? Of course, it can. Can it have an institutional basis in terms of we creating an institution outside the MEA framework, but within the regulatory framework, let us say, with our training institute. That is again a fact which is under serious consideration for us to look at. We do end up facing the constant question, which all of us face in our system, where do I allocate my scarce resources in terms of optimisation of my need. It is not about maximisation. Right now, we are looking at optimisation process within the system. When I say this, I am not referring to Budgetary resources. Frankly, I would say, Ministry of External Affairs cannot complain of constraints on the financial Budget resources. It is more a question of apportioning appropriate number and the quality of human resources through this which has the ability, capacity and the strength to interface and create this institution which allows me to build a domestic externality outside my Ministry, which in some ways we are trying to do with various universities by sponsoring research. In most such cases, when we sponsor, when we sit down to designate, evolve, shape terms of references, we

do sit down with them. They do get to, at least, understand what our demands are which come from our thinking. On the whole, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to you, in a way, for reinforcing what we think is a highly meritorious, I think, it should be our objective to pursue in that sense.”

1.20 The Committee sought to know why elected representatives of the country are not given opportunity to be part of the Track dialogues. Responding to the query, Foreign Secretary, responded as under:

“But I do remember of one or two 1.5 Track dialogues where elected representatives are present. I must confess in all honesty that I do not know if it is fully institutionalised in that sense. For example, I have seen myself, though not because of us to be honest, in Raisina Dialogue we have seen elected representatives participating. This is in India. So, it is much easier. But I, personally speaking, would not see any constraint in participation of anybody who can contribute to Government of India’s interest and furtherance of national interest in any 1.5 dialogue. It is simply a question of constitution of those dialogues. I must say that I have seen myself elected representatives participating in 1.5 dialogue. But I would mention that we do not have too many 1.5 dialogues because it does not depend just on us. The other side also has to agree to the 1.5 narrative.”

1.21 The Committee further enquired whether there is any mechanism in the Ministry to invite proactively people to contribute to policy making. Responding to the same, foreign secretary submitted as under:

“xxx. I think, it is a very pertinent question which we grapple with every day pretty much. There are two or three parts to it. One, I totally agree with you that information spectrum of each subject is very vast. If I was to put out that entire information even in a sanitised form in a public domain, I will probably invite more criticism than understanding because it is so vast.

It is important, therefore, from our perspective, for the average person on the street to know what the Government is doing on a given subject, what the general contours of policy are, and how it serves the national interest. There are many ways in which we try to do it. One of the institutional ways for us to do it is the weekly presser of the spokesperson. Every Thursday, at the appointed time, spokesperson speaks to the Media and takes all the questions that may be relevant during that day, in a week preceding that day, or anticipatory questions which might be there in the public domain. For example, I was there in Myanmar yesterday. I spent the entire day in Myanmar yesterday meeting the leadership. There will be a presser on Thursday. There will be questions which will come on Myanmar. So, that presser will capture everything that India tries to do with Myanmar; what is in our national interest, what is it that we are trying to do, what are the challenges, etc. In a very short span of an hour spokesperson will be able to answer that and the other questions. Challenges that our Indian nationals face abroad is of crucial interest and importance to all our stakeholders in India. They ask questions as to what the Government is doing. There is so much of information relating to - for example if you take evacuation -

Operation Ganga, about which I will talk during tomorrow's Presentation. Operation Ganga is about evacuation of 22,000 odd students from there. There was a public face of what we did. But there is a background face of it; the effort which went into it, the consideration which went into it, and the coordination which the Ministry had to do. Some of the information by its very nature is so sensitive that I may not be able to put out because it will harm the interest of my own nationals in that country. So, we try to put it out in a form which is understandable, digestible, and is simple enough for people to understand whether the national interest is being served or not. It is not very difficult for us as a Ministry to put out documentation. If that is the recommendation of the Committee, we will be very happy to look at it. But we do try our best. I must say that it is very difficult to compress all the information, and put it out in a product which will be acceptable to everybody or which is in a form which he was anticipating. We have our Annual Report, which is a public document, which is used for research purposes. It is a very good archival material, which the researchers, students use quite a lot. The conferences we do, the speeches that we make in public, EAM's speeches, EAM's interactions, all this is put together into an India Narrative, which is out in the market on one subject, on more than one subject, on the whole range of foreign policy issues, on a collective of national interest vis-à-vis Foreign Policy and all that. There are multiple things which we do. Unfortunately, there is no one-size-fits-all for all customers that we can do at this stage. We can definitely try it, and hopefully try and do something good xxxx"

II. ROLE OF THINK TANKS IN FOREIGN POLICY PLANNING

1.22 The term 'Think tanks' broadly refers to independent research institutions that specialize in foreign policy research and policy advocacy activities, including organizing conferences, seminars, and outreach activities like Track 1.5/2 dialogues. They are generally non-profit in nature, and are registered as 'societies' or 'trusts'. Think tanks are distinct from academic institutions; in so far, they do not confer any academic degrees or programmes.

a). History and Evolution of Think Tanks in India

1.23 India has a rich legacy of the think tank ecosystem. The oldest think tank in India is United Service Institution (USI), which was setup in 1870. It specializes in military and national security affairs. The Indian Council of World Affairs was established in 1943, as the pre-eminent think tank of India, specializing in area studies and foreign policy affairs. The Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses was established in 1965, which specializes in strategic and defence issues. The Research and Information System for Developing Countries was established in 1983, which specializes in international trade and economic development issues.

1.24 Prior to the economic reforms of the 1990s, think tanks in India were largely funded by government or semi-government bodies. Since the 1990s, private sector think tanks have steadily grown. The Observer Research Foundation (ORF) was set up in 1990 and was one of the first private sector-led foreign policy think tanks. Similar private sector think tanks like Gateway House, Ananta Aspen Centre, Carnegie India, Pune International Center, India Foundation, etc have also had significant impact in the development of think-tank space in India.

1.25 As India's stature in the World rises, there is an increasing interest, both Indian and foreign, to establish Think Tanks in India- to understand India and its foreign policy, undertake foreign policy research and policy advocacy activities on various thematic issues.

i) Engagement of Government with think tanks

1.26 The Committee sought to know about the intensity of the engagement of the Government with Think Tanks. The Ministry in their reply have stated as under:

“Outreach to the strategic and foreign policy community is one of the core verticals of PP&R Division. The Division holds regular and structured interactions with think tanks and research institutions. It supports several collaborative activities with think tanks through conferences, seminars/webinars, Track 1.5/2 dialogues, and research projects.

The Division supports four annual flagship conferences organized in partnership with prominent Indian think-tanks - Raisina Dialogue (in partnership with Observer Research foundation), Asia Economic Dialogue (in partnership with Pune International Centre), Global Technology Summit (in partnership with Carnegie India) and Indian Ocean Conference (in partnership with India Foundation), India-US Forum (in partnership with Ananta Aspen Center). These conferences are broadly themed under geopolitics, geoeconomics, geotechnology and geostrategy, respectively.

The Division is also expanding the number of conferences that it supports, to encourage dialogue on foreign policy and international affairs across the country. It also endeavors to support conferences outside New Delhi, such as the NADI Dialogue (Guwahati), Maha Rana Pratap Annual Geopolitics Dialogue (Udaipur), Policy Dialogue “Act East to Indo-Pacific: Role of North-east Indian states in ‘Connecting the Connectivities’ (Imphal), etc.”

ii) Scope of Think Tanks

1.27 The Committee sought to know how and to what extent the political space generated for dialogues by the think tanks as also their contribution in developing new ideas actually increases

the quality and effectiveness of the policy making process. The Ministry in their written reply submitted as under:

“Think tanks serve to provide well researched data and information for helping policy makers make informed choices. The growing complexity of global challenges has made the role of think tanks significant in breaking down the complex problems into simpler understandings and formulating solutions that cover all the relevant dimensions. They can also help build expertise, and perform in-depth or specialized research. Think tanks have been acknowledged for bridging the gap between the knowledge creators and policy practitioners. They create conditions for a healthy conversation between area experts and policy makers. Globally, think tanks are projected to assume an even greater role in the implementation and evaluation of public policies. This trend is likely to be followed in India as well.

It has been seen that many foreign policy concepts/initiatives have a tendency to move from Track 2 dialogues to Track 1.5 dialogues and eventually to become Government policy. Therefore, engaging think tanks is a crucial exercise to capture important and upcoming ideas/initiatives at an early stage so that the Government can deliberate upon them.

In addition, think tanks play a substantive role in dialogue and collaborative work through research, seminars, track 1.5/track 2 events with other foreign think tanks and research organizations, thereby further engaging and familiarizing the global strategic and think tank community with Indian developments and policy orientations.

There is a well-established mechanism in the Policy Planning Division, by which, key takeaways from various think tank discussions are summarized and shared by the Division in the form of a report titled ‘**Think Tank Compendium.**’ This Compendium captures important trends which are then widely circulated within the Ministry, Missions abroad, as well as heads of think tanks in the country.

1.28 Responding to a query on the how the outputs provided by these think-tanks have helped the Ministry in foreign policy formulation of the country, Foreign Secretary stated as under:

“xxxxxx. I do not have statistical evidence to show to you that XYZ product of a thinktank gave me ABCD outcome. But I will give you just one example. When we did the Global Technology Summit or when we did the Asian Economic Dialogue or when we coordinated with ORF to do the Raisina Dialogue, it essentially helps us shape India's narrative in global arena whether it is domain specific like in case of Global Technology Summit or in case of Asian Economic Dialogue or it is political spread across multiple domains, like in the case of Raisina Dialogue. Raisina dialogue had, for example, at least easily 40 to 50 domains that were addressed over a span of 48 hours. Sessions would start at 8 o'clock in the morning and would go on till midnight. There was Session, which is most popular there, which is discussion over Kahwa -- which is after dinner you sit down at 10:30 and go on till well past midnight -- is one of the most popular proceedings. The thing, which frankly excited me the most personally was the presence of the young university students at this event. Now, can I attach value to this? In one way, zero value and in one-way

incomparable value. You cannot measure this valuable. So, when I look at output, I look at how their work strengthens situational awareness in the university students about the matters where India stands on various issues of global importance; what India has to say on those issues; how the world looks at India's position; how the world responds to India's position; what is the acceptability quotient of what India says; what is the impact -- you talked about impact and influence; what is the impact and influence that we tried to do; and it does make a huge difference. So, when the Italian Prime Minister comes and inaugurates a global event of India, it is huge. At one level, I cannot measure it in dollar sense, and at another time I can attach infinite value proposition to such events. xxxxx. You mentioned about reactive versus proactive. I can singularly say that we are perhaps so proactive that the think tankers have to react to us. They find it difficult to respond to our speed in terms of when we ask them for research proposals, we find them actually because it is something, which perhaps they have not experienced with such intensity in the past. Again, I am not putting it in relative terms. I am not saying that this is better than yesterday. I am saying this is what it is today, and our effort is to make it better than what it is today tomorrow, and not look at how it is compared to past. I am looking at it in a very absolutist way where it is today, but position is relativity to what I am going to do next rather than what I am doing compared to what is in the past. I am saying in that sense.”

1.29 The Committee also sought to know whether the information regarding various track dialogues are available in the public domain or the same are of confidential nature. Foreign Secretary replied as under:

“Sir, 1.5 Dialogues are public because they bring out their own websites. I know EU and UAE have a website. Canada and USA have multiple 1.5 dialogues. In the US you have this Ananta SPIN dialogue, Carnegie dialogue, Brookings dialogue. So, within one country, you have four or five, and each one runs on its own website. But these are all public. Absolutely, none of these is confidential. These are some of the flagship conferences which we work on. Global Technology Summit is the latest of this. This is the sixth one. This is not all that old. Raisina is probably the older. Indian Ocean Conference can be made more intense, and more useful. Then, we have the Asia Economic Dialogue which focusses on the geo-economics. These are some of the conferences where policy planning works with the organisers to ensure that our point of view, our interest, etc. are flagged out and projected.

These are some of the weekly and monthly reports that we bring in-house for the consumption of the Divisions, and for the consumptions of the rest of the Ministry. There is a daily report on the foreign policy because they serve as the junction of the Ministry to bring it all together as a global conflict monitor. It is a very info-graphic oriented so that in a single shot you can see the spread of conflict.

xxxxxx. We have, of course, the Annual Report which is submitted officially to the Government. These are some of the researches which we commissioned in-house to be able to go in depth into what are our policy options could be. So, a lot of the deficits of the policy planning dialogues that you mentioned, are sometimes addressed through these commissioned researches to incorporate that point of view. Our idea is not to leave any

gaps in geographies when it comes to policy making. So, this commissioned research helps us quite a lot in doing this.”

1.30 Asked how these researches are commissioned, the Foreign Secretary responded as under:

“We partner with universities and think tanks. We first do the need analysis. Based on that we commission them. We work with ICWA, RIS, etc. They do their own in-house research also, which gets fed into us as a value proposition. In fact, for me it was an eye opener. I was there at the ICWA Governing Board Council just a few days ago. If you put together conferences, research publications, viewpoints, roughly the total would be 300. So, it is virtually one a day in that sense. If being ‘prolific’ is a problem, then ICWA has a classic case of prolific problem. It is a great value proposition because it helps us to know these things. This is also a global trend in the sense. For example, on defence issues, through the Ministry of Defence, we work very closely to understand the core issues related to defence. There are many others which are not mentioned here, which we do. For example, on the economic space we work through the Finance Ministry. Of course, RIS is there. There is Delhi Policy Group. There is Centre for Policy Research. There are new organisations. So, these things keep evolving. Now, they are even going outside Delhi. In Mumbai, for example, Gateway House brings out some phenomenal publications, some in partnership with us, and some on their own. Bengaluru has this Kautilya Dialogue, which works very strongly. We have in the last three or four dialogues started the NADI dialogue essentially with the North-East of the country where the EAM was also present. This is about how the narrative building takes place because a lot of this also serves us to put up our own narrative. One of the classic examples of how this narrative is fed through think tank community is our position on Russia-Ukraine conflict. This is no era for war plus diplomacy and dialogue has got such a strong narrative out in the market partly because of think tanks, and partly because of Government positioning that it is now a part of the G 20 communique. That is the ultimate reflection that your narrative has not only been understood but also appreciated and found acceptance, and got incorporated subsequently in a policy document of a probably the most important international body, that is G20. So, I think, this is one classic evidence of how narrative which we want to project finds a presence through a series of steps into a document where you wanted to land. This is the discourse beyond Delhi. So, we have taken the studies on connectivity projects between India and Bangladesh, and Bhutan-Myanmar-Nepal. This is NADI dialogue, Natural Alliance on Development and Interdependence Initiative at Guwahati. This is about Imphal Conclave, which is on North-East Initiative. We have started a new forum. We encourage a forum Raisina Forum for Future of Diplomacy. This year we did the first session. We invited 30 diplomats from other countries for a ten days programme in Delhi and travel rest of India so that they see the country. At least they look at India with an open mind. Many of these have never visited India. So, the idea is to catch the next generation of potential policy makers of those countries, and start interacting and interfacing with them very early on.

1.31 Noting that the various track dialogues Europe and East Asia centric and do not include any dialogue with African countries, or with our own neighbouring countries, except China, as also

the North American and South American countries, except USA and Brazil, the Committee sought to know the reason for the same. In response, Foreign Secretary stated as under:

“I agree with you entirely on that one. It is absolutely correct. If you map Africa in terms of presence of Think tanks, we have one of these very established mechanisms called Foreign Office Consultations, wherein the Secretary of the Division which looks after Africa would travel to Africa. Many of these countries do not necessarily have an established Policy Planning Division. So, for us to have a Track 1 dialogue, I need to have a Policy Planning Division on the other side also. I was in Nepal as Ambassador.

The Policy Planning Division in the Foreign Ministry is not manned or empowered at a level that they can have that conversation in their full empowerment. Similar is the case with many of the African countries. So, what we try and do is that, when we go to Africa, for example, for the foreign office consultations, then the Secretary concerned will have an interface with the relevant stakeholders within the Foreign Ministry who contribute to the policy making. So, it is not because of lack of desire on our part. From our side, we are ever ready to constitute new and new dialogues. In fact, there was once a criticism as to why you are doing so many policy planning dialogues. But genuinely speaking, there is a constraint on the other side. A lot of these we try to fulfil through ICWA. ICWA is also a Government-associated body. They take up a lot of these roles. In the neighbourhood we also try and do a lot of things. We used to have, we still have it though it is dormant, what is called SAARC Think tank mechanism. So, what we will have is that the Think tank in Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Bangladesh coming together and have an interface directly with the Policy Planning Divisions because in those countries they tend to feed into the policy making part of their countries. But I have taken this point as a point for compliance. We will proactively map out each of the countries in Africa and in neighbourhood. I mean we will initiate on our own that we want to do a policy planning dialogue, and whichever country is ready to do it with us, we will be happy to take it forward.”

iii) Constraints faced by think tanks

1.32 On being asked about the constraints being faced in the growth of foreign policy think tanks in India as also how the same can be eased or removed, the Ministry submitted as under:

“As India’s stature in the World rises, there is an increasing interest, both Indian and foreign, to establish Think Tanks in India- to understand India and its foreign policy, undertake foreign policy research and policy advocacy activities in India. The number of think tanks in India is expanding at a healthy rate. According to a study, India now houses the third largest think-tank ecosystem in the World, after USA and China.

However, according to think tanks in the country, two major constraints being faced in the development of think tanks in the country are shortage of funds and shortage of qualified researchers and policy researchers.

The growth of think tanks in India should be encouraged through an organic process- through greater interest and funding from trusts, foundations and private organizations- both for long-term finance without strings attached as well as for projects. At the same time, transparency about the source of funding should be ensured. Think tanks

need to be open about their source of funding in order to maintain credibility and avoid conflict of interest. Think Tanks would benefit from greater transparency, as well as autonomy from the funding organizations. Research and education in foreign policy, public policy, economics, international law, security studies, etc. can be encouraged in the country.

c) Autonomous Think Tanks under MEA

1.33 The Committee have understood that ICWA and RIS are two autonomous research bodies which function under the Ministry of External Affairs and the PP&R Division processes the grant in aid for ICWA and RIS as well as the administrative matters pertaining to their governance. The division is also responsible for tabling the Annual Reports of ICWA and RIS in the Parliament.

1.34 On being asked whether any assessment of the working of ICWA and RIS has been done by the division so far, the Ministry in their written reply have submitted as under:

“Apart from its annual financial support, MEA continues to actively assess the work programme of ICWA and RIS so that it is in alignment with the evolving priorities and focus areas of India’s foreign policy goals. EAM is the Vice-President of the Governing Council and a member of the Governing Body of ICWA. Foreign Secretary is a member of both the Governing Body and the Governing Council of ICWA. Foreign Secretary and Secretary (Economic Relations) in the MEA attend the meetings of the Governing Council of RIS and share their vision which forms a vital part of the work programme of RIS.

At the functional level, PP&R Division maintains regular contact with ICWA and RIS. It also coordinates with various divisions of the Ministry where inputs and programmatic & research support might be required from ICWA and RIS. Senior officials of the MEA participate in the wide range of conferences, dialogues and workshops organized by ICWA and RIS on core areas of India’s interest in the geopolitics and geoeconomics, trade, finance, development, neighborhood connectivity and South South Cooperation and share their perspectives on emerging issues of critical importance to India.

MEA also works with ICWA and RIS to hold track 1.5 and 2 dialogues on emerging issues so as to promote India’s foreign policy objectives. RIS also organizes the meetings of BRICS and IBSA Academic and Civic forums with the support of MEA.”

1.35 The Committee also sought to know whether the Ministry has institutional arrangements with think tanks other than the ICWA and RIS. The Ministry in their written reply have stated that apart from RIS and ICWA, MEA engages with other established think tanks for organizing seminars/conferences/Track 1.5 dialogues, conducting research projects, etc. The details of the same are in **Annexure-I**.

1.36 On being asked whether in the opinion of the Ministry, ICWA & RIS as think tanks in India, are more in the reactive mode than proactive, the Ministry in their written reply have stated that Think Tanks in India, including RIS and ICWA, work on both proactive mode- in which India specific foreign policy priorities and initiatives, best practices, homegrown solutions, expertise, etc. are promoted and explained, as well as in reactive mode- to respond to major geopolitical, geo-economic, geo-technological or geo-strategic shifts, as well as give fact based data and arguments to place the policies and steps taken by the government in better perspective, etc.

1.37 The Committee also sought to know whether any biases have crept in the working of ICWA and RIS including the research agenda, the Ministry in their written reply have stated as under:

“Both RIS and ICWA carry out their programmes in an independent manner as autonomous policy research institutions.

Their research focus is not only topical, but also demand driven- based on consultations and requirements of various stakeholders including Ministries and Departments of Government of India, foreign think tanks and institutes, and the research focus of their scholars/faculty.

The two organizations have been founded under different sets of legislations, have different research orientations, follow different approaches to engagement with the World, with ICWA having an “Area studies approach” while RIS emphasizing on “South-South cooperation”.

They also have different monetary funding mechanisms. While ICWA is wholly funded by GOI, RIS has been given the power to generate funds by way of “Consultancy fee and like charges” by conducting specialized studies and programmes for its partner institutions and bodies within the country or abroad.”

1.38 The Committee note that the Policy Planning & Research Division was established in the Ministry of External Affairs in 1966. In 1984, the mandate of the division was enhanced to assist in foreign policy formulation, preparation of position papers, analysis of international affairs, assessment of critical situations, preparation of drafts for speeches of President/ PM/ EAM, conduct of seminars and studies, etc. The Committee also note that the division’s mandate was extended further in 2015 with an aim to providing greater visibility to Indian foreign policy, articulate the Indian view on major emerging global developments, receive and deliberate on new ideas, attract high-level international participation in flagship

events, provide useful exposure to the Indian think-tank institutions and help advance India's leadership projection in the world. The Committee are pleased to note that the PP&R Division of the Ministry has in the years since supported several collaborative activities with think tanks through conferences, seminars/webinars, Track 1.5/2 dialogues, and research projects to advance the extended mandate assigned to them. However, in Committee's view the division needs to be strengthened and well equipped to conduct or collaborate in more and more established conferences/dialogues to upscale the targets and outcomes while simultaneously enlarging the scope of engagement with more think-tanks and regions across the country and the world and they may be apprised accordingly.

(Recommendation No. 1)

1.39 The Committee note that ever since the thrust of PP&R Division was centered towards creating Indian global flagship platforms which would allow India to articulate its foreign policy directions to a global audience, they have been reaching out to the strategic and foreign policy community by supporting several collaborative activities. As a result, several flagship Indian platforms evolved at the global level, namely, the Raisina Dialogue, the Indian Ocean Conference, the Global Technology Summit, the Asia Economic Dialogue, etc. Among these platforms, the 'Raisina Dialogue' by the Observer Research Foundation has become the global benchmark to reflect Indian thinking and over a period of time, it has evolved as a platform which rivals any other international conference. At the same time, the Committee take note of the popularity of certain other platforms like Shangri-La Dialogue, the Munich Security Conference, etc. In a global scenario where it is extremely important for the world outside to know not only what you think but to appreciate and accept the same also, the Committee desire that the PP&R Division of MEA position India before the

international community through multiple structural platforms and strive to make each one of them, a platform that the entire world aspire to be a part of.

(Recommendation No. 2)

1.40 The Committee understand that the Policy Planning Division of the Ministry is a true junction box of all thinking where all ideas, information and inputs land from different sources from within the Ministry and outside, including from Policy Planning Dialogues. It is their job to assimilate, analyze and filter through all of it to generate meaningful research output that builds the knowledge base of the Ministry and our Missions abroad. The Committee also note that the policy planning is not just limited to what the Government thinks but also to respond to what is happening outside the Government including the thoughts of international think tanks, thoughts of civil society about India's position and they way the academia look at different relationships that India have. Hence, the Committee desire that the division maintain robust interfaces with all elements which are external to the Government including the business and the corporate community. Since the policy planning work needs whole of Government approach and the work is very crucial, the Committee further desire that the division keeps itself up to date with the latest thinking, with the best of the personnel who could create anchored policy framework for building a strong India narrative abroad.

(Recommendation No. 3)

1.41 The Committee note that the Policy Planning Division prepares research papers, policy briefs and situation reports pertaining to global developments/ international affairs in general and India's foreign policy in particular. The publications of Policy Planning Division are non-classified and shared mostly within the government apparatus, and also to heads of leading think tanks. The Annual Report of the Ministry which is a compilation of its activities

is a public document. The speeches of the External Affairs Minister, spokesperson and the contents of conferences are all put together into an India Narrative, which is also out in the market. Further, the website of the Ministry also provides for information on bilateral relations of India with various countries. The Committee, however, feel that there is lack of awareness amongst the general public regarding the activities of the Ministry and access to most of the pertinent information compiled by Ministry is restricted to limited fraternity. The Committee desire that the Ministry may take steps towards wider dissemination of its publications, including Reports, Briefs and compendia as well as that of its network of think tanks and autonomous bodies. The Committee also desire that the Ministry actively work on a mechanism to proactively converse with the people of India in layman language, as well as in Rajbhasha and major regional languages on the issues related to external affairs and India's foreign policy.

(Recommendation No. 4)

1.42 The Committee note that the Ministry has taken positive steps towards initiating direct interface with the student's fraternity through their universities. The Committee have been informed that the Ministry is currently in the process of shaping an engagement with 75 identified universities all over India for the purposes of generating research content, using the interface with the universities to build a narrative, encouraging greater interest on topics of foreign policy particularly those topics which have a huge domestic resonance. The Committee appreciate the initiative taken by the Ministry to catch the next generation of potential policy makers and start interacting and interfacing with them very early on. The Committee are hopeful that the Ministry would continue its efforts to create more opportunities for the student fraternity to be actively part of foreign policy making and

directly sponsor research studies of relevance in select universities and apprise the Committee about the outcomes in this regard.

(Recommendation No. 5)

1.43 The Committee are given to understand that as part of India's G 20 residency the Ministry are organizing G-20 university connect wherein about 200 meetings of G-20 are being organized spread over each and every State and Union Territory of India. The Committee have also been given to understand that directions have been given to organizers of these G-20 meetings to mandatorily connect with the local universities and the think tank ecosystem available there in respective State and Union territory and to engage them through a side event of the G-20 meeting. While the Committee appreciate the initiative taken by the Ministry to utilise the G20 Summit as an opportunity to connect with the various Think Tanks and Universities in the country, the Committee are of the considered view that the Ministry should utilize this opportunity and those of similar events in future too to strengthen its network of interaction with the think tanks and extend it further to go regional and sub-regional levels. The Committee are also hopeful that the Ministry would continue in its endeavours to connect to local Universities and think tanks of the country and utilize the interface for the purposes of generating research content as well as encouraging greater interest amongst the student community on topics of foreign policy particularly topics which have a huge domestic resonance and apprise the Committee about the achievements made through such initiatives.

(Recommendation No. 6)

1.44 The Committee understand that outreach to the strategic and foreign policy community is one of the core verticals of PP&R Division. The Committee are given to understand that the Division supports four annual flagship conferences organized in

partnership with prominent Indian think-tanks - Raisina Dialogue (in partnership with Observer Research foundation), Asia Economic Dialogue (in partnership with Pune International Centre), Global Technology Summit (in partnership with Carnegie India) and Indian Ocean Conference (in partnership with India Foundation), which are broadly themed under geopolitics, geoeconomics, geotechnology and geostrategy, respectively. The Committee note that these Conferences have been organized across various cities in India and abroad, for instance the Global Technology Summit was held in Bengaluru, Indian Ocean Conference was held in various countries in the Indian Ocean Region and the Asia Economic Dialogue was held in Pune. The Committee have also been informed that besides these conferences there are various national level seminars being held from time to time in collaboration with think tanks, universities and academic institutions in different locations across the country to generate greater awareness on foreign policy issues such as the NADI Dialogue (Guwahati), Maha Rana Pratap Annual Geopolitics Dialogue (Udaipur), Policy Dialogue “Act East to Indo-Pacific: Role of North-east Indian states in ‘Connecting the Connectivities’” (Imphal), Third India-Japan Intellectual Conclave (Agartala), etc. The Committee are happy to note that the policy discourse is not restricted to Delhi and urge the Policy Planning Division to take it to regional locations more often and ensure involvement of more think tanks and organizations across India in such endeavours.

(Recommendation No. 7)

1.45 The Committee are given to understand that Indian Missions/posts abroad not only act as the representative of India but also play a key role in gathering information on the diplomatic frontline, disseminating information to the overseas public and promoting of diplomatic relations. As a part of these activities, the Missions and Posts abroad maintain active engagements with prominent think tanks, research scholars and experts in the

countries of their jurisdiction and the feedback is periodically shared with the Ministry in the form of political reporting and assessments by Missions. Taking note of this, the Committee feel that Indian Missions can play a more proactive role towards greater engagement with such experts and hence, urge the Ministry to utilize Indian Missions and posts abroad for a deeper and regular exchange of ideas and for channelizing the intellectual inputs/ subject expertise from abroad into the formulation of India's short, medium as well as long-term foreign policy objectives and goals.

(Recommendation No. 8)

1.46 The Committee have been informed that the MEA has a robust internship programme wherein opportunity is given to youths of the country to interface with the daily routine process of the foreign policy making and learn that how does the different wings of Ministry of External Affairs come together to shape a view on a foreign policy issue. It has been further given to understand that there is a high demand for internship in MEA and that the selection process to the programme is fairly rigorous. The Committee have been informed that the candidates who apply and are selected are placed across the Ministry of External Affairs including with the Policy Planning and Research Division whereby they get an opportunity to associate and to see very closely the functioning of the Ministry of External Affairs. The Committee note that the programme is open to graduates and undergraduates from universities across the country. The Committee feel that internship programme of MEA is an excellent opportunity for budding scholars of our country to familiarize themselves with the process of formulation of foreign policy and its implementation. The Committee are hopeful that the Ministry would continue in its efforts through its internship programme to bring foreign policy closer to the people of the country. The Committee further desire that the Ministry strive to ensure that there is sufficient diversity amongst the group of interns

selected with respect to gender, underprivileged sections, geographical domicile and balanced representation from both urban and rural areas so that students from across the country are able to associate themselves with MEA. The Ministry should also create some job opportunities for utilization of services of talented young interns interested in making career in this field.

(Recommendation No. 9)

1.47 The Committee note that Policy Planning Division interfaces with all three Track Dialogues in the country. For Track 1, it is directly responsible, for Track 1.5, it is semi-responsible and for Track 2 its responsibility is only to present Government of India's viewpoint. The Committee are aware that these interfaces generate ideas, which translates to initiatives which then translate into processes, conferences or conference themes. While appreciating the fact that the Division is expanding the number of conferences that it supports to encourage dialogue on foreign policy and international affairs across the country, the Committee find that Track Dialogues in our country are dealt by domain experts. The Committee feel that in an increasingly complex global environment, where peace builders and diplomats looking to address difficult policy challenges are increasingly incorporating track 1.5 and track 2 dialogues in their strategies, the Ministry should seek guidance from Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs on topical issues.

(Recommendation No. 10)

1.48 The Committee understand that India has a rich legacy of think tank ecosystem. The Committee note that the oldest think tank, United Service Institution (USI), was setup as far back as in 1870. The Committee also note that prior to the economic reforms of the 1990s, think tanks in India were largely funded by government or semi-government bodies. However, since the 1990s, private sector think tanks have come up steadily and their

numbers are growing now at a healthy rate. According to a study, India now houses the third largest think-tank ecosystem in the World, after USA and China. The Committee are of the view that growing complexity of global challenges has made the role of think tanks very significant in recent years. Think tanks serve to provide well researched data and information for helping policy makers to make informed choices. They assist in breaking down the complex problems into simpler understandings and help in formulating solutions that cover all the relevant dimensions. The Committee are given to understand that think tanks play a substantive role in dialogue and collaborative work through research, seminars, track 1.5/track 2 events with other foreign think tanks and research organizations, thereby further engaging and familiarizing the global strategic and think tank community with Indian developments and policy orientations. The Committee are also given to understand that many foreign policy concepts/initiatives move from Track 2 dialogues to Track 1.5 dialogues and eventually become Government policy. Keeping in view the same, the Committee desire MEA to take the lead in developing research culture through its PP&R Division, create or support more think tanks and directly interact with universities in the country. Further, taking note of the fact that globally think tanks are projected to assume an even greater role in the implementation and evaluation of public policies and that this trend is likely to be followed in India as well, the Committee also exhort the Government to scale up its current collaboration with think tanks and universities with proper assessment of their funding requirements.

(Recommendation No. 11)

1.49 The Committee note that one of the primary functions of the Policy Planning Division is to conduct bilateral and multilateral policy planning dialogues, especially Track 1, Track 1.5 dialogues. The Committee note that the various track dialogues are mostly Europe and

East Asia centric and do not include any dialogue with African countries, or with our own neighbouring countries, or the North American and South American countries, except USA and Brazil. The Committee are given to understand that many of these countries do not have an established Policy Planning Division and for a Track 1 dialogue to materialise, a Policy Planning Division is needed on the other side also. Despite such constraints the Committee desire the Ministry to proactively map out each of the neighbourhood as well as the African countries and explore the possibility of initiating policy planning dialogue with them, especially in view of India's raising interest in African countries and thrust on Neighbourhood First Policy.

(Recommendation No. 12)

Chapter II

INDIAN COUNCIL OF WORLD AFFAIRS (ICWA)

I. Historical Background

2.1 The Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) was established in 1943 by a group of eminent intellectuals led by Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru and Dr. H.N. Kunzru. The principal objective was to create an Indian perspective on international relations and act as a repository of knowledge and thinking on foreign policy issues. On 31st March 1945, the ICWA was registered under the Registration of Societies Act XXI of 1860.

2.2 From its earliest years, the Council had landmark achievements such as hosting of the 'Asian Relations Conference' a few months before India's independence in March 1947. A total of 243 delegates from the developing countries including 56 from India participated in this conference. This was the precursor of the Afro-Asian Conference in Bandung in 1953. The seeds of the concept of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) can be said to have been sown at ICWA in 1947.

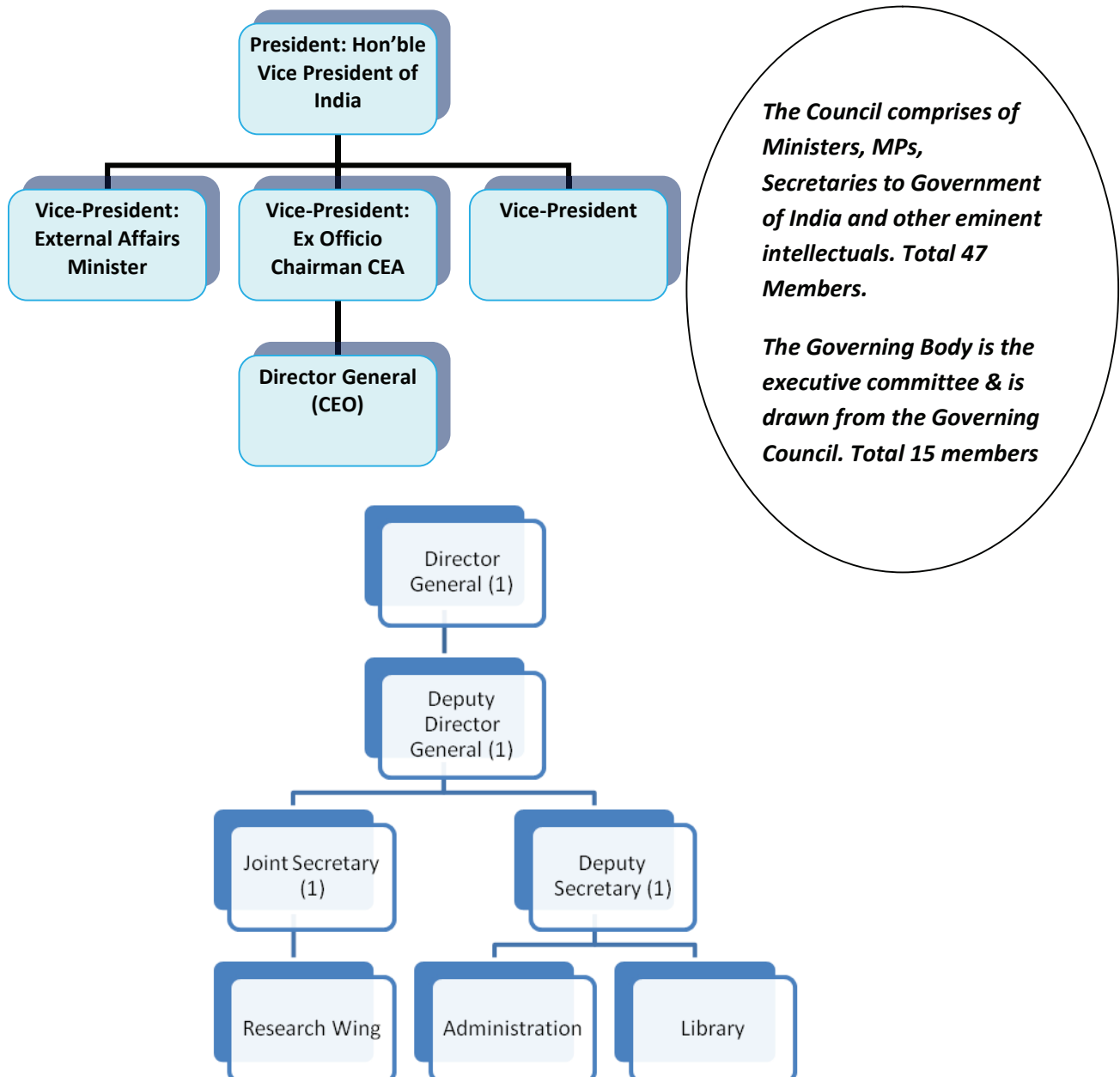
2.3 Many world dignitaries, intellectuals, academicians, journalists and diplomatic community have addressed the Council. The list includes Dag Hammarskjold, former Secretary General, United Nations; Nelson Mandela, President of South Africa; Ho Chi Minh, Prime Minister of Vietnam; Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister of UK, Dr. Henry Kissinger, former Secretary of State of USA; Yasser Arafat President to Executive Committee of PLO, and President XI Jinping of China.

2.4 From a Registered Society, ICWA became an Autonomous Institution under an Act of Parliament in 2001, and it was declared as an 'institution of national importance'. It has a General Body and Governing Council, headed by Hon'ble Vice President of the Republic of India who is the President of the ICWA.

2.5 Over the years ICWA has contributed to promoting the study of International Affairs from an Indian perspective. Currently the Council undertakes numerous research-oriented activities, towards fulfilment of its mandated objectives. The activities include research, publications, bilateral dialogues, international conferences, seminars, lectures and outreach activities.

I. Organisational Structure of ICWA:

2.6 ICWA is an autonomous institute. It has a General Body and Governing Council. The Governing Council (GC) consists of 47 members, 12 of whom are ex-officio posts; 5 Lok Sabha MPs nominated by Speaker, Lok Sabha, 3 Rajya Sabha MPs nominated by Chairman Rajya Sabha and 27 members nominated by the Governing Council. The Governing Body (GB) is the Executive Committee of the Council and comprises 15 members which is constituted by the Governing Council of ICWA. The Director General, appointed by the Governing Council for a fixed tenure of three years is the Chief Executive Officer.



III. Funding of ICWA

2.7 The Committee sought to know about the funds being provided to ICWA. In response the Ministry in their written reply has submitted as under:

“The year-wise grant allocated by Government of India to ICWA in the last 5 years is as below:

FY	ICWA
FY 2018-19	11.87 Cr
FY 2019-20	15 Cr
FY 2020-21	11.83 Cr
FY 2021-22	12 Cr
FY 2022-23	13.74 Cr

2.8 On being asked about the purpose of granting such funds, the Ministry has stated as under:

“The funds are utilized for organizing various conferences, seminars, dialogues, lectures and discussions, conducting outreach activities, publishing books, periodicals, journals and papers, purchasing books for the library and meeting expenditure on general establishment such as payment of salaries, purchase of office equipment and furniture, and repairs and maintenance of the building.

The timely research outputs on important foreign policy issues, in forms of research papers, commentaries, journal articles and books; and informed debates and discussions on bilateral, regional and global developments have been found very useful in developing an Indian perspective on world affairs and promoting India’s relations with other countries”.

IV. Mandate and Activities of ICWA:

2.9 The Indian Council of World Affairs Act, 2001 lays down the objectives of the ICWA under Section 13 as under:

- a. To promote the study of Indian and international affairs so as to develop a body of informed opinion on international matters.
- b. To promote India's relations with other countries through study, research, discussions, lectures, exchange of ideas and information with other organisations within and outside India engaged in similar activities.
- c. To serve as a clearing house of information and knowledge regarding world affairs.
- d. To publish books, periodicals, journals, reviews, papers, pamphlets and other literature on subjects covered under clauses (a) & (b).
- e. To establish contacts with organisations promoting objects mentioned in this section.

- f. To arrange conferences and seminars to discuss and study the Indian policy towards international affairs.
- g. To undertake such other activities for the promotion of ideas and attainment of the above-mentioned objects.

2.10 To fulfill its mandated objectives the Council has focused on the following:

- (i) Expanding and diversifying its in-house research output both in terms of geography as well as thematic issues, keeping in view their importance and relevance to India's foreign and security policies. Thematic studies that received added focus include maritime studies, Indo-Pacific, Ukraine, Afghanistan, and multilateral institutions like SCO, G-20, IORA and the UN.
- (ii) Setting up Special Centers to undertake focused research and analysis in certain specific areas.
- (iii) Enhancing its research activities and publications
- (iv) Increasing the frequency of events such as seminars, conferences, roundtables, and other discussions in both physical and hybrid mode.
- (v) Collaborating with the Ministry of External Affairs and other GOI entities for undertaking special studies and research projects and to organize dialogues, lectures and special events.
- (vi) Signing MoUs/partnerships arrangements and undertaking collaborative research projects with MoU partners in areas of mutual interest.
- (vii) Collaborating with national and international universities and think tanks. This promotes Council's engagement with other think tanks and the related eco-system, thereby enriching research.
- (viii) Commissioning books, monographs, and special studies by external experts and scholars on emerging issues having implications for foreign policy. This increases the research output of the Council.
- (ix) Making Sapru House Library accessible to a wider community of individuals, experts and scholars.
- (x) Actively promoting research output of the Council in Hindi and other national languages through translation of research output into Hindi and other national languages.
- (xi) Dissemination of ICWA output (all publications) on Council's website, and social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, LinkedIn and fortnightly electronic notifications. This aims to increase the access by the wider public to the output and work of the Council.

2.11 Explaining the mandate of ICWA, DG ICWA during the sitting of the Committee on 05.04.2023 stated as under:

“xxx Being a statutory body, our scope of work and the activities that we have to undertake are under the ICWA Act which is in a way comprehensive and in a way very broad in

scope. Our main area is to promote the study of international relations and to develop a body of informed opinion. Second, to promote India's relations with other countries through dialogue, discourse and exchange of ideas. Third, to strive to serve as a clearinghouse and a knowledge institution on international relations. Based on this mandate, we have been carrying out our activities which have ranged actually from programmes, which are lectures, which are discussions, conferences and dialogues, to having our research faculty work and bring out research papers. We have publications that we bring out. And then we have an outreach programme with other think tanks, with the universities. And we work with the general public in terms of the interaction we have through our social media platform. Xxxxxx

2.12 On being asked whether the activities of ICWA are proactive or reactive, DG, ICWA stated as under:

“Of course, our work is guided by the fundamental mandate that we have in the Act. Our effort is to bring out work in a timely fashion.

That is very important as you look at developments which happen. Those developments need a deeper understanding of what is the background against which they are happening and what are the interests of various stakeholders. Are there any conflicting interests and where do the conflicts lie? So, that kind of work is very important to get it out on a timely basis. We do it through all our activities, but of course, there would be events like the Ukraine conflict. The Ukraine conflict is moving on a daily basis. For that kind of an event, we would have to be, in one sense, very reactive about what is happening and what implications will it have. For example, we need to look at what is the implication that the Ukraine conflict is having on the relationship between China and Russia.

So, we would look at that. That would be a way to do relative study to certain developments. But in other sense, we would also look at other issues which are more constant on our agenda and where we would be very pro-active. As we look at India's neighbourhood, we would look at the developments in our neighbourhood on a constant basis. We have deep interests in India's constant interests. In the Indian Ocean region, we would monitor it constantly. We will bring out publications on it constantly, and we would engage with other partners in the region on a regular basis. For example, Indian Ocean, in fact, particularly the Western Indian Ocean, we held a conference in which we looked at how do the smaller islands in India Ocean look at India and what do they like India to do. So, we organized a conference in which we had participants from various island countries. We had participants from Seychelles, Mauritius, Maldives etc. We heard the voices from those parts of the world for which we were pro-active in bringing it together. We got a publication on that. So, in that sense, we are a combination of reactive and pro-active. We governed in that sense, and sometimes the Ministry of External Affairs would ask us to do something that give us a research outcome on what is happening in a particular country. So, we are reacting to a request rather than being pro-active. So, that would be a combination of our work as we structure ourselves.”

A. Research and Dissemination

2.13 Regarding the research activities of ICWA , it has been informed as under:

(a) Research Works by in- house Faculty

The Research Scholars of ICWA were involved in writing research papers- Issue Briefs, View Points and Special Reports- on topical issues in particular those having a bearing on Indian foreign policy interests. They undertook study and research on major political, security, and economic trends and developments in Asia, Africa, Europe, United States, Latin America and the wider global geostrategic and economic environment, examining and analysing their global and regional implications. The Council has published 167 Issue Briefs, 136 View points, and 5 Special reports since April 2021.

A Special volume on Afghanistan crisis, a volume of China's BRI assessing the experiences and responses in different regions across the world and a volume titled ICWA Global Review 2023 were brought out.

The Research Faculty were encouraged to undertake Sapru House Papers which are comprehensive future- oriented policy research papers on selected topics related to foreign policy and international affairs and which take a longer-term view on important issues in international affairs. The aim is to contribute new policy ideas or new empirical work to the body of existing knowledge.

Since April 2021 the Council has worked on 25 Sapru House papers of these 19 are published, and 6 Sapru House papers are in various stages of progress which will be published soon.

Several of these Sapru House papers covered subjects related to China to reflect the current geopolitics and contemporary realities, which include themes such as China and Indo- Pacific, China and Arab World, China-Japan, China-Russia, China- Nepal and China Party Congress. Some of them focused on building ties with small countries like SICA countries in Central America; on political and security dynamics in the neighbourhood with country focus on Sri Lanka and Afghanistan; on foreign policy and changing relations in Gulf, West Asia and Central Asia and on evolving geopolitics in Africa. Some of the papers dwelt on political and connectivity issues related to South East Asia, and Arctic; and on bilateral issues with South Korea and Australia.

(b) Guest Articles and Research Papers by Outside Experts

The Council commissioned several guest articles by external experts viz., academics, former diplomats on range of important subjects, which include the following: Philippines and the South China Sea; Normalization of Ties between Morocco and Israel; The Global (Dis) Order-the Pandemic and the Ukraine Conflict; Revisiting Extended Nuclear Deterrence; India-Iran Ties: Turkey's Quest for Status-Politics of Alliances and Counter Alliances:- ; .and The Changing Contours of Great Power Politics in West Africa. The Council also published a guest article from our counterpart institute in Uzbekistan on 'Potential of Central Asia – India Cooperation by

D. Kurbanov and Sh. Khoshimova. It published guest articles by other foreign scholars which include 'Voice of Global South Summit and Uzbek-India Relations' by EldorTulyakov and 'Uzbekistan on the Eve of the Referendum on the Constitution' by Prof. Amonulla Mukhamedjanov, Tashkent State Law University; 'Irrationalism and International Relations by Tsogtbaatar Damdin, Member of Parliament and Former Foreign Minister of Mongolia; 'Belarus on its Way to the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation: Reflections on the eve of the SCO International Conference of Analytical Centers at ICWA, New Delhi' by Yuri M. Yarmolinsky, Belarusian Institute of Strategic Research.

It also commissioned Special Research Papers on SCO in preparation of India's Chairmanship of SCO from September 2022 -2023 and on G-20 for the forthcoming India's Presidency and published those papers as Special publications.

The Council also came out with special publications on Gallipoli Revisited and Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative. Some of the recent Special Publications that Council came out are: Ukraine Crisis: A Point of Inflection for the Emerging World Order; Beyond Fez and Nazar: Views from India on Turkiye; Concluding on a High Note in the UN Security Council: An Assessment of India's Term 2021-2022; Pushing the Frontiers of Women – led Development: India's G20 Presidency; and Indian Diplomacy and GOI Flagship Programmes. Three Special publications under publication are: Towards Secure SCO: Views of SCO Resident Research Scholars at ICWA; Celebrating 75 Years of Indian Foreign Policy; and US- China Strategic Competition: Aspects and Prospects.

(c) Research Projects with MoU Partners

The Council worked on collaborative research projects with Centre for Public Policy Research (CPPR), Cochin on maritime issues; with National Institute for Advance Studies (NIAS), Bangalore on Pakistan studies; and with United Service Institution of India (USI) on India and UN peacekeeping and Indian Armed forces in France and Flanders during World War I and World War II.

(d) Research Projects with MEA

ICWA conducted studies at the request of Ministry of External Affairs and has shared Reports and Discussion papers with the Ministry, which include the following:

- (i) Project on *Study of Nepal*.
- (ii) Project on *Pakistan* in collaboration with NIAS, Bangalore
- (iii) Project on issues of relevance to *Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)* and on the *Indo- Pacific and the Indo –Pacific Oceans Initiative of India*.
- (iv) Research-oriented activities as Chair of the *Indian Ocean Academic Research Group (IORAG)* from 2019-2021 and as academic nodal point of India in IORA.

- (v) UNSC Academic Project to provide policy inputs in support of India's responsibilities arising from its UNSC tenure 2021-22 through commissioned research.
- (vi) Joint ICWA-MEA Publication on 'Indian Diplomacy and Covid Response'.

(e) Research Project with Ministry of Defence

Besides MEA, the Council also undertook a project tasked by Ministry of Defence on *India – Latin America Defence Cooperation*. The outcome of the study was presented and the reports were shared with MoD.

f) Manpower in Research Faculty

2.14 When the Committee sought to know about the manpower in ICWA Research Faculty, the Ministry in their written reply have stated that as per approval by ICWA Governing Council Research Faculty's sanctioned strength is 30:

Director (Research)	:	01
Senior Research Fellows	:	05
Research Fellows	:	12
Research Associate	:	01
Research Interns	:	05

2.15 In this backdrop, it has been submitted by ICWA that getting quality researchers is a challenge including their retention. They have further submitted as under:

- i. ICWA Research Faculty's sanctioned strength (30) is adequate and we expect numbers to remain around the same range in future.
- ii. ICWA's focus is to hire Research Faculty with experience, exposure and knowledge in their domain areas and also having in-depth understanding of broad global themes and trends.
- iii. For this, ICWA selection criteria will focus more on the expertise, knowledge & presentation skills in addition to academic qualifications like Ph.D, Masters etc.
- iv. To give a younger profile to the Research Faculty, additional hiring of Research Associates will be considered on a need basis.
- v. Proper incentive structure including pay raise and allowances as applicable and required can be considered. All such proposals and considerations are deliberated and discussed/ decided in the Governing Body and Governing Council of ICWA headed by Hon'ble Vice President and has External Affairs Minister and Chairperson, Parliamentary Standing Committee as Vice President.

2.16 On the issue, DG, ICWA, during the sitting held on 05.04.2023 stated as under:

“Then, we would also come to the fact that what would be and how can we increase the output and impact of ICWA activities. I would say that one challenge that we face, I suppose, is also because you have a growing thinking community in India. It is very difficult to get quality research faculty because of that competition. It is even now difficult to retain them because they keep looking for more opportunities. So, I would look at how we can have a system under which we can give some increase to our research faculty whether it is based on DA or annual increment of a certain percentage that would be helpful in terms of attracting and retaining talent.

B. PUBLICATIONS

2.17 ICWA publications include Sapru House Papers, Special Publications, ICWA Guest Columns, Viewpoint, Issue Briefs, Special Reports, Oral history Project, etc.

a) Sapru House Papers

ICWA has published 20 Sapru House papers and 5 are under publication. These papers are comprehensive analytical studies on selected topics related to foreign policy and international affairs from an Indian perspective. These are useful for academics, policymakers and students of International relations. The topics are chosen based on global regional and country specific developments to understand possible implications for India. The studies on the chosen topics are undertaken to fill the gaps in research on the subject, with an aim to contribute new policy ideas or new empirical work to the body of existing knowledge. These papers are widely disseminated to policy makers, research institutes, universities and the wider public. These papers have an impact in shaping discourse on foreign policy and international relations from an Indian perspective.

b) Book Publications

The Council published books which include single authored books, edited books and conference proceedings. Since April 2021 ICWA has published 32 books which include 18 single authored and edited books and 14 conference proceeding books. 4 books and 3 conference proceedings book are under publication.

Books published cover a wider spectrum of subjects. Its recently published books are titled: The Harambee Factor: India-Africa Economic and Development Partnership; Arab World in Transition and the Quest for a New Regional Order; Between Survival and Status: The Counter-Hegemonic Geopolitics of Iran; Indian Diplomacy and Covid Response; Advancing Reformed Multilateralism in the Changing World; K M Panikkar and The Growth of a Maritime Consciousness in India; China's BRI in Different Regions of the World: Cooperation, Contradictions and Concerns; भारत- अफगानिस्तान संबंध:

इतिहास एवं विदेश नीति के आईने; भारत-म्यांमार सीमा पार आधारभूत संरचनाओं का विकास एवं उर्जा सहयोग; कलादान परियोजना का अध्ययन ; भारत की बौद्ध मूर्तिकला और अराकान (म्यांमार) पर उसका प्रभाव ; A Master Catalogue of the Manuscripts and Published Editions of the Works ; and G20@2023: The Roadmap to Indian Presidency.

Two books published on the occasion of 50 years of India-Bangladesh diplomatic relations are titled: A Bangladesh War Commentary by U L Baruah and India – Bangladesh 50 Years of Friendship by Samudra Gupta Kashyap. The latter book on India- Bangladesh was brought out as part of the initiative undertaken at the behest of the President of the Council to come out with a publication targeted at the general public and not a specialized reader.

It may be noted that books authored by outside experts are commissioned by the Council through its Book Research Grant scheme to eminent experts as well as emerging scholars to diversify its area of research. Since April 2021 21 book projects were approved by the Research Committee of ICWA which extend from area studies to thematic issues.

Currently 41 previous book projects are in various stages of progress. A concerted effort is being made by the Council to ensure that there is a time bound submission of these book projects.

c) Translations

In order to reach out to a wider audience, the Council brought out translations of some of its book publications into Hindi and regional languages in accordance with the directions of the President of the Council. Since the last meeting it has brought out 8 book translations- 5 in Hindi, 1 in Tamil, 1 in Urdu and 1 in Malayalam. Another 8 are under translation into Hindi, Urdu and Bangla.

ICWA continued to publish translated versions of its academic articles in Hindi. In pursuit of this objective, all Viewpoints, Issue Briefs, Sapru House Papers, Special Reports were translated into Hindi and published on the Hindi version of the ICWA website. Among the think tanks, ICWA has been at the forefront of putting Hindi articles on its website. This has been appreciated by the universities and colleges from Hindi hinterland.

The following ICWA publications have been translated and published:

In Hindi

- (i) Pakistan: The Balochistan Conundrum by TilakDevasher;
- (ii) India-China Boundary Issues by Ranjit Singh Kalha;
- (iii) Latin America, Caribbean and India: Promise and Challenge by Deepak Bhojwani,
- (iv) ICWA Global Review 2022
- (v) Kashmir: A Study in India-Pakistan Relations by Sisir Gupta

In Urdu

- (i) The Balochistan Conundrum by TilakDevasher

In Malayalam

- (i) The Legitimacy of Power: The Permanence of Five in the Security Council by Dilip Sinha

In Tamil

(i) India Relations with IMF by V. Srinivas's book

d) India Quarterly

ICWA regularly publishes its flagship journal 'India Quarterly' since 1945. The journal is on a steady course and has consolidated its position in recent years.

This is a reputed peer reviewed journal on international affairs which is now listed on reputed abstract and citation data bases such as SCOPUS, 'International Political Science Abstracts' and 'ABC of Political Science'.

Both Indian and foreign scholars contribute articles to the India Quarterly. Articles by authors from UK, Australia, Finland, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Nigeria, Malaysia and Russia besides India have been published in recent issues of India Quarterly. In a recent effort, the ICWA Research Faculty is also being encouraged to submit original research articles for publication in the journal; and ICWA publications are being reviewed in the IQ by external reviewers.

Special issues of India Quarterly, and the inclusion of guest editors, have brought additional focus on important anniversaries and events, such as the recent issue on India@75 the special issue on Afghanistan and India's Borderlands.

The journal has also begun its Hindi edition, a valuable contribution to foreign affairs discussions for the Hindi speaking constituency.

2.18 On being asked whether ICWA has any proposals in the pipeline to get versions of its academic articles translated in other languages other than Hindi, Tamil, Urdu, Malayalam, and Bangla. Ministry in their written reply have stated as under:

"In order to reach out to a wider audience, the Council has laid emphasis on bringing out translations of its book publications from English into Hindi and regional languages. Depending on the subjects and authorship it has brought out translations of its selected books in Hindi, Tamil, Urdu, Malayalam, and Bangla. These efforts will continue including for other languages depending upon the subject of ICWA books. However, it is a challenge to get quality translators who have knowledge of international affairs to understand the tone, tenor and the nuances of terminologies."

2.19 Further the Committee sought to know whether ICWA has any plans to make India Quarterly journal available in other vernacular languages. The Ministry in their written reply have stated that at present there is no proposal under consideration to get 'India Quarterly' translated in any Indian languages other than Hindi. They have further informed that it is difficult to get quality translators who can understand the nuances of the subject.

2.20 Explaining further on the matter, DG, ICWA, during the sitting held 05.04.2023 on stated as under:

“We have been doing some translation work and we are undertaking them based on the topic which is written and the interest that it evokes. But we do have one limitation in terms of our translation and broadening it. It is a challenge to get quality translators who have knowledge also of the international relations and the various nuances and the tone and tenor of international relations. So, that is one limitation that we get when we look at our translation work.”

C. Events: Seminars, Lectures, Conferences, Dialogues and Other Activities

2.21 ICWA in their background note have submitted that as per its mandate ICWA undertook numerous intellectual activities to promote India’s relations with other countries and to discuss India’s policy towards international affairs. The activities included bilateral dialogues, international conferences, seminars, lectures and discussions. Some of these activities are organized in collaboration with Ministry of External Affairs. They have further submitted that since April 2021 the ICWA has organized 126 events which were mix of lectures, talks, bilateral dialogues, international and national seminars, book launches, panel and round-table discussions, which were organized in physical and hybrid mode. The digital hybrid mode enabled easier participation of scholars/experts based abroad and this has had a positive impact on the content of ICWA’s conversations making it more engaging and productive. Some discussions were held close –door with restricted participation to have a frank and candid interaction.

2.22 Detailing the Council’s activities, ICWA in their background note has stated as below.

(a) Lectures/Talks

(i) Sapru House Lectures were delivered by visiting foreign dignitaries, which include Lectures delivered by Mr. Abdulla Shahid, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Maldives; Mr. Nikola Selaković, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia and Ambassador Salman Al Farisi, Secretary General, IORA, H.E. Mr. Csaba Kőrösi, President, 77th UN General Assembly (UNGA) and H.E. Mr Fumio Kishida, Prime Minister of Japan. The objective was to give a platform to the visiting dignitary to present their views on issues of interest to bilateral relations or to India and to provide for an interaction of the dignitary with an informed audience. The next Sapru House Lecture is scheduled to be delivered later this month by H.E. Enrique Manalo, Foreign Minister of Philippines.

(ii) Special lectures were delivered by visiting foreign dignitaries and those include lecture by Hasan Mahmud, Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Government of Bangladesh on the occasion of book launch, VuongDinh Hue, President of the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and Shahidul Haque, Former Foreign Secretary, People’s Republic of Bangladesh Vladimir Norov, Secretary General, Shanghai

Cooperation Organisation and Emine Dzhaparova First Deputy Foreign Minister of Ukraine. A Talk on “Situation in Myanmar” was given by U Min Zin, Founding Member and Executive Director, Institute for Strategy and Policy, Myanmar, which was a close –door event and a Talk was delivered by Dr Ali BagheriKani, Political Deputy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iran, which was also a close – door interaction.

(b) International Interactions

International interactions in the form of Conferences, Bilateral Dialogues, and online interactions were organized by the Council on important themes of international affairs. Since April 2021 the Council has organized 40 international interactions. The Council, in its conferences, seminars and bilateral dialogues gave priority to engage a more diverse set of voices in the discussion and debates. At the national level, experts and scholars were invited from various think tanks, universities and research institutes across the country, to participate as resources person in the international conferences.

(i) Bilateral Track II Dialogues were held online with our MoU partners in Russia, Uzbekistan, China, Poland, South Korea, Hungary, Spain, New Zealand, Vietnam, Peru, Colombia, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Singapore and UAE. Dialogue with Morocco is scheduled for later in June 2023.

(ii) Bilateral Track I.5 Dialogues were held with partners in Germany and UK.

In these Dialogues the Council brought together a cross section of Indian analysts and experts from various universities, research institutes, to interact with the counterpart delegation on range of areas of mutual interest at the bilateral and regional level. In most of these dialogues Head of Indian Missions and Foreign Heads of Missions in Delhi participated.

The Council held interactions with visiting dignitaries from Australia, Vietnam, Iran, Uzbekistan, Latvia, Slovakia, Albania, China and experts from Russia, RoK, Japan and Myanmar.

(iii) International Conferences: The Council also organized a number of international online conferences and events. Some of the important international conferences organized were the 8th Indian Ocean Dialogue on Post-Pandemic Indian Ocean : Leveraging Digital Technologies for Health, Education, Development and Trade in IORA Member States; and the Indian Ocean Rim Academic Group Meeting organised in partnership with MEA; India-Japan Relations at 70: Reflections and Way Forward; Commemorating Thirty Years of India-ASEAN Relations-Geopolitical Shifts and Opportunities: New Horizons in India-Southeast Asia Relations; and India and the Island States in the Indian Ocean: Evolving Geopolitics and Security Perspectives; and Strategic Competition in the South China Sea: Interests, Defence and Diplomacy; Dynamics of India-Central Asia Relations: Scale & Scope; Shanghai Cooperation Organization: Reconnect ~ Rejuvenate and International conference on Indian Armed Forces in Flanders during WWI and WWII. These international conferences saw wide participation by scholars and experts from various countries in the respective areas.

(c) National Seminars/Panel Discussions/Round Tables Discussions/Book Discussions

ICWA organized 53 intellectual activities in form of online seminars webinars, Panel discussions, roundtable discussions and Book discussions. Some of these discussions were held with restricted participation as close –door events.

Some of the major national seminars held were on India's Development Partnership: Expanding Vistas and India-Nepal Development Partnership and on Celebrating 75 Years of Indian Foreign Policy'. Several panel discussions that were organized focused on themes such as G-20, Abraham Accords, Extended Nuclear Deterrence; Pakistan's Continuing Political and Economic Crisis, India-Egypt Ties , Diaspora in an era of Amrit Kaal, India-Bangladesh Relations and The Evolving Situation in Pakistan and Afghanistan. A number of book discussions were held including ICWA Books. Some of the important books discussed were: Indian Diplomacy and Covid Response; The Harambee Factor-India- Africa Partnership; India- Africa Relations; Between Survival and Status Counter-Hegemonic Geopolitics of Iran; and Arab World in Transition – Quest for a New Regional order and The Pashtuns: A Contested History'.

The Council has initiated for the first time Round Table discussions series led by Head of Diplomatic Missions in Delhi. Recently held such discussions include Ambassadors' Round Table Discussion on 'Relations between India and SICA (Central American) Countries, Ambassadors Panel discussion on the occasion of Africa Day.

d) Activities organized in collaboration and Participation with MEA

A number of Council's activities are organized in support and coordination with Ministry of External Affairs. Sapru House Lectures delivered by visiting foreign dignitaries were organized in coordination with MEA. The latest Sapru House Lecture organized in collaboration with MEA was the lecture by H.E. Mr Fumio Kishida, Prime Minister of Japan. Events such as the celebration of the 50th anniversary of India-Vietnam Diplomatic Relations, 'Maitri Diwas' the India-UK Strategic Futures Forum dialogue or the international conference on Shanghai Cooperation Organization Reconnect ~ Rejuvenate under India's Presidency were conducted with MEA. MEA representatives regularly participated in a range of our activities. In some conferences and dialogues conceptualized and organized by ICWA, there was participation at the level of EAM, MoS, Foreign Secretary and Secretaries from the Ministry of External Affairs.

EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar addressed the India-UK Strategic Futures Forum, a Book Launch on Africa and Celebration of 5th Anniversary of India-Vietnam Comprehensive Strategic Partnership 2016-2021.

MoS Shri V. Muraleedharan participated in the Book Launch and 'Africa Day' commemoration. MoS Shri RajkumarRanjan Singh participated in the Conference on 30 Years of India-ASEAN Friendship; and IORA-Indian Ocean Dialogue.

Foreign Secretary addressed the launch of the Book on 'Covid and Indian Diplomacy' and the India-Bangladesh MaitriDiwas, in which the Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina sent a Video message. MEA Secretaries addressed ICWA's

events on IORA, SCO and Africa. G-20 Coordinator and Former Foreign Secretary chaired a Talk on G-20 by Shri V Srinivas, Secretary, DAPRG. Indian Ambassadors abroad participated in ICWA's Dialogues with its partners in the countries of their accreditation."

2.23 On being asked to explain the nature of collaboration of ICWA with MEA, the Ministry in their written reply have stated as under:

"Collaboration with MEA is carried out by ICWA to fulfill its mandate objectives. ICWA has collaborated with MEA in conducting research and organizing intellectual activities. With regard to research, ICWA has fulfilled MEA's requirements by conducting studies at Ministry's request, for instance on Nepal, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Africa and has submitted the reports. It also contributed to discussion/research papers on IORA and UNSC and carried out the publication of the book Covid and Diplomacy.

ICWA also organizes activities in collaboration and participation of MEA. Representatives from MEA regularly participate in a range of its activities including at the level of EAM, MoS, Foreign Secretary and Secretaries from the Ministry of External Affairs. A number of Council's activities such as Sapru House Lectures delivered by visiting foreign dignitaries are organized in support and coordination with the Ministry of External Affairs. The last Sapru house Lecture was delivered by the Prime Minister of Japan H.E. Mr Fumio Kishida on 20 March 2023.

2.24 When enquired about the special studies and research projects and dialogues, lectures and special events which have been organized by ICWA in collaborating with the Ministry of External Affairs and other GOI entities, the Ministry in their written reply have stated as under:

"The Council conducted following recent studies at the request of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and other GOI entities and has shared the Reports and Discussion papers.

- Study on Nepal
- Study on Afghanistan
- China in Africa
- African Students in India
- Discussion Papers on IORA related to Fishery Management, Disaster Risk management, Maritime Safety and Security and Blue Economy and Industry 4.0 Technologies
- Publication on Covid and Diplomacy
- Academic inputs for UNSC
- Study on India – Latin America Defence Cooperation.

The Council partnered with MEA to organize the following recent activities:

- Discussion to commemorate Maitri Diwas: 50 the Anniversary of India- Bangladesh where Special video message of PM Sheikh Hasina was screened and
- 5th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between India and Vietnam in which President of Vietnam National Assembly delivered the keynote address
- The India-UK Strategic Futures Forum

- International Conference on SCO- Reconnect ~ Rejuvenate
- International Conference on Africa
- Book launch and Discussion on Indian Diplomacy and Covid Response

Sapru House Lectures by Foreign dignitaries. Some of the recent lectures include :

- SHL by Prime Minister of Japan, H.E. Mr Fumio Kishida
- SHL by H.E. Mr. Csaba Korosi, President, 77th UN General Assembly (UNGA)
- Lecture by H.E. Cyril Ramaphosa, President of South Africa in which Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi presided;
- SHL by Mr. Abdulla Shahid, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Maldives;
- SHL by Mr. Nikola Selaković, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia
- SHL by Ambassador Salman Al Farisi, Secretary General.
- SHL by H.E. Mr Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Nepal
- SHL by Rt. Hon. Winston Peters Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, New Zealand”

2.25 Asked about how far ICWA has been successful in bringing about the changes in India’s foreign policy through collaboration with MEA, the Ministry have stated that the ICWA publications are regularly shared with concerned policy makers in MEA. ICWA is engaged with policy makers in MEA in its day-to-day activities especially as regards programme and dialogue activities, thereby contributing to the policy discourse.

D. OUTREACH

2.26 ICWA in a written note have submitted as under:

i) Dissemination of ICWA Products

All ICWA publications in the form of Issue Briefs, View Points, Special Reports and Sapru House Papers are not only shared on the Council’s website but are transmitted electronically every fortnight under “Sapru House Soundings” to Think Tanks, MOU partners (national and international), Members of the Governing Body & Council, Officers of MEA and to a large database of scholars, nationally and internationally. Select papers are also circulated by the Policy & Planning Division of the Ministry of External Affairs in its Foreign Policy daily report.

ii) Memorandums of Understanding

ICWA has undertaken a conscious effort to expand its outreach and signed MoUs with new international and national partners. Currently, the Council has 89 MoU Partners arrangements.

While the international MoUs enable ICWA to structure dialogue and exchange of views with international partners on topics of bilateral and topical interest. National MoUs expand the Council's ability for outreach in terms of awareness creation on foreign policy and international affairs through joint event and joint studies,

Since April 2021, at the international level, the Council has signed MOUs with Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies (ACPSS), Cairo, Egypt; Pontifical University of Peru; Center for Contemporary India and South Asia Studies of Colombia University, Belarusian Institute of Strategic Research, Minsk and Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam, Hanoi.

The Council also revived its MoU with partners, which were not active. It renewed its MoU with COMEXI, Mexico with which a dialogue is scheduled next year in February. It revived its MoU with CASA Asia, Spain with which ICWA had a dialogue after 10 years, which was very engaging and productive; It revived its MoU with Nigerian Institute of International Affairs (NIIA), Nigeria. ICWA, Indonesia and ISPI, Italy with whom joint intellectual activities are planned for next year. With the signing and reviving MoUs with partners in countries of Latin America, Africa and Asia, ICWA is building relations with Global South.

At the national level, the Council concluded MoU with Puducherry University, Delhi University, Punjab University and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

iii) Outreach Conference

ICWA as part of its national outreach activities has been sponsoring seminars/ conferences across India on foreign policy and international relations. ICWA provides a grant of rupees two lakh for this purpose. These outreach conferences are organised in collaboration with several Indian universities and think tanks including Council's MoU partners across the country.

Since April 2021, 14 outreach conferences in Universities have been supported by ICWA in which Council's faculty members participated. Out of the 14 outreach conferences, 10 were held outside Delhi in Amritsar (Punjab), Ajmer (Rajasthan), Kanpur (UP), Siddharth Nagar (Uttar Pradesh), Manipal (Karnataka), Kolkata (West Bengal), Aizawl (Mizoram), Bodh Gaya (Bihar) and Ranchi (Jharkhand) .

It may be also noted that due to pandemic joint activities conducted in collaboration with Universities had reduced as most of the Universities were badly disrupted. However, with opening up of Universities, ICWA has been receiving a number of good proposals and it hopes to organize more such outreach conferences in the coming months.

The Council has made efforts to build synergies with other research institutions. Discussions have been held in collaboration with South Asian University, New Delhi, ASEAN India Centre/ RIS, USI and India Futures, New Delhi and CPPR, Kerala.

iv) Internship

In a written response , ICWA has submitted as under:

To train young scholars interested in policy research on international affairs, ICWA promoted and expanded its internship programme to include not only paid interns who have completed their MA, but also non- paid interns, who are pursuing graduation and post-graduation. At present, 15 interns are currently engaged in the Council.

2.27 The Committee sought to know about steps being taken by ICWA to attract young scholars and also the challenges being faced in this respect. The Ministry in their written reply have stated as under:

“ICWA has a dynamic internship programme through which young researchers get an opportunity to get trained in conducting research on foreign policy and international affairs. Young researchers pursue research internship at ICWA for a period of 6 months extendable to 1 year. The Internship Programme is advertised on the Council’s website. Council receives applications throughout the year and Interns are selected and taken on a continuous basis.

Various steps are taken to attract young scholars. During outreach programmes at universities and academic institutions, ICWA representatives inform students about the internship opportunities.

The Council has entered into MoUs with universities for collaboration, including provision for students pursuing graduation and post-graduation in International Relations to intern at ICWA.

Some institutions from where ICWA has hosted interns recently include Delhi University, Pondicherry University, Christ University, Bengaluru, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru, Manipal University, etc. Besides internship, ICWA has also started engaging students who have completed Masters as Research Associates at ICWA in its Research Programme to attract young scholars.”

2.28 Adding further on the subject, DG, ICWA, during the sitting held on 22.11.2022 submitted as under:

“We have been making efforts to reach out to the broader community of students and the others. We have signed 27 MoUs with different universities. We do reach out to those universities which have Departments relating to international relations. Just recently we have concluded two MoUs with universities which are working on international relations – the University of Puducherry and the University of Delhi. Also, we do take students in on internship of three months and they also have been writing papers. We involve them to that extent. Apart from that, we work with some colleges and others. Not many, but we have done eight conferences and seminars with universities. For example, tomorrow we are supporting a conference in the University of Mizoram where one of our scholars would go and we are discussing the issue relating to Kaladan Project which is a very important project for India. So, we are working with other universities and we are doing seminars outside Delhi. We would be trying to also reach out and create greater awareness and profile about India

2.29 Adding further, DG, ICWA submitted as under:

“We entirely agree that one of our mandates is also to generate interest amongst the younger generation on international relations and to provide a platform for them to come to ICWA. We engage in several ways. One is, of course, they come to join us and they work with us. They work with us for about six months and in those six months we try to involve them in diverse activities of the ICWA. They participate in conferences; they come to seminars. We also encourage all of them to write at least one paper. xxxx most of the interns who have come have written a paper on some aspect of international relations which we have found very useful and they have found it encouraging. When they do complete their internship, we do give them a kind of a letter and recommendation that they worked with us and many of them have come back and told us that our recommendation made a lot of difference and that they found good opportunities opening to them. Some of them even come to us before they apply for universities, I would say, overseas. They feel that if they work in ICWA, it gives them a certain advantage. So, the students do find it useful to come to ICWA. We would, of course, look at how to work with them and expand their association with us. Sometimes, we also try to go out to universities. We have gone out to several universities. We have supported conferences in different universities where we go and participate. The most recent one was when we out to Kanpur and spoke about 75 years of India’s Foreign Policy. There we had a very enthusiastic participation and following these conferences, they get some interest or the other for these students. So, our effort would be to reach out as much as possible.”

2.30 On the issue DG, ICWA also submitted as under:

“The other point which was raised was how do we interact with the universities. We are working with the universities. We find it very useful because it helps them to acquaint with ICWA. Then, we get a lot of interest from them that can we work as interns in your institution. So, over the past few months, we have had interns coming in and coming to us from several institutions whether it was Pondicherry University, whether it was NIAS, Bengaluru, whether it was Manipal University. So, we do get a number of expressions of interest to come to ICWA and work there.”

E. Expanding Role of ICWA

2.31 When asked whether the thrust areas of work of ICWA has changed since its establishment in the wake of India’s expanding international stakes, the Ministry in their written reply stated as under:

“The focus of ICWA since its inception has been on foreign policy and international affairs. From an initial focus on Asian Relations, Afro-Asian Solidarity and related area studies it has now evolved to cover area studies across the globe and thematic issues. The thematic and area studies that have received added focus in recent years include maritime studies, Indo-Pacific, Ukraine, Afghanistan, and multilateral institutions like SCO, G-20, IORA and the UN, Digital diplomacy, Gender issues in international affairs and SDG issues, etc.”

(i) Special Centers set up by ICWA

2.32 The Committee sought to know about Special Centers set up by ICWA to undertake research and analysis in specific area. The Ministry in their written reply have informed as under:

“The Council has setup three Special Centers which include ‘Centre for Shanghai Cooperation Organization(SCO)’, ‘Centre on Migration Mobility and Diaspora Studies (CMMDS)’and ‘Centre for Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP)’to undertake focused research and dialogues on in order to contribute to emerging discourse on these specific areas.

a) Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Centre

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Study Centre was established in ICWA in July 2021 at the request of the Ministry of External Affairs in view of India’s Presidency of SCO in 2022-23 and as a lead think tank engaged in SCO-related activities. In recent years, ICWA has been representing India as the nodal think tank in the Annual SCO Think Tank forum. SCO Secretary General Vladimir Norovhas addressed events organized by ICWA in 2020 and 2021. ICWA has proactively contributed to debates and discussions on SCO. The Centre has published research papers on themes relevant to the Organization. It recently organized an international conference on ‘Shanghai Cooperation Organization :Reconnect ~ Rejuvenate’ and SCO Resident Researcher Programme in collaboration with MEA as activities under the SCO presidency of India.

b) CSCAP Coordination Centre

The Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP) serves as an important mechanism to build closer interaction with various countries in the ASEAN and the wider Indo-Pacific region. CSCAP is a Track 2 network of member institutions. Current members include the 10 ASEAN countries, Australia, Canada, China, India, Japan, South Korea North Korea, Mongolia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Russia, the USA and the EU. CSCAP works by coordinating with the designated think tanks in each member country.

CSCAP Steering Committee meetings are held twice a year. DG, ICWA, participated in the 55th and 56th Steering Committee meetings of CSCAP held in December 2021 and August 2022 respectively in virtual format. The next Steering Committee meeting is scheduled to be held in Jakarta in early December 2022.

c) Centre on Migration Mobility and Diaspora Studies (CMMDS)

The Centre for Migration, Mobility and Diaspora Studies (CMMDS) at the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) has come into effect on 1 August 2022 pursuant to decision of the Government of India to merge the erstwhile India Centre for Migration under the Ministry of External Affairs with the ICWA.

CMMDS functions as the research unit on matters relating to international migration, mobility, and diaspora studies. It seeks to promote safe and orderly mobility of Indian nationals for employment abroad through research on mobility patterns, labour market assessments, procedural and data management issues, pre-departure orientation guidance, etc. It undertakes empirical, analytical and policy related research on international migration and labour mobility as also pilot projects to document good practices. CMMDS follows a multi-pronged approach by organizing workshops, research studies and seminars including in collaboration with relevant academic institutions, State Governments, international organizations as feasible.

In the past, the Centre has collaborated with academic institutions/entities/organisations such as UN Women, European Union (EU), International Organisation for Migration (IOM), International Labour Organisation (ILO), International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), Migration Policy Centre (EUI), the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB), Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), and Maastricht University (Faculty of Law) on various projects pertaining to migration and mobility including India-EU mobility, pre-departure orientation, safety and wellbeing of women workers, labour market assessments, data management, etc.

CMMDS envisions to lead research and analysis on international migration, mobility and diaspora to support informed policy making and enable strategic interventions for a coherent and harmonised response to the transnational movement of people from India.”

2.33 The Committee sought to know the benefits being foreseen by the organization through merger of ICWA and ICM. The Ministry in their written reply have stated as under:

“Till date migration and mobility was not specifically in the research agenda of the Council. With the merger ICWA has started researching regularly in this area and publishing papers. It is also conducting programmatic activities related to the themes. It is also engaging with international organizations working in this area such as ILO.”

2.34 The Committee also sought to know about the research findings of ICWA on the safety and security of the migrations of those who are unskilled. The Ministry in their written reply have stated as under:

“The Centre for Migration, Mobility and Diaspora Studies at ICWA has carried out a range of studies on issues of migration and mobility. To aid policy making, Labour Market studies for countries in the Gulf, Southeast Asia, East Asia, Europe region have been undertaken. These studies provide a comprehensive assessment of economic outlook, demographic profile, skill gaps, shortages in labor force and entry regulations with respect to foreign workers in these countries. It also indicates projected increasing need for skilled foreign workers in many parts of the world as a result of population aging and shortages of skilled workers and also suggests that India is well placed to leverage this global need for workers.

The Centre’s research papers monitor global trends in migration and mobility drawing lessons for the Indian labor market. These papers provide policy relevant recommendations to implement migration and mobility agreements. To make India skills

capital of the world it is required to bridge the gap in skill certification in line with destination country requirements to facilitate mobility of Indian workers.”

2.35 Asked about whether any tangible policy outcomes have emerged from the research and analysis provided by these centers, the Ministry stated as under:

“In terms of tangible policy outcomes, the ICWA SCO center has proactively contributed to debates and discussions on SCO. It has represented India as the nodal think tank in the Annual SCO Think Tank forum. It is hosting the SCO Residents Researchers programme in which it hosts one scholar each month from one of the SCO countries starting December 2022. It has organized a major international conference which saw participation of experts and policy makers from SCO member States, dialogue partner and observer countries, where debates and discussion focused on how to enhance cooperation on political, security, connectivity and people to people ties. It has come out with publication of research papers on themes relevant to the Organization by in- house faculty and eminent external experts which has been acknowledged to be very useful by policy makers and foreign and Indian scholars.

The Centre has carried out studies regarding safe and orderly mobility of Indian nationals through research on mobility patterns, labor market assessments, procedural and data management issues, pre-departure and orientation guidance. It has come out with research papers on issues related to migration and mobility for publication and also done research papers at the request of MEA.

With regard to Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP) ICWA centre participated in the 55th and 56th and 57th Steering Committee meetings of CSCAP, which is focused on inclusive regional security dialogue on general and specific issues and providing Track I with policy inputs.”

ii) CICA Think Tank Forum Coordinator

2.36 The Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) is an initiative of Kazakhstan launched about 30 years ago and the CICA Secretariat is located in Astana, Kazakhstan. The CICA has established a Think Tank Forum, for interactions at the expert level and the Forum meets annually. ICWA has been nominated as the representative think tank to the Forum from India by the Ministry of External Affairs in 2021. ICWA has participated in the (CICA) Think Tank Forum, in December 2021 and November 2022.

iii) G-20 -Think 20 Task Force

2.37 Think20 (T20) serves as an "idea bank" for the G20 bringing together think tanks and high-level experts to contribute to the G20 agenda by providing analytical inputs for the G20's decision-making process. Its main activities will be spearheaded by 7 Task Forces (TFs). Each TF will curate the most effective proposals and solutions from researchers and institutions from the G20

countries to address the priorities of the Indian Presidency and build on the past Presidencies' work.

2.38 Asked about the role of ICWA in India's G20 Presidency, the Ministry in their written reply have stated that Think Tank 20 or T20 is one of the eleven Engagement Groups within G20. DG, ICWA is the Chair of Task Force 7 (TF7) on 'Towards Reformed Multilateralism: Transforming Global Institutions and Frameworks'. In this capacity, ICWA has been participating in the T20 meetings to advance the agenda of reformed multilateralism.

2.39 They have further submitted that a curtain raiser talk on "G20 @ 2023 - The Road Map to Indian Presidency" by Shri V. Srinivas, Secretary, Deptt. of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances, Government of India, chaired by: Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla, G-20 Chief Coordinator & Former Foreign Secretary was held on 08 August 2022. ICWA has also published a book 'G20@2023: The Roadmap to Indian Presidency' written by Shri V. Srinivas, Secretary, DARPG, Gol and published papers by in-house faculty and external experts on themes related to G-20.

2.40 The Committee sought to know whether ICWA has been successful in fulfilling the objectives of its establishment. In response the Ministry in their written reply stated as under:

- ICWA has been successful in fulfilling its mandated objectives by stepping up efforts in conducting policy research in order to promote understanding on international affairs from an Indian perspective and act as a repository of knowledge and thinking on foreign policy issues.
- The Council has a robust publication programme. It has come out with publication of research papers and book publications on several issues that have been at the top of foreign policy agenda, which have been found useful to its stakeholders.
- It has increased the frequency of intellectual activities such as seminars, conferences, roundtables, and other discussions in both physical and hybrid mode. The deliberations have been found to be informative and useful.
- The Council can strengthen its internship programme and its university outreach programme.

F. SAPRU HOUSE LIBRARY

2.41 Functioning since 1955 at its present premises, the ICWA Library (popularly known as Sapru House Library) is a premier resource centre for Indian and foreign scholars over the past

seven decades. The Library is open for students, parliamentarians, legislators, academics, diplomats, historians, civil servants, journalists, students, subject experts, etc.

2.42 It houses a rich collection on international relations, international law, international economy, foreign policy, political history and social sciences. Library has a stock of over 1,56,662 books, journals, special collections of UN documents and EU documents.

2.43 The Library is automated with a database searchable through Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) within the library premises and also from outside. The Library has arrangements with other libraries to facilitate consultation of their resources for ICWA scholars on the basis of ID cards issued by the Council. The Library has recently gone through a major renovation and the new reception and reading hall is now functional. This upgrade will make it more user-friendly with a better reading environment and a modern digital section.

2.44 Book Committee: A Book Committee has been constituted under Chairmanship of DG, ICWA with academicians and former diplomats as members to serve as a mechanism to select books for purchase by the Sapru House Library.

2.45 On being asked about the facilities available in Sapru House Library for public, academicians and research scholars as of now, the Ministry in their written reply have stated as under:

“The Sapru House Library has been providing information services to its user in order to satisfy their information needs. The facilities are:

- Bibliographic service: Bibliographies on specific topics are provided to the researchers on request.
- Reference service (Traditional and Non-Traditional/Online/): Reference Service - Information is collected from the library against specific requests from researchers.
- Digitized Institutional Repository Service: One million Press clipping (275 national and international newspapers covering the period from 1950 onwards), Newspaper (The Hindu since 1933-2002), Rare Books (10 thousand, year 1727 onwards).
- Select Dissemination of Information (SDI) (off line/online): Meant for individual users, mainly specialists, which is exclusively restricted to the area of interest of the user concerned.
- Current Awareness Services (CAS) (off line/online): Current awareness service provides current information to the user.
- Electronic Database: Various online databases are accessible in the local network.
- Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC): The OPAC is a bibliographic data catalogue of a library's collection; it is searchable through author, title, any keyword.

- Computers and the internet: The Library an exclusive room for readers to access internet, search databases and e-journals and books.
- Photocopying service: The Library provides Photocopying service at nominal charges.
- Personal Books: Readers are allowed to bring two personal books inside the library.
- Inter-Library-Loan Facilities: In case, document is not available in ICWA Library, the same is arranged from other libraries. This service is provided through DELNET.
- Electronic Newspaper and Magazine: The Library subscribes to Magzter Database which contains 8,000+ magazines, newspapers etc in e-format. The newspapers and magazines are available in English as well as Hindi.
- Smart Card: The Library issues smart card to its readers.

2.46 The Committee also sought to know about the steps being taken for making Sapru House Library more accessible to a wider community of individuals, experts and scholars. In their written reply, the Ministry have stated as under:

“Steps for making Sapru House Library more accessible to a wider community of individuals:

- Remote Access: In order to provide 24x7 accesses to resources, the library is planning to provide remote access to it users so that they access library’s electronic resources 24x7 from anywhere.
 - Wi-Fi Facility: The Library has a plan to provide Wi-Fi services to its readers
 - Reader Friendly Environment: After the renovation,
 - Wider Publicity: The Library is in the process to create a handout for the library which would be distributed among the prospective readers
 - More and More Electronic Resources: Keeping pace with the new environment, the Library will acquire more and more resources in the e-format.
- Bringing the Library’s Users Back: Due to Pandemic COVID 19, the Library was closed for almost two years. The readers have identified other ways to satisfy their information needs from other resources. Hence, bringing them back to the library was a challenge but now readership is back to full capacity.It houses a rich collection on international relations, international law, international economy, foreign policy, political history and social sciences. Library has a stock of over 1,56,662books, journals, special collections of UN documents and EU documents.

G. ICWA Website/Social Media

2.47 In its background note submitted to the Committee, ICWA has submitted that The Council is making full use of its websites in English and Hindi and social media platforms to publicize, project and share its research products as well as its intellectual activities. It is active on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and LinkedIn. Its Twitter following has significantly risen and the Council continues to work to increase its social media presence and followers.

2.48 Adding further on the issue, DG, ICWA during the sitting held on 05.04.2023 submitted as under:

“Just as a pointer, in the last year itself we have seen that our social media platform is now getting populated. We have got a 23 per cent increase in those who follow us on social media, on Twitter. We have also opened our account on LinkIt. So, we are trying to spread our presence in the social media platforms.”

2.49 The Committee note that the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) work in close coordination with MEA to address issues that are at the top of the foreign policy agenda. As a statutory body, the mandate of ICWA, inter alia, is to promote the study of Indian foreign policy and international affairs so as to develop a body of informed opinion; to promote India’s relations with other countries through discourse and exchange of ideas as well as to serve as a clearing house of information and knowledge regarding world affairs. Since the role and mandate of ICWA are quite comprehensive and broad in scope, the Committee desire ICWA to continue focused research on areas of Government’s priority and play a more effective role in policy formulations of the Government. In order to contribute to the shaping of an India narrative on foreign policy and advance India’s priorities effectively, ICWA should also strengthen its coordination with MEA and work in a proactive than reactive mode.

(Recommendation No. 13)

2.50 The Committee find that to fulfill its mandated objectives, ICWA has been undertaking a range of activities, of which research and disseminations form a core activity. This includes mainly the research works done by in- house faculty in the form of Issue Briefs, View Points and Special Reports- on topical issues having a bearing on Indian foreign policy interests. The Committee note that since April 2021 alone, ICWA has published 167 Issue Briefs, 136 View points, and 5 Special reports in addition to 25 Sapru

House papers which are comprehensive future- oriented policy research papers on selected topics related to foreign policy. In addition, guest articles and research papers by outside experts, research projects with MoU partners, special research projects at the request of Ministry of External Affairs and research projects with Ministry of Defence are undertaken by ICWA. The Committee find that over a period of time, ICWA has diversified its research both in terms of geography as well as thematic issues, keeping in view their relevance to India's foreign and security policies. The areas and thematic studies that have received added thrust include maritime studies, Indo-Pacific, Ukraine, Afghanistan, and multilateral institutions like SCO, G-20, IORA and the UN. Since the research output is regularly shared with the Ministry and other stakeholders with an aim to influence policymakers and the public, the Committee recommend that ICWA should give added thrust to focused and in-depth Research on emerging trends in international relations. At the same time, the thrust should be on quality output than quantity.

(Recommendation No. 14)

2.51 The Committee further note that the sanctioned strength of the Research Faculty in ICWA is 30 of which 01 post has been kept for Director (Research), 05 posts for Senior Research Fellows, 12 posts for Research Fellows, 01 post for Research Associate and 05 posts for Research Interns. The Committee have been informed that one of the challenges being faced by ICWA in its working is getting quality researchers, especially when ICWA selection criteria focuses more on the expertise, knowledge and presentation skills in addition to academic qualifications like Ph.D, Masters, etc. In order to rope in Research Faculty with domain expertise and in-depth understanding of broad global themes/trends, proper incentive structure including provisions for annual increment and granting allowances is a pre-requisite. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the ICWA may

come up with such proposals at the earliest and implement the same after the approval of the Governing Body and Governing Council. The Ministry should also enhance the allocation accordingly. The Committee also desire that to give a younger profile to the Research Faculty, additional hiring of Research Associates may also be considered on a need basis. The Committee may be apprised of the progress in the matter.

(Recommendation No. 15)

2.52 The Committee note that ICWA brings out quite a wide range of publications which include Sapru House Papers, Special Publications, ICWA Guest Columns, Viewpoint, Issue Briefs, Special Reports, Oral history Project, etc. The Council also publishes books covering a wide spectrum of subjects which include single authored books, edited books and conference proceedings. Since April 2021 alone, ICWA has published 32 books which include 18 single authored and edited books and 14 conference proceeding books. The Committee find that the Council has brought out translations of some of its books/ publications into Hindi and regional languages. ICWA has also submitted that all Viewpoints, Issue Briefs, Sapru House Papers, Special Reports have been put on the ICWA website both in English and the Hindi version. The Committee really appreciate the initiative taken by ICWA towards getting its various publications translated into Hindi. At the same time, the Committee though understand that it is a challenge to get quality translators who have knowledge of international affairs to understand the tone, tenor and the nuances of terminologies, however, MEA may also persuade the ICWA to look into the possibilities of getting its publications translated into vernacular languages as well so that their work can reach to maximum number of citizens.

(Recommendation No. 16)

2.53 The Committee note that in pursuance of its mandate, ICWA undertakes numerous intellectual activities to promote India's relations with other countries and discuss India's policy towards international affairs. These activities include bilateral dialogues, international conferences, seminars, lectures and discussions. The Committee also note that since April 2021, ICWA has organized 126 events which were mix of lectures, talks, bilateral dialogues, international and national seminars, book launches, panel and round-table discussions. The Committee have been informed that these events were organized in physical and hybrid mode. The Committee appreciate the initiative of ICWA in organizing the events through the digital hybrid mode too as it would have enabled easier participation of scholars/experts from abroad and in turn would have had a positive impact on making the conversations more engaging and productive. The Committee have been given to understand that a number of Council's activities are organized in coordination with and support of the MEA and its representatives have been regularly participating in a range of activities organized by ICWA. The Committee note that events such as the celebration of the 50th anniversary of India-Vietnam Diplomatic Relations, 'Maitri Diwas' the India-UK Strategic Futures Forum dialogue or the international conference on Shanghai Cooperation Organization Reconnect ~ Rejuvenate under India's Presidency have been conducted by ICWA with the support MEA. The Committee further note that a number of Council's activities such as Sapru House Lectures delivered by visiting foreign dignitaries are also organized in support and coordination with the Ministry of External Affairs. The Committee appreciate that some of the conferences and dialogues have the participation of External Affairs Minister, Minister of State, Foreign Secretary and Secretaries from the Ministry of External Affairs. The Committee have also been informed that the ICWA conducts studies at Ministry's request, for instance on Nepal, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Africa and have

submitted the reports. They have also contributed to discussion/research papers on IORA and UNSC and even carried out the publication of the book 'Covid and Diplomacy'. The Committee have been informed that these ICWA publications are regularly shared with concerned policy makers in MEA but without sharing with Parliamentarians. The Committee while recognizing the contribution of ICWA to India's foreign policy making process urge ICWA to make added efforts to increase the frequency of its intellectual activities such as seminars, conferences, roundtables, and other discussions, both in physical and hybrid mode and also ensure the participation of Parliamentarians to achieve its mandate.

(Recommendation No. 17)

2.54 The Committee have been informed that as part of its national outreach activities, ICWA has been sponsoring seminars/conferences across India on foreign policy and international relations. The Committee have further been informed that these outreach conferences are organised in collaboration with several Indian universities and think tanks including Council's MoU partners across the country. The Committee, however, note that since April 2021, only 14 outreach conferences in Universities have been supported by ICWA. In this respect, ICWA has submitted that due to pandemic, joint activities conducted in collaboration with Universities had reduced as most of the Universities were badly disrupted by COVID 19 Pandemic. It has been further submitted that with the opening up of Universities, ICWA has been receiving a number of good proposals. The Committee are hopeful that ICWA is able to organize more conferences in the coming months and urge them to extend support for national/international conferences by recognised universities and UGC centres on themes of mutual interest in international relations and foreign policy. The Committee also desire that ICWA put in serious efforts to have more collaborations with

other like-minded institutions, national and foreign think tanks and universities to build complementarities and explore synergies.

(Recommendation No. 18)

2.55 The Committee understand that ICWA is the country's oldest foreign policy think tank which began seriously the study of international affairs and debate on foreign policy in a consciously non-partisan manner. The Committee also note that over the years ICWA has constantly reinvented itself with the changing times. The Committee are, however, of the view that despite setting new benchmark in terms of its institutional strength to influence the policy formulations through research and publications, policy debates and discussions, outreach to other institutions, including through translation of publications, the general public is not aware of the activities of ICWA. The Committee are of the opinion that lack of public awareness about the activities of ICWA will in the long run hinder its growth and development. The Committee, therefore, desire that ICWA should come up with more people centric programmes and activities which invite participation from the general public, especially, the student fraternity.

(Recommendation No. 19)

2.56 The Committee note that one of the mandates of ICWA is to generate interest amongst the younger generation on international relations and to provide a platform for them to come to ICWA. The Committee understand that the ICWA has an internship programme through which young researchers are invited to get trained in conducting research on foreign policy and international affairs. These Young researchers can pursue research internship at ICWA for a period of 6 months, extendable to 1 year. The Internship Programme is advertised on the Council's website. The Council receives applications

throughout the year and Interns are selected and taken. The Committee also note that the Council has entered into MoUs with 27 universities for collaboration, including provision for students pursuing graduation and post-graduation in International Relations to intern with ICWA. The Committee have further been informed that to train young scholars interested in policy research on international affairs, ICWA has promoted and expanded its internship programme to include not only paid interns who have completed their MA, but also non-paid interns, who are pursuing graduation and post- graduation. It has also been submitted that during outreach programmes at universities and academic institutions, representatives from ICWA inform students about the internship opportunities which generally acquaints the student fraternity about ICWA and also generates interest in their internship program. The Committee have been told that the interns who join are given opportunities to be involved in diverse activities of the ICWA. They participate in conferences, go to seminars and are also encouraged to write at least one paper. Upon completion of internship a recommendation letter is also given to them. While the Committee appreciate the steps being taken by ICWA to promote its internship program, they are disappointed to note that the results do not commensurate the efforts as only 15 interns are seen currently engaged in the Council. The Committee, therefore, urge upon ICWA to evaluate their internship program, make more concerted efforts to reach out to the student's community and take steps to put in place an eco-system wherein more and more students are encouraged to join the internship programme of ICWA and contribute in its mission.

(Recommendation No. 20)

2.57 The Committee note that since its inception the thrust areas of work of ICWA has evolved over the years. From an initial focus on Asian Relations, Afro-Asian Solidarity and related area studies it has now evolved to cover area studies across the globe and thematic

issues such as maritime studies, Indo-Pacific, Ukraine, Afghanistan, and multilateral institutions like SCO, G-20, IORA and the UN, Digital diplomacy, Gender issues in international affairs and SDG issues, etc. The Committee have been informed that as part of its expansion programme ICWA has setup three Special Centers namely Centre for Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), Centre on Migration Mobility and Diaspora Studies (CMMDS) and Centre for Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP) to undertake focused research and dialogues in specific areas in order to contribute to emerging discourse on these areas. The Committee have been told that the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Study Centre is a lead think tank engaged in SCO-related activities. The Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP) is a Track 2 network of member institutions which serves as an important mechanism to build closer interaction with various countries in the ASEAN and the wider Indo-Pacific region. The Committee are also given to understand that these centres publish their own research papers on themes relevant to the organization which have been acknowledged by policy makers and foreign and Indian scholars to be very useful. The Committee appreciate the proactive steps being taken by ICWA to have focused research and dialogues in specific areas. The Committee urge ICWA to further strengthen and widen its endeavours in area specific research through its special centres and support the MEA to address issues that are at the top of the foreign policy agenda more effectively.

(Recommendation No. 21)

2.58 The Committee note that the Centre for Migration, Mobility and Diaspora Studies (CMMDS) at the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) has come into effect on 1 August 2022 pursuant to decision of the Government of India to merge the erstwhile India Centre for Migration under the Ministry of External Affairs with the ICWA. CMMDS functions as the

research unit on matters relating to international migration, mobility, and diaspora studies. It is given to understand that CMMDS seeks to promote safe and orderly mobility of Indian nationals for employment abroad through research on mobility patterns, labour market assessments, procedural and data management issues, pre-departure orientation guidance, etc. and undertakes empirical, analytical and policy related research on international migration and labour mobility as also pilot projects to document good practices. The Committee find that various categories of agreements like Labour Manpower Agreements (LMA), Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreements (MMPA) are being signed by India on migration and mobility with several countries. While expressing their appreciation about such agreements which facilitate safe, orderly and legal migration for our workforce, the Committee recommend that a robust mechanism for periodic assessment of such agreements may be devised and awareness about the opportunities that arise from the agreement may be spread among the public.

(Recommendation No. 22)

2.59 The Committee note that Think Tank 20 or T20 is one of the eleven Engagement Groups within G20. The Committee have been informed that DG, ICWA is the Chair of Task Force 7 (TF7) on 'Towards Reformed Multilateralism: Transforming Global Institutions and Frameworks'. In this capacity, ICWA has been participating in the T20 meetings to advance the agenda of reformed multilateralism. It has also been submitted that a curtain raiser talk on "G20 @ 2023 - The Road Map to Indian Presidency" was held on 08 August 2022. It is further seen that ICWA has published a book 'G20@2023: The Roadmap to Indian Presidency' and brought out papers by in-house faculty and external experts on themes related to G-20. The Committee also hope that India's core interests are upheld during its

G20 Presidency by ICWA and that it utilizes this opportunity to ensure that the priorities set by India during its G20 Presidency are carried forward beyond the Indian Presidency.

(Recommendation No.23)

2.60 The Committee note that the ICWA Library (popularly known as Sapru House Library) has been a premier resource centre for both Indian and foreign scholars for the past seven decades. The Library houses a rich collection on international relations, international law, international economy, foreign policy, political history and social sciences. The Committee also note that the Sapru House Library has various user friendly facilities such as Bibliographic service, the Digitized Institutional Repository Service, Various online databases, Reference service etc. for use of public, academicians and research scholars. It is seen that the Library is open for students, parliamentarians, legislators, academics, diplomats, historians, civil servants, journalists, students, subject experts, etc. The Committee have also been told that the recent renovation and upgradation have made it more user-friendly with a better reading environment and a modern digital section. While the Committee are happy to note the various steps are being taken by ICWA for making Sapru House Library more accessible to a wider community of individuals, experts and scholars such as remote access, Wi-Fi Facility, reader friendly environment, etc., the Committee urge upon ICWA to give wider publicity of the facilities available in the Sapru House so that the Library is used to its full capacity.

(Recommendation No. 24)

2.61 The Committee note that the Council makes use of its websites in English and Hindi as well as social media platforms to publicize, project and share its research products and its intellectual activities. The Committee have also been informed that the Council is active on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and LinkedIn and that there has been 23 per cent of

increase followers on Twitter. Since social visibility is a necessity for any organization to grow and social media platforms are an important tool to achieve the same, the Committee encourage ICWA to continue dissemination of its publications on Council's website, and social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, LinkedIn and fortnightly electronic notifications. The Committee also urge ICWA to take serious steps to spread their presence in other social media platforms such as Instagram, Snapchat as well to provide greater visibility to activities of ICWA.

(Recommendation No. 25)

Chapter- III

RESEARCH AND INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (RIS)

I. OVERVIEW

3.1 Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) is an autonomous policy research institute that specialises in issues related to international economic development, trade, investment and technology. RIS is envisioned as a forum for fostering effective policy dialogue and capacity-building among developing countries on global and regional economic issues.

3.2 The focus of the work programme of RIS is to promote South-South Cooperation and collaborate with developing countries in multilateral negotiations in various forums. RIS is engaged across inter-governmental processes of several regional economic cooperation initiatives. Through its intensive network of think tanks, RIS seeks to strengthen policy coherence on international economic issues and the development partnership canvas.

3.3 RIS is unique among Indian policy research institutions for its global connect with international organisations and widest reach among developing country research scholars, institutions, think-tanks and universities. This is reflected in the platforms and partnerships created by RIS in recent years and the level of participation in its conferences and workshops, and also intense engagements in domestic policy debates with several Ministries, State Governments and institutions.

3.4 Historically, RIS has been able to establish connects with economic policy hubs across the world and with leading economists and thinkers. Partnerships at regional forums based on its profile and expertise in international economics, international development, multilateral economic governance and regional economic cooperation has served RIS mandate well. RIS has deepened specific areas of research and outreach. With its research engagement and partnerships, RIS has evolved much beyond its role as an institution for developing country issues and for providing policy inputs to the Government of India as a global institution with Indian roots.

II. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.5 RIS was set up in May 1983 in New Delhi as a, registered society for leading policy research for developing countries on international economic policy issues. The institute is mandated to advise the Government of India on all matters pertaining to multilateral and regional economic issues that may be referred to it from time to time including collaborative arrangements with other developing countries.

3.6 The institution owes its origin to the days of the Non-aligned Movement (NAM), and in the various Group of 77 (G-77), it was increasingly recognized that developing countries should have their own institutional support for devising policy options and negotiating strategies on international economic and development issues for promoting and safeguarding their interests in a more effective manner. In this regard, the Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of Non- Aligned Countries, held in Algiers, in 1976 decided to have in place such a system. The Economic Declaration of the Fifth NAM Summit held in Colombo in 1976 marked the beginning of the Research and Information System and the first meeting of RIS was held in Belgrade, Yugoslavia on January 23-25, 1979.

3.7 The Seventh Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held in New Delhi on March 7-12, 1983, recommended that RIS should pursue work relating to international economic relations and development of economic and technical cooperation. In order to give the new set up effectiveness and efficiency, RIS was established as a registered Society in May 1983 by the Government of India. The Governing Council of RIS has the participation of Ministry of External Affairs, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Department of Science and Technology and Ministry of Commerce. RIS is envisaged as a multi-country forum to serve as a Think-Tank of the developing countries on regional and multilateral economic issues among other.

III. FUNDING OF RIS:

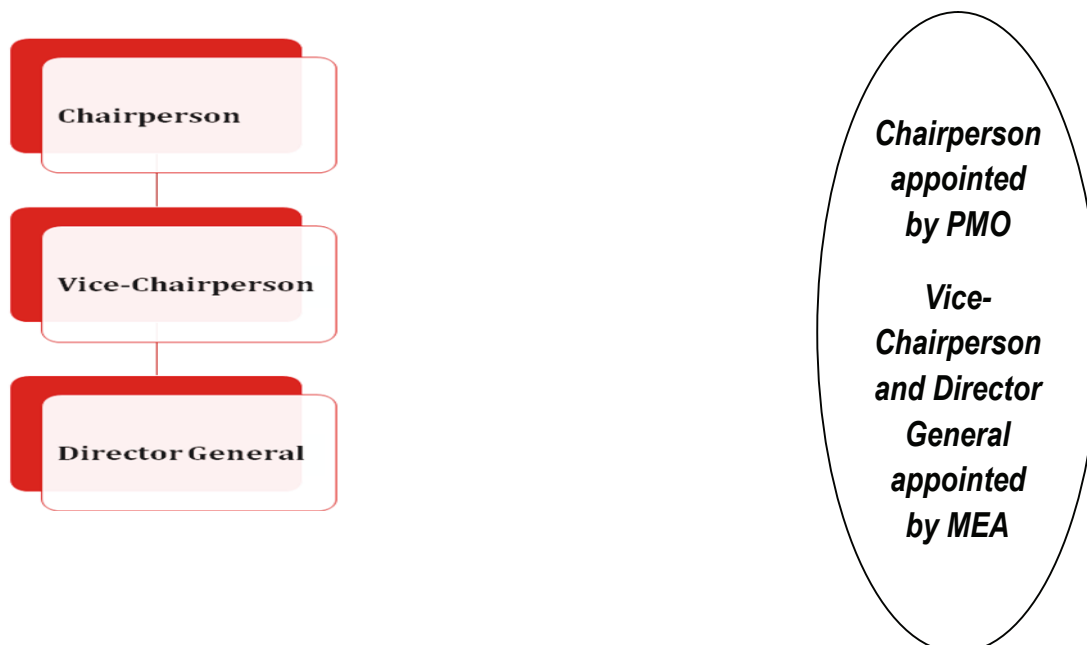
3.8 The Committee understand that the MEA is the nodal division for processing the grant in aid for RIS as well as for administrative matters pertaining to the governance of RIS. Regarding the total funds provided to RIS, it has been as submitted as under:-

Statement showing funds received and utilization from MEA, funds from other sources				
YEAR	Grant in Aid From MEA	Funds from Projects	Grand Total	Combined utilization
2021-2022	22.19*	12.96	35.15	26.34
2022-2023	14.19	7.75	21.94	24.21 (unaudited)

Note: *Also includes one-time capital grant of Rs.10.22 crore

3.9 The Ministry in this regard have submitted that the funding provided to RIS through annual grants is meant for the day to day functioning of the institution in terms of pay and allowances to its employees, including its research Faculty, which conducts its policy research studies and programmes on traditional and emerging issues of profound importance to the government in the field of its domain knowledge covering international trade, finance, investment, development, science, technology and innovation, apart from regional connectivity and key priorities of the government, including special focus on the Indo-Pacific regional and maritime economy. It also enables the institution to hold national and international meetings, seminars and conferences with participation of subject experts with the participation of national, regional and global scholars.

IV. ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE OF RIS:



3.10 The Governing Body/Governing Council of RIS has ex-officio participation of Ministry of External Affairs, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Department of Science and

Technology and Ministry of Commerce. It also has representation of eminent persons nominated by the Government of India.

3.11 Research Advisory Council of RIS comprising of eminent experts, provides guidance about the research agenda of the institute on regular basis keeping in view the important emerging economic scenario at regional, sub-regional and multilateral levels.

V. MANDATE AND ACTIVITIES OF RIS

3.12 RIS is envisioned as a forum for fostering effective policy dialogue and capacity-building among developing countries on global and regional economic issues. Since its inception, the focus of the work programme of RIS has been to promote South-South Cooperation and collaborate with developing countries in multilateral negotiations in various forums. RIS has also been engaged with several inter-governmental processes, regional economic cooperation initiatives and think tank led platforms across the world.

a) Aims and objectives of RIS

- Promoting self-reliance among developing countries
- Forging effective links among research institutions of developing countries
- Undertaking analytical studies on economic cooperation among developing countries
- Advising on multilateral and regional economic issues

3.13 Explaining the mandate of RIS, DG, RIS during the sitting held on 05.04.203 submitted as under:

“RIS is largely focusing on issues relating to international trade, investment, technology, and finance. We were established in 1983 as part of India’s commitment for Non- Aligned Movement, and for Global South. So, our work focuses exclusively on South-South cooperation where we have tried to focus on four verticals which are there. One is in terms of the global governance and the economic architecture. We focus on issues like the WTO; we focus on issues that are related to WIPO. The second vertical is more about trade, investment, finance, and economic cooperation. There, the bilateral trade agreements that are coming up. Now, Government has growing emphasis on free trade agreements. So, RIS research teams are involved in several FTA studies which are ex ante studies.

These are the four verticals that we have. Global economic cooperation and governance is the first vertical xxxx. Within this, I was mentioning that we focus on issues

that are related to WTO, WIPO, etc. The second is about trade investment in economic cooperation where we do all the issues that are related to India's bilateral trade agreements and multilateral trade agreements. So, there are several FTAs which are coming up. For instance, the hon. Member raised the issue about Africa. RIS just did a study for Ministry of Commerce and Industry which is focusing on India-Africa Free Trade Agreement as to what and how it could come up. We also did a study with India-Mauritius xxxx. Eventually, the Government took it up, and during the visit of hon. External Affairs Minister, this bilateral agreement with Mauritius was signed. xxxxx The third one is more about connectivity which hon. Prime Minister has suggested. RIS has been named to look into BIMSTEC and the food value chain, how agriculture can traction within a work programme, and what kind of food value chains may come up with Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Nepal, and there we partner with institutions from these countries and also with some of the others who have specialization in value chains. So, we are focusing on that and trying to bring in trade facilitation and connectivity as part of that. The fourth vertical is focusing on new technologies as to what is the impact of new technologies on India and other developing countries. There we have evolved our own analytical frameworks. For instance, there are issues related to access, equity, and inclusion, when we talk about new technologies. We are focusing on how they would pan out in terms of their impact, and for that, we had done the assessment of international cooperation with Department of Science and Technology. xxxx. We are also working very closely with AYUSH Ministry which is also there into the assessment. All of this falls under our fourth vertical which is there. Apart from this, we have launched three major initiatives which are bringing in specific actors together. For instance, with universities, RIS has a think-tank connect. So, what is happening is that most of the policy research is with research institutions. We are trying to engage universities building up capacities through the Ph.D. colloquiums and summer schools so that they also pick up the techniques and advances that are there."

b) Role of MEA in RIS

3.14 Asked about the role of MEA in RIS, the Ministry in their written reply have stated as under:

"Apart from its annual financial support, MEA continues to actively assess the work programme of RIS so that it is in alignment with the evolving priorities and focus areas of India's foreign policy goals. Foreign Secretary and Secretary (Economic Relations) in the MEA attend the meetings of the Governing Council of RIS and share their vision which forms a vital part of the work programme of RIS.

At the functional level, PP&R Division maintains regular contact with RIS. It also coordinates with various divisions of the Ministry where inputs and programmatic & research support might be required from RIS. Senior officials of the MEA participate in the wide range of conferences, dialogues and workshops organized by RIS on core areas of India's interest in the geopolitics and geoeconomics, trade, finance, development, neighbourhood connectivity and South South Cooperation and share their perspectives on emerging issues of critical importance to India.

MEA also works with RIS to hold track 1.5 and 2 dialogues on emerging issues so as to promote India's foreign policy objectives. RIS also organizes the meetings of BRICS and IBSA Academic and Civic forums with the support of MEA.

c) **Role of RIS in MEA's Policy Planning**

3.15 The Committee sought to know about the role of RIS in providing intellectual support to the Policy Planning and Research Division of the Ministry. The Ministry in their written reply have stated as under:

“RIS remains in regular contact with PP&R Division and other Divisions in the MEA and carries forward its research programme well aligned to Government's evolving priorities and focus areas of India's foreign policy goals.

RIS has a comprehensive programme of research collaboration with international organizations and academic bodies of other countries. The outcome of such collaboration is usually in the form of academic research, which is published in various indexed academic journals and is regularly shared by RIS with PP&R Division and gets reflected in its compendium for wider internal circulation among policy makers. These important inputs are also appropriately utilized by the Division in its bilateral and multilateral policy planning dialogues with other Foreign Offices, preparation of research papers, policy briefs and situation reports pertaining to global developments and international affairs in general and India's foreign policy in particular and in the preparation of the Annual Report of the Ministry.

RIS also organizes collaborative conferences and seminars and interactions with the academia on core areas of India's interest in the geopolitics and geoeconomics, trade, finance, development, neighbourhood connectivity and South-South Cooperation in partnership with its wide network of think tanks and institutional and academic partners. These interactions provide the Ministry critical policy making inputs on emerging knowledge domains and technologies and also serve as important platforms for the articulation, discussion and dissemination of India's foreign policy and views among national and global audiences. Senior officials of the MEA also participate in them and share their perspectives on emerging issues of critical importance to India.

RIS also conducts rigorous studies on issues connected with regional trade and economic integration and brings out its reports which are also utilized by the Government for effective policy articulation on critical issues. Based on inputs received from various think tanks, including RIS, the Government structures its short, medium and long-term policies for its neighbouring countries. RIS also helps the government by bringing regional and countries experts who regularly contribute to its research programme and also take part in policy dialogues for a better understanding by the government of ground realities on such matters in the neighbouring countries.

In consultation with the Government, RIS also holds track 1.5 and 2 dialogues on emerging issues to promote India's foreign policy objectives.

Under its University Connect Programme, RIS organizes a wide range of national seminars in collaboration with universities and academic across the country to generate greater awareness on foreign policy issues. With the support of MEA, RIS is currently organizing its G20 Lecture Series in 75 universities across the country as part of jan bhagedari and connect with the youth of the country and to generate awareness about the importance of India's G20 Presidency.

In addition, RIS also conducts IBSA Fellowship Programme with support of MER Division, organizes five ITEC courses annually with support of DPA-II, organizes an annual

international conference on South-South Cooperation with the support of MER Division, and Delhi Dialogue with ASEAN member states with the support of Indo-Pacific Division in the MEA. RIS also organizes the meetings of BRICS and IBSA Academic and Civic forums with the support of MEA.”

d) RIS and issues of economic cooperation between North and South.

3.16 The Committee also sought to know whether the mandate of RIS covers issues of economic cooperation between North and South. In response the Ministry have in their written reply stated as under:

“In the emerging global scenario the sense of interdependence is gaining substantial importance cutting across Global South and North and the way forward for the well-being of Global South is to forge greater convergences with the North in areas of collective interest for humanity. While guiding the Global South to defend and promote its core trade and economic interests at bilateral, regional and global level and during intergovernmental negotiations, RIS works as a bridge to bring both sides together to identify best possible solutions for accelerated growth of Global South. RIS is nurturing the constituencies in Global North which are also amenable to defend and promote the rights of Global South and invites such subject experts to take part in deliberations on issues affecting the core developmental interest of Global South with the help of Global North. The best example of this is the Delhi Process pioneered by RIS which has gained global importance over the years with the participation of subject experts from the North and South to deliberate on best possible solutions for the growth of Global South with the engagement of Northern countries along with intensified South South Cooperation. It is also clearly reflected by the far closer engagement of RIS with Triangular Cooperation in association with the industrialized countries, including US, Japan, Germany and other interested countries, to take up development projects financed by Northern countries for the economic development of developing countries with the help of India. As developmental aid from Northern countries to the South is rapidly shrinking, they are showing their keen interest to intensify their engagement through Triangular Cooperation to retain their influence in Global South to the best possible extent”

3.17 Asked further whether RIS has looked towards going beyond the South – South Cooperation to cooperation with other countries, Ministry in its written reply as under:

“In the backdrop of shrinking development assistance by Northern countries to Global South and lack interest by them to fulfill their financial commitments combined with the growing threat of financial insecurity and indebtedness posed by s o called development assistance extended by China to some of the developing countries in the South, RIS is proactively encouraging the Northern Countries for accelerated development in South through new modalities of engagement. Being a strong advocate for the global acceptance of plurality of perspectives on development issues beyond the conditionalities packed Western international developmental paradigm promoted by OECD DAC countries, RIS is

constantly working to engage them to defend and promote the interests of the developing countries. In the recent past, RIS has entered into research partnership agreements with the financial support of Northern partners to promote some of the best global practices for the economic development of Global South. The establishment of Global Development Centre at RIS with the support of DfID (now FCDO) and its engagement of Bill Melinda Gates Foundation with GDC and the partnership with Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) to carry out research studies on Triangular Cooperation clearly show that RIS is moving towards the engagement of its Northern partners for accelerated economic development of Global South. Similarly, on attainment of SDGs, financial inclusion and gender equality, reformed multilateralism etc. RIS actively promotes the engagement of its Northern partner institutions, along with eminent voices from the Global South, to bring both sides together for forging working partnerships.”

VI. FRAME WORK OF RIS WORK PROGRAMME.

3.18 The broad framework of the RIS work programme is based on four pillars:

Global Economic Governance and Cooperation

Trade, Investment and Economic Cooperation

Trade Facilitation, Connectivity and Regional Cooperation

New Technologies and Development Issues

3.19 Asked to explain how RIS has used its long-standing expertise in International Economics and development issues in policy-making of the country, the Ministry in its written reply have inter-alia stated as under:

“Global Economic Governance and Cooperation

RIS since its inception has undertaken core research on multilateral trade flows and governance architecture and analyses global economic trends in investment, technology and development. RIS has particularly focused on the role of multilateral institutions like the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), World Trade Organization (WTO), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank, World Health Organization (WHO), etc. from the perspective of developing countries. This places RIS uniquely among Indian think-tanks that have long standing expertise in International Economics and development issues. Research on trade, investment and technology is closely linked with issues of industrial development in the global South. RIS publications in these areas are well acclaimed and internationally recognized.

In the above areas, RIS has supported policy-making across relevant Ministries and Departments of the Government of India, in some cases with State Governments also. The concept, paradigm and empirics of South-South Cooperation from the Indian perspective is of particular significance which has strengthened the understanding of Indian development

cooperation. As India assumed the presidency of the G20, RIS has linked its research activities with G20 issues in recent years by developing a dedicated work programme that has organized workshops and seminars and introduced new publications. Towards generating robust evidence from other countries RIS has created several platforms of engagement with international scholars and policymakers like the - Network of Southern Think Tanks (NeST) and has partnered with networks like Paris Peace Forum, South Asia Network on the Sustainable Development Goals (SANS) and the South Asia Centre for Policy Studies (SACEPS). The focus areas in this pillar are: Multilateralism and Multilateral Institutions, World Trade Organization (WTO), International Financial Institutions (IFIs), etc.; Working for a multipolar world; Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); South-South and Triangular Cooperation; Plurilateral Global Governance structures; Global Governance of Investment, Finance, Technology; Paradigm shift in the definition of development in post-pandemic world; and Blue Economy.

Trade, Investment and Economic Cooperation

Rise of mega-FTAs, inclusion of non-tariff barriers and non-trade issues such as IPR, labour standards, environmental standards, etc. in trade negotiations, proliferation of protectionist trade measures and adoption of plurilateral route has complicated trade policy choices of the developing countries. RIS undertakes studies, monitors the progress in negotiations and advises the governments and other stakeholders about the likely outcomes on: Rise of mega-Free Trade Agreements and Trade Policy; Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA), Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (BRICS), Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Regional Cooperation Mechanisms in South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), Africa, Central Asia, Eurasia, etc.; Fragmentation of Value Chains; Bilateral Trade Relations; India-GCA FTA; India-EU Connectivity Partnership; Prospects of Global and Regional Value Chains; Indo-Pacific Cooperation.

Trade Facilitation, Connectivity and Regional Cooperation

RIS has strong expertise in theoretical exposition and empirical assessment of regional connectivity initiatives to assess long term gains and related issues. India does not have a dedicated think-tank to address regional connectivity issues which is of critical importance in contemporary times and hence RIS contribution in this area has been of great significance. India's cross-border connectivity in the neighbourhood and extended neighbourhood along with regional connectivity agreements and infrastructure development issues has been robustly covered in RIS research. This has supported Government of India's decision making in terms of regional cooperation with South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), and Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Research on connectivity also extends to maritime connectivity with specific focus on the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) region. India's increasing role in the region in terms of connectivity provider and infrastructure development has promoted new research in these areas. RIS has supported Government of India's track 1.5 initiatives by providing robust inputs in these areas. Closely linked with connectivity is trade facilitation which has

been studied in-depth at RIS and related publications have been an important resource for policy makers in the Government.

Focus on the RIS work programme has been on various facets of connectivity along the economic corridors in the context of regional initiatives, and other formats of regional cooperation. The focus areas are: Trade and Transport Connectivity Linkages; Economic Corridors in South, Southwest and Southeast Asia; Trade Facilitation, Border Infrastructure and Paperless Trade; Development Impact of Connectivity Corridors; Technology and Trade Facilitation; and E-Commerce.

New Technologies and Development Issues

The development impacts of new technologies and access to science and technology has been a key concern for research at RIS. Under this pillar, apart from issues like Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) and Socio-Economic Assessment of GMOs and emerging issues like negotiations on marine genetic resources, the following themes have been taken up; Governance of New Technologies (Biotechnology, Synthetic Biology, Nanotechnology, Artificial Intelligence, etc.); Responsible Research and Innovation and Global Ethics in Science and Technology; Human Genomics, Genome Editing and Developments in Life Sciences; Access to Medicine, TRIPs and IPR Regimes, and Innovation; and Traditional Knowledge, Genetic Resources and Traditional Medicine.

Regional and Global Networks

The Institute has been an active part of the following regional and global networks:

South Asia Centre for Policy Studies (SACEPS);
BRICS Academic Forum;
BIMSTEC Network of Policy Think Tanks (BNPTT);
ASEAN India Network of Think Tanks (AINTT);
IBSA Academic Forum;
Network of Southern Think Tanks (NeST); and
Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)

Focus on WTO Reforms

The need for reforms of the WTO has been well-recognized at various multilateral forums including the WTO Ministerial Conference (MC) and at the G20, especially in the context of acceleration of digitalization, the digital divide, the rapid growth in the e-commerce sector, and the need to ensure inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

At RIS, various important developments in this regard were closely tracked, analyzed and published in its flagship 'World Trade and Development Report (WTDR) 2021 – Trade, Technology and Institutions - WTO @ 25: The Way Forward' just prior to the MC12. The report aptly laid emphasis on the technological implications of technology for the future of global trade and its governance, in addition to 'trade in goods and services'; 'special and differential treatment'; 'fisheries subsidies'; and 'WTO reforms: drivers and contestations'.

Earlier also RIS had brought out the three editions of this flagship publication viz. World Trade and Development Report 2015: Mega Regionals, WTO and New Issues;

World Trade and Development Report 2007: Building a Development-Friendly World Trading System; and World Trade and Development Report 2003: Cancun and Beyond coinciding with organization of the WTO Ministerial Conferences.

Future of Multilateralism

RIS launched a series of discussion meetings and webinars on the State of Multilateralism. The first dialogue was on 'WTO@25' and the second dialogue in this series focused on 'Global Trade Governance and Multilateral Framework: The Way Forward'. A Dialogue on the Future of Multilateralism was also organised. The webinars brought together commentators and intellectuals from the North and the South to deliberate on the implications and way forward.

Engagement with FTA Negotiations

RIS has strenuously worked in association with the Ministry of Commerce and Industries (MoCI) on four different CEPA/CECA policy research studies:

- India- GCC FTA
- India-Eurasia Economic Union FTA
- India-Australia ECTA and
- India-Canada CEPA

On each of these FTAs, the engagement of RIS has been limited to specific mandates depending on the distinctive needs of the negotiating team. For example, in the case of the India-GCC FTA, arrangements were made to have a presentation to the MoCI team based on comprehensive research work on trade in goods, services and investment. Now the mandate is expanded further to prepare a full-fledged report for the negotiation.

Though RIS as a Knowledge Partner of the MoCI has completed many studies and Joint Feasible Study Group (JFSG) reports such as JFSG for Australia, Canada and the Eurasian Economic Union (EaEU) in the past, our present mandate is confined to a specific focused area for the negotiation. For India-Australia ECTA, a detailed note on specific issues under 'areas of cooperation' was prepared and shared with the MoCI. In the case of the India-Eurasia Economic Union (EaEU) CEPA, trade potential at the product level and current level of bilateral trade engagement was submitted to the concerned territorial division. For India-Canada CEPA, the focus has been to examine the competitiveness of India in specific trade in services (TIS) sectors. For this study, work is underway and several rounds of discussions are going on with the territorial division of the MoCI for data and other issues.

Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)

RIS has been working on the issues related to IPRs. During the pandemic it came out with a policy brief on intellectual property rights and innovation. Earlier the institute has studied issues related to technology development and national IPR; R&D capability and health care; climate change, technology transfer and intellectual property rights; intellectual

property regime, indigenous knowledge ; Community-based rights and IPR regime; intellectual property rights, technology and economic development; public-private debate in agricultural biotechnology and new trends in the IPR Regime; intellectual property protection for biodiversity among others.

RIS and UNESCO

RIS has been working closely with UNESCO Natural Sciences Sector, Paris to explore partnership and cooperation between UNESCO, The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), particularly in the areas of Science Diplomacy, Science Policy and Innovation. Recently on the occasion of World Science Day 2021, UNESCO and RIS had jointly organised a webinar on “Building Climate Ready Communities” on 10 November 2021. RIS had also collaborated with UNESCO for publishing the Asian Biotechnology and Development Review (ABDR), which is an international journal on socio-economic development, public policy, ethical and regulatory aspects of biotechnology with a focus on developing countries.

e) Role of RIS in Trade, Investment and Economic Cooperation Issues

3.20 Enquiring further on the issue, the Committee sought to know about instances wherein the inputs provided by RIS has helped the Government in Trade, Investment and Economic Cooperation. The Ministry have stated as under:

“Fostering policy dialogue on trade, investment and economic cooperation constitutes an integral part of the RIS work programme. It enables academicians, policy makers, practitioners and other stakeholders to carry out extensive deliberations on various economic issues confronting the Global South at national, regional, sub-regional and multilateral level and share their insights to come forward with possible solutions. In the recent past, RIS organized a number of such dialogues, meetings and discussions, covering these areas of profound importance to developing countries and India. Their themes included Energy Efficiency in Effective Energy Transition; Future Digital Currencies and Crypto-Currencies; Revisiting Economic Cooperation in BIMSTEC in Post-COVID-19; Need for Setting Up of a New Development Bank; Global Trade Governance and Multilateral Framework; Post-Pandemic Indian Ocean Regional Economic Cooperation; Global Trends in Triangular Co-operation; Role of Banking and Financial Sector for overcoming pandemic challenges; Wellness, Health and Traditional Systems of Medicines; Fishery Subsidy and the Discussions at WTO: Issues, Prospects and Way Forward; TRIPS Waiver: Issues and Challenges; Asia’s Post-Pandemic Order and Integration; Cross-Country Cooperation in Digital Payment Platforms and FinTech Solutions; Maritime Economy in Indo-Pacific; Development Cooperation for Achieving the 2030 Agenda; India-EU Connectivity: Partnership for Development, Demand and Democracy; Developing GVCs; One World One Health; 75 Years of Development Partnership – Saga of Commitment to Plurality, Diversity and Collective Progress; Enabling the Global Energy Transition; Food and Agricultural Trade in BIMSTEC; Exploring New Development

Paradigms and Growth Strategies: Partnerships in Times of Transition and Contestations and so on.

The outcome of these dialogues and analyses provides vital information to policy makers and shapers and valuable reference points to the research community on issues related to trade, investment, finance, technology, health, development partnership etc.

RIS shares a wide range of divergent views on issues of significant importance to the country so that the government is able to have a multi-dimensional view on key issues, which is absolutely essential for the articulation of government policies and programmes. The range of its national and international partner institutions and body of external experts enables it to conduct in-depth discussions on key issues for holistic understanding of the issues involved and its remarkable convening power to invite subject scholars from across the globe with different affiliations to such deliberations.

Further, RIS work programme is shaped by not only the Ministry of External Affairs but by three other ministries, viz. Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), Ministry of Finance (MoF), Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST).

f) Efforts by RIS on leveraging the external sector for domestic economic growth.

3.21 The Committee also sought to know about the efforts initiated by RIS on leveraging the external sector for domestic economic growth. The Ministry in their written reply have inter- alia stated as under:

“As part of its knowledge sharing with Global South, RIS has taken the following key initiatives to leverage the external sector with domestic economic growth:

Specialized Initiatives

RIS hosts the Annual Delhi Process international dialogue with the support of Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India; United Nation Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC); Network of Southern Think-Tanks (NeST); Forum for India Development Cooperation (FIDC) and with participation of eminent international development experts and it has become an extremely important annual event for deliberations on international development cooperation assistance. RIS also conducts Science, Technology and Innovation Policy (STIP) Forum, Forum for Indian Science Diplomacy (FISD) and Forum on Indian Traditional Medicine (FITM) regular lecture series. Faculty members are regularly invited to participate in various important events held both in India and abroad. Apart from the above the RIS institutional initiatives include:

Initiative	Partners
ASEAN-India Centre (AIC)	Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India
Global Development Centre (GDC)	Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF)

G 20	Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and Civil Society
Blue Economy Forum (BEF)	Ministry of Earth Sciences, , Government of India
Center for Maritime Economy and Connectivity (CMEC)	Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Government of India
Network of Southern Think-Tanks (NeST)	- RIS - South Africa Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA) - Institute for Applied Economic Research (IPEA) and others

ASEAN-India Centre (AIC)

The ASEAN-India Centre at RIS, was established in 2013. The AIC at RIS is meant to serve as a joint resource centre for ASEAN Member States and India to fill the knowledge gaps that currently limit the opportunities for ASEAN-India cooperation including the goal of closer economic integration.

Global Development Centre (GDC)

Global Development Centre (GDC) was established in January 2019, with the support of erstwhile DFID (now FCDO), to institutionalise knowledge of India's ongoing successful economic and societal transformational developmental initiatives for their possible replication among interested partners in Asia and Africa. It was also envisaged to collate and promote the sharing of experiences, expertise and significant development practices of its partners abroad as part of mutual learning.

Blue Economy Forum (BEF)

Blue economy has emerged as a commonly acceptable development paradigm which has effectively blended economic growth with sustainable development. Blue Economy Forum (BEF) aims to serve as a dedicated platform for fostering dialogue on promoting the concept in the Indian Ocean and other regions. The forum focuses on conducting studies on the potential, prospects and challenges of blue economy; providing regular inputs to practitioners in the government and the private sectors; and promoting advocacy for its smooth adoption in national economic policies. The forum facilitates linkages between the policy makers, academicians and business community in the Indian Ocean and other regions.

Center for Maritime Economy and Connectivity (CMEC)

We are pleased to inform that a Memorandum of Agreement was signed between the Indian Ports Association (IPA) and RIS on 19 January 2023 at New Delhi. As part of

that a new Centre for Maritime Economy and Connectivity has been set up at RIS. The objectives that CMEC shall pursue, derive largely from the Maritime India Vision 2030 as articulated by Prime Minister. The process would be:

- To build a coherent and integrated architecture for orderly growth and diversification of India's maritime sector.
- Contribute to establishing of one or more regulatory frameworks to encourage investments into the sector including development of a common framework for cooperation and collaboration among the Indian Ocean nations.
- Enhance the contribution of blue economy to the economy particularly for job creation, livelihood diversification, and empowerment of dependent coastal communities; sharing of best practices and establish an India signature on maritime developments.
- Offer road maps for sustainable utilization for living and non-living marine resources within the maritime boundary of the country.

VIII RIS AND INDIA'S G20 PRESIDENCY

3.22 The Committee also sought to know about the contribution of RIS to India's G20 presidency. The Ministry in their written reply have stated as under:

“RIS has been engaged in G20 work for Indian Presidency in 2023, at multiple levels in the ‘Working Group’ as well as the ‘Engagement Group’ tracks. RIS is a knowledge partner for the Agriculture Working Group (AWG) and the Development Working Group (DWG). In addition, RIS is working with five engagement groups viz. Think 20 (T20), Science 20 (S20), Youth 20 (Y20), Civil 20 (C20) and Parliament 20 (P20). As part of the *Jan Bhagidari* initiative of the Government of India, RIS is the nodal institution for coordinating 75 lectures on G20 at 75 different universities across various states and union territories, under the programme University Connect.

Working Groups

Agriculture Working Group (AWG)

RIS has been working as a Knowledge Partner for the MoA&FW for the Agriculture Working Group (AWG). RIS prepared Issue Note, Concept notes and other papers for the AWG. The Issue Note has four themes namely, Food Security and Nutrition, Sustainable Agriculture with Climate Smart Approach, Inclusive Agri Value chains and Food Systems and Digitalization for Agricultural Transformation. Earlier, RIS organised a brainstorming session on priorities in the agriculture sector on July 16th, 2022. At this event, experts from agriculture universities and research institutions, representatives from MEA, NITI Aayog, ICAR, IIMs, private sector stakeholders like ITC, Mastercard, SPL technologies, Ninjacart and International Organizations such as FAO, BMGF, etc. participated.

RIS regularly enriches deliberations in the meetings of the core committee of the Ministry on AWG issues. RIS also provided inputs towards the ‘minus one draft’ for the Agriculture Ministers’ Communiqué and on other aspects like Food Security and Nutrition, Livelihoods, Farmers’ Aggregation Models and Incomes, Food Loss and Waste, Millet Initiative, Agricultural Market Information System, towards G20 collaborations.

Development Working Group (DWG)

RIS has provided inputs and comments to various background documents prepared for the Development Working Group (DWG) from time to time. It includes historical analysis of the DWG agenda and specific comments on thematic issue notes. RIS will be organising a side event on April 6, 2023 at Kumarakom on the theme LiFE and just energy transition.

Think 20

RIS is one of the lead coordinating institutions for Think 20 (T20) during the ongoing Indian Presidency of G20. The Director General, RIS is a member of the Core Group of T20 that provides overall guidance on the themes, priorities and events of T20 that would be organised from time to time. Besides that, RIS has been tasked as the lead institution for the two Task Forces of T20, viz., TF-3: Life, Resilience and Values for Wellbeing, being led by Professor Sachin Chaturvedi and TF-6: Accelerating SDGs- Exploring New Pathways to the 2030 Agenda, being led by Mr G. A. Tadas. In addition, Professor S.K. Mohanty, Professor T.C. James, Dr. Priyadarshi Dash and Dr. Sabyasachi Saha are serving as the Co-Chairs of TF-1, TF-3, TF-5 and TF-3, respectively.

Besides active contribution to the T20 Inception Conference held on 13-14 January 2023 and T20 Town Hall held on 5 March, 2023, RIS also organised a Special Event on the theme “Global Governance with LiFE, Values and Wellbeing” in Bhopal on 16-17 January 2023. Honourable Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh inaugurated the event and shared his vision for a new world that would cherish growth in harmony with nature. This event has a number of plenary and technical sessions with contributions of notable international experts on the subject. The conference primarily covered issues within the focus TF 3 and TF 6. For this conference RIS partnered with Think 20, Urban 20, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Good Governance and Policy Analysis (AIGGPA), Madhya Pradesh State Policy and Planning Commission, United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), Global Development Centre (GDC) at RIS, GIZ India, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF). With around 400 participants including over 90 international speakers, more than 100 experts from different parts of India, and enthusiastic local participation, the T20 Special Event over the two days marked a significant milestone for T20 India as well.

The conference adopted the widely acclaimed ‘Bhopal Declaration’ that calls for value based development paradigm towards lifestyle for environment (LiFE) and economic systems transformation; accelerate the SDGs through financing and localization; diversify global value chains with due space for developing countries; strongly focus on integrating one health approaches; prioritise investment in children and women led development; financing of resilient infrastructure; going beyond GDP towards well being measurement; bring on board Africa and make G20 more inclusive by addressing concerns of the Global South. The rich content and high quality extensive deliberations captured in the ‘Bhopal Declaration’ would certainly become the basis of reference and to be acted upon by the T20 fraternity and the G20 in the Working Group deliberations and ministerial tracks.

Civil 20

RIS is engaged as a Knowledge Partner for the Civil 20 (C20). Besides providing inputs on various themes to the C20 Secretariat. RIS has been invited to several

consultation and strategy meetings of the C20 India. RIS is actively contributing to two Working Groups of C20 such as the LiFE and the Integrated Holistic Health. RIS delegation was present at the C20 Indonesia summit in 2022.

Science 20

RIS provides inputs to various activities of Science 20 (S20). The theme of S20 for Indian Presidency is “Disruptive Science for Innovative and Sustainable Development”. S20 will focus on the following themes; (i) A call for universal holistic health – with emphasis on prevention of disease, (ii) Adoption of clean energy for a greener future, and (iii) Connecting Science to Society and Culture.

Youth 20

RIS actively contributes to Youth 20 (Y20) with an aim to strengthen the engagement with the youth in the country. The Ministry of Youth Affairs has nominated RIS to organise 50 brainstorming sessions in 50 cities, on five themes which include (i) Future of Work: Industry 4.0, Innovation, & 21st Century Skills, (ii) Peace building and Reconciliation: Ushering in an Era of No War, (iii) Shared Future: Youth in Democracy and Governance, (iv) Health, Wellbeing & Sports: Agenda for Youth, and (v) Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction.

RIS is collaborating with Young India, CII and National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) and The Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE) for organising the brainstorming sessions. The first brainstorming session on “Industry 4.0: Building Future Ready Workforce” was held at AIGGPA, Bhopal on 18 January, 2023. Two more brainstorming sessions on 7 March and 8 March 2023 in Kochi and Bangalore respectively have been held.

G20 University Connect

As part of the ‘Jan Bhagidari’ initiative of the G20 Indian Presidency, Prime Minister has advised to spread awareness about the G20 among the youth especially the students and engage them in the G20 activities planned for the whole year. MEA has identified 75 universities from different states and union territories of the country for organising lectures on G20 particularly on the role of and expectations from the Indian Presidency. MEA has nominated RIS as the Coordinating Institution for the G20 University Connect programme. RIS has prepared a background note on G20 called ‘G20-A Primer’ on G-20 University Connect which has been received well among the students and the faculty of the host universities. Building on the existing RIS-University linkage, the G20 University Connect initiative would help develop an ecosystem for RIS-University connect in the future.

G20 Digest

G20 has emerged as an important global forum over the years, and G20 Leaders’ Summits are watched worldwide with keen interest. Successive presidencies of G20 have encapsulated a vast array of issues beyond the financial sector; each having potential impact on trade & investment, global governance and social sector. Each presidency has contributed to the summit process by adding new issues along with the routine ones resulting in a wider and diverse G20 Agenda. In view of the diversity of issues and complex challenges the world is grappling with, the expectations from G20 have multiplied. It is imperative to comprehend and assess the rise of G20, and its role and function in shaping the future global order. In order to motivate and stimulate fresh ideas on G20 and its implications for global economy, RIS brings out the quarterly journal, G20 Digest, as a

platform to compare, contrast and create new knowledge that matter for the people in the G20 countries and in the world, including the developing and less developed countries.”

3.23 Giving an update on the matter, DG, RIS during sitting of held on 05.04.2023 stated as under:

“जी-20 के अंतर्गत हम लोगों ने विश्वविद्यालयों से सम्पर्क करने का प्रयास किया है। xxx इसके बारे में तीन-चार बातें, मैं आपके ध्यान में लाना चाहता हूँ।

सबसे पहली बात यह है कि विदेश मंत्रालय के सहयोग से आर आई एस ने 75 विश्वविद्यालयों में जाने का मन बनाया है। उनमें से अभी तक हम लोग 33 विश्वविद्यालयों तक पहुंच पाए हैं। xxx इसमें महत्वपूर्ण बात यह है कि जब हम विश्वविद्यालयों के स्टूडेंट्स के पास जी-20 के बारे में चर्चा करने के लिए जाते हैं, तो जी-20 के बारे में उनकी सोच क्या है, इसके बारे में उनकी जानकारी क्या है और इसके बारे में उनका शोध क्या है, इनके बारे में हम अलग-अलग स्तरों पर जानकारी लेते हैं। चाहे वे अंडरग्रेजुएट लेवल के स्टूडेंट्स हों, चाहे पोस्टग्रेजुएट स्टूडेंट्स हों या पीएचडी के स्टूडेंट्स हों, हम उनसे अलग-अलग स्तर पर वार्तालाप करते हैं। हम आपके लिए कुछ ऐसे पब्लिकेशंस लाए हैं, जो देश की 12 भाषाओं में हैं। हम लोगों ने एक ‘जी-20 प्राइमर’ अंग्रेजी में निकाला था, उसी को हमने हिन्दी में भी निकाला। इसी तरह से, उसे तमिल, तेलुगु, मलयालम, गुजराती, मराठी आदि भाषाओं में निकाला, xxx।

इसके बाद आरआईएस का जी-20 के लिए जो महत्वपूर्ण सहयोग है, वह यूनिवर्सिटी कनेक्ट है। इस कार्यक्रम का नाम ‘यूनिवर्सिटी कनेक्ट’ रखा गया है। हमारा ऐसा सोचना है कि भारत की जी-20 की प्रेसिडेंसी सितम्बर के बाद 30 नवम्बर को औपचारिक रूप से समाप्त होगी। लेकिन ‘यूनिवर्सिटी कनेक्ट’ हमारे लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण अवसर है, जिसके माध्यम से हम देश के तमाम विद्यार्थियों को अंतर्राष्ट्रीय शोध, जो अभी तक सिर्फ दिल्ली के कुछ विश्वविद्यालयों के पास ही थी, उस से बाहर निकालकर ले जा सकेंगे। जैसा कि सरकार की ओर से बार-बार कहा जा रहा है, प्रधानमंत्री जी स्वयं कह रहे हैं कि हम लोगों को अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सोच को विकसित करना है विश्वविद्यालयों के स्तर पर, विशेषरूप से उन क्षेत्रों में, जो देश के बॉर्डर एरियाज में हैं एवं उन क्षेत्रों में, जहाँ पर विदेश से विद्यार्थी पढ़ने के लिए आ रहे हैं। इसलिए अंतर्राष्ट्रीय विषयों पर यह एक समेकित सोच होगी। इस संबंध में क्या प्रयास किये जाने चाहिए, इसके बारे में भी हम ‘यूनिवर्सिटी कनेक्ट’ के माध्यम से चर्चा कर रहे हैं।

दूसरा महत्वपूर्ण उद्देश्य यह है कि जी-20 में भारत ने छः महत्वपूर्ण बिन्दु रखे हैं और उनके बारे में एक प्रारंभिक सोच और एक गहराई के साथ किये गये शोध के आधार पर, जो वक्तव्य हो सकता है, उसे विद्यार्थियों के सामने लेकर आना है। इस संबंध में, मैं छः बातें आपके सामने रखना चाहता हूँ, जो आर आई एस के रिसर्च एजेंडा से भी संबंधित हैं और ‘यूनिवर्सिटी कनेक्ट’ में भी हम उनको आगे ले जाने का प्रयास कर रहे हैं।

पहली बात तो यह है, xxx कि आआईएस ट्रेड के लिए जाना जाता है। ट्रेड के संबंध में, अंतर्राष्ट्रीय व्यापार के संबंध में चार महत्वपूर्ण पिलर हैं, जिन पर आर आई एस काम कर रहा है। पहला, जैसा कि आप देख रहे हैं कि भारत के जो एफ टी एज (फ्रीट्रेडएग्रीमेंट्स) हैं, उनके संबंध में, हमारी सोच में बदलाव आई है।

अब हम फ्री ट्रेड एग्रीमेंट्स के संबंध में तेजी से आगे बढ़ रहे हैं। आरआईएस के पास कॉमर्स मिनिस्ट्री की तरफ से ऐसे छः अध्ययन दिए गए हैं, जिसमें भारत का दूसरे देशों के साथ जो फ्री ट्रेड एग्रीमेंट है, चाहे ऑस्ट्रेलिया, कनाडा, बांग्लादेश हो, अभी हम जी सी सी के ऊपर काम कर रहे हैं, ऐसे छः अलग-अलग समूहों के राष्ट्रों के साथ हमारे फ्री ट्रेड एग्रीमेंट के संबंध कैसे हों, इसके बारे में हम लोग काम कर रहे हैं।

इसी के साथ, मैरिटाइम कनेक्टिविटी का विषय है। चाइना का जो ट्रेड का राइज हुआ, उसका एक बड़ा कारण यह था कि चाइना ने अपनी मैरिटाइम कनेक्टिविटी और ट्रेड फैसिलिटेशन, दोनों के ऊपर अपनी पकड़ रखी। आरआईएस उसी के संबंध में, कॉमर्स और फाइनेंस मिनिस्ट्रीज के साथ मिलकर बहुत ही बारीकी से अध्ययन कर रहा है। आप एक महत्वपूर्ण परिणाम देख रहे हैं, जिस में हम अपने ही रूप एमेंट्रेड और ट्रांजैक्शंस कर सकते हैं। हम डॉलर में ट्रेड नहीं करेंगे। इस संबंध में, आर आई एस वर्ष 2006 से लगातार कई शोध प्रकाशित कर चुका है। वर्ष 2016-17 और 2017-18 में भी तेजी से हम ग्राउंड-बेस्डस्टडी लेकर आए हैं, जो आज हमारे नॉस्ट्रो-अकाउंट्स के रूप में सामने आ रहा है।

तीसरा महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दा उन विषयों को लेकर है, जो अब नये भारत के ट्रेड बास्केट में आ रहे हैं, जैसे आयुष। जिस तरह से, भारत सरकार इसमें घरेलू प्रचार-प्रसार के माध्यम से लोगों की भागीदारी बढ़ा रही है, उसी तरह से हम लोग देख रहे हैं कि विदेशों में आयुष का मार्केट कैसे क्रिएट हो। यहाँ प्रोफेसर मोहंती मेरे साथ हैं, उन्होंने देश का ऐसा पहला अध्ययन किया, जिसमें पहली बार, आयुष मंत्रालय और कॉमर्स मिनिस्ट्री दोनों को अपने अध्ययन के माध्यम से बताया कि टोटल आयुष का एक्सपोर्ट कितना है। हमारे अध्ययन से पता चला कि 18.5 बिलियन डॉलर का भारत का आयुष का एक्सपोर्ट है। हमने यह तमाम आंकड़े,

रिपोर्ट्स और हमारे जो एस्टिमेशंस हैं, उसके आधार पर बताया है। इसी का काम आयुष मंत्रालय ने आरआईएस को दिया है कि हम सर्विसेज सेक्टर का भी एस्टिमेशन करें और बताएं कि हम सर्विसेज का कितना एक्सपोर्ट कर रहे हैं। यह एक महत्वपूर्ण बात है।

चौथा और आखिरी विषय है कि हम ट्रेड में जो देख रहे हैं, वे क्रिटिकल मैटर्स और मिनरल्स हैं। क्या क्रिटिकल मैटर्स और मिनरल्स का हमारे एक्सपोर्ट में महत्वपूर्ण हो सकती है, इसके बारे में कोई शंका हो नहीं सकती है। चाइना ने जिस ढंग से, अलग-अलग जगहों पर प्रॉसेसिंग, माइंस को मोनोपोलाइज किया है, उसके संबंध में क्या अध्ययन होना चाहिए, इसके बारे में हम लोग देखकर ला रहे हैं। इस तरह से, ये चार पिलर्स ट्रेड के हैं।

अगला महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दा एसडीजीज का है। हम देख रहे हैं कि जो एसटीआई (साइंस एंड टेक्नोलॉजी इनोवेशन) है, वह एसडीजीज में कैसे मदद कर सकता है। हम किन मुद्दों पर काम कर सकते हैं, जैसे साफ पानी, न्यूट्रिसस फूड, हेल्थ टेक्नोलॉजीज और रिन्यूएबल एनर्जी चारों भारत के जी-20 के प्रायोरिटीज हैं। xxx एक बुकलेट पब्लिश करके हमने आपको दिया है, जिसमें आरआईएस के नये इनिशिएटिव्स हैं, जो स्पेशियली पार्लियामेंट्री स्टैंडिंग कमेटीज के लिए रखे हैं। ऐसे सात इनिशिएटिव्स का हमने जिक्र किया है, xxx।

इसके साथ ही, हमने एक नया इंडेक्स बनाने की कोशिश की है। फाइनेंस ट्रेड में वित्तमंत्री जी के साथ बंगलोर में और आने वाली जी-20 की फाइनेंस ट्रेड की बैठक में हमने एक महत्वपूर्ण प्रस्ताव पर काम किया है, जिसके माध्यम से हम लोग यह कह रहे हैं कि अब समय आ गया है, जब हम जी डी पी को मिजरमेंट का रास्ता छोड़कर जीडीपी को ही देश के विकास का पैरा मीटर न मानें और हम उससे आगे बढ़ें। जब हम जीडीपी से आगे बढ़ेंगे, तो हम लोगों ने एक नये इंडेक्स की बात की है, जिसे हमने 'वेलबिंग' इंडेक्स कहा है। वेलबिंग इंडेक्स की बात अकेला आरआईएस कर रहा है, ऐसा नहीं है। हमने इसके लिए ओईसीडी के साथ सम्पर्क किया। ओईसीडी और आरआईएस ने मिलकर एक रिपोर्ट निकाली। जैसा कि आप जानते हैं कि ओईसीडी डेवलपड कंट्रीज का एक अंतर्राष्ट्रीय थिंकटैंक है। हम लोगों ने उन के साथ मिलकर यह निकाला है। देश के जो प्रमुख अर्थशास्त्री हैं, ऐसे 24 अर्थशास्त्रियों का हमने एक समूह बनाया है, उनके सामने हमने अपने अध्ययन को रखा। हमने उन लोगों के साथ मिलकर काम किया। अभी हमने इसके ऊपर रिजर्व बैंक ऑफ इंडिया के साथ काम किया। यह एक महत्वपूर्ण अध्ययन है, जिस के ऊपर हम वेलबिंग के रूप में काम कर रहे हैं। कल कुमाराकोम में डेवलपमेंट वर्किंग ग्रुप की बैठक शुरू हो रही है। उसमें आरआईएस एक स्पेशल प्रजेंटेशन के रूप में जी-20 देशों के सामने 'वेलबिंग' इंडेक्स का यह नया स्वरूप सामने रखेगा। हम उस विषय को आगे लेकर जाएंगे।

इसके साथ ही, हमने इसरो के साथ एक एमओयू साइन किया है। जो एमओयू साइन हुआ है, उसमें आरआईएस और इसरो मिलकर स्पेस मार्केट के अध्ययन का काम शुरू कर चुके हैं। उस का पहला अध्ययन सामने आ चुका है। हमने IN-SPACe के साथ मिलकर एक नया एमओयू किया है, जिसमें हम लोग स्पेस के ऊपर काम कर रहे हैं।

इसी के साथ जो ग्लोबल पब्लिक गुड्स हैं, जैसे कि ब्लू इकोनॉमी, जो कि ऊष्म से संबंधित है, उसमें हमने अभी इंटरनेशनलसी बेडअथॉरिटी के साथ मिलकर एमओयू किया और अब हम पहला अध्ययन कर रहे हैं कि समुद्र की गहराई में जो बायोडायवर्सिटी है, जो मिनरल्स हैं, जो रिसोर्स हैं, उनका प्रोटेक्शन कैसे हो, उनका सस्टेनेबल यूटिलाइजेशन कैसे हो, इसके ऊपर हम लोग काम कर रहे हैं। साथ ही अभी कोविड के समय एमएसएमईज के ऊपर क्या असर हुआ और उन्होंने डिजिटलाइजेशन को कैसे अपनाया? यह भी एक नया विषय है, जिसके ऊपर आरआईएस ने प्रोएक्टिवली काम किया है। जैसा चेरमैन साहब कह रहे थे कि क्या हम लोग प्रोएक्टिवली कर रहे हैं, तो प्रोएक्टिवली हमने अभी, एमएसएमईज ने डिजिटलाइजेशन को कैसे अपनाया, क्या उसकी कॉस्ट में कमी हुई है और जो माइक्रो इंटरप्राइजेज हैं, उनके लिए कॉस्ट में वृद्धि हुई है, मीडियम और स्मॉल के लिए कॉस्ट में कमी आयी है, तो यह जो विरोधाभास हमारी नीति में है, उनको हम कैसे कम कर सकते हैं और कैसे हम माइक्रो, स्मॉल और मीडियम इंटरप्राइजेज को एक ही धरातल पर लेकर आ सकते हैं, यह एक महत्वपूर्ण चीज है। साथ ही आर आई एस ने भी नीति आयोग के साथ एम ओयू किया है। नीति आयोग में आप जैसा जानते हैं, एक नई यूनिट का, माननीय प्रधानमंत्री जी के कहने पर गठन किया गया है, उसका उद्देश्य 15वें वित्त आयोग में जो कहा गया कि हर विभाग की पॉलिसीज का थर्ड पार्टी रिव्यू होना चाहिए। आपको यह जानकर प्रसन्नता होगी कि आरआईएस को थर्ड पार्टी रिव्यू के लिए एक आइडेंटिफाइड इंडस्ट्री ट्यूशन के रूप में मान्यता दी गई है। नीति आयोग से मिली मान्यता के अंतर्गत हमें 156 अलग-अलग स्कीम्स में और उनको हमने अभी क्लब किया है, उसमें साइंस, टेक्नोलॉजी, मिनिस्ट्री ऑफ साइंस एंड टेक्नोलॉजी, डिपार्टमेंट ऑफ बायोटेक्नोलॉजी, इनकी जो स्कीम्स हैं, उनके असेसमेंट का हम लोगों को एक महत्वपूर्ण जिम्मेदारी दी गई है। जैसा विदेश सचिव ने कहा कि अभी 12 और 13 जनवरी को जो ग्लोबल साउथ समिट हुआ, उसमें प्रधानमंत्री जी ने जिस संस्थान के बनने की घोषणा की, आरआईएस और विदेशमंत्रालय ग्लोबल साउथ सेंटर ऑफ एक्सीलेंस फॉर डेवलपमेंट विषय पर काम कर रहे हैं।

महोदय, इस का उद्देश्य यह है कि हम जो भारत के विकास का महत्वपूर्ण पड़ाव पिछले कुछ वर्षों में देख रहे हैं, लगातार जिन क्षेत्रों में भारत ने विकास किया है, इन मान्यताओं को और विकास के इन पैरामीटर्स को हम अन्य विकासशील देशों के साथ कैसे साझा करें। हम कैसा मॉडल खड़ा करें, चाहे वह यूपीआई का हो, चाहे आयुष्मान भारत का हो, डिजिटल पब्लिक गुड्स का हो, उसको हम विकासशील देशों के पास कैसे लेकर जाएं? कैसे उन लोगों को, इन प्रोडक्ट्स को अगर कहा जाए तो अपना ने के लिए फैसिलिटेटिंग कंडीशंस, फ्रेमवर्क्स कैसे हों और इसका महत्वपूर्ण अंग, जैसा मैं कह रहा था, वेल-बीइंग इंडेक्स के रूप में, जो विश्व

की विकास की जो सोच है, the international financial institutions which have been governing them through Washington Consensus, how do we change that, how do we bring in new paradigm for development? So, our endeavour is also going to contribute in terms of how new development should look like and that is where, I think a very fundamental transition is going to happen and from that perspective, RIS is trying to contribute in terms of not only measurement which is related to GDP going beyond it but also in terms of how global south. It is not just about our market but also about, with the collapse of the Washington Consensus, how do we create new set of parameters for international financial institutions

IX. Dissemination Programmes of RIS

a. Capacity Building Programmes:

3.24. In the background note submitted to the Committee, RIS has inter-alia stated that it conducts a number of capacity building programmes which include:

- I. Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programmes with Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India on:
 - International Economic Issues and Development Policy (IEIDP);
 - Sustainable Development Goals;
 - Trade and Sustainability;
 - Learning South-South Cooperation and;
 - Science Diplomacy
- II. IBSA Visiting Fellowship Programme with Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India
- III. Summer School on Trade with EXIM Bank of India;
- IV. Internship Programme for university students

3.25 Asked to provide details of the capacity building programmes organized by RIS in the last 3 years, the Ministry in their written reply have stated as under:

“Normally, RIS organizes five ITEC programmes during a financial year, in addition to several programmes with the support of its partners. However, due to COVID pandemic which disabled international travel and resulted in strict adherence to social distancing norms prescribed by the government, RIS could not conduct these programmes in a full-fledged manner. However, during the period under review, RIS conducted the following ITEC capacity programmes supported by the MEA:

Financial year	Period	Name of course	Mode
2019-2020	6-17 January 2020	Science Diplomacy	In person

2019-2020	10 Feb - 6 March 2020	International Economic Issues and Development Policy	In-person
2022-2023	12-23 January 2023	Learning South-South Cooperation	In-person
2022-2023	13-24 March 2023	Sustainable Development Goals	On-line

In addition, RIS also conducted the following capacity building programmes with the support of its other partner institutions:

2022-2023	29-30 September 2023	National Training on Agricultural Trade Policy Analysis in collaboration with Central for Research in Rural and Industrial Development and Food Security Policy Research, Capacity, and Influence (PRCI), in Chandigarh.	In person
2022-2023	17-18 February 2023	Capacity Building Programme on BIMSTEC Regional Agricultural Trade Analysis at Puducherry in collaboration with International Food Policy Research Institute and Pondicherry University	In-person

Currently there are three candidates who have joined the IBSA Fellowship Programme at RIS. Finally, as part of the Internship Programme at RIS 14 students from different universities of India completed their Internship at RIS during the last one year.”

3.26 Asked about the steps are being taken by RIS to attract young scholars, the Ministry in its written reply has stated as under:

“RIS, being a premier think-tank in India on global and regional economic policy, has accumulated a unique expertise and knowledge base in the field of international trade, regional economic integration, new technologies and industrialization, regional connectivity and infrastructure development, blue economy, development finance and related areas.

RIS has a dynamic programme to connect with the young scholars. As part of its wider dissemination and capacity building programme, RIS offers internship to post-

graduates in economics from reputed institutes/universities for a period of two to three months free of cost mostly during the summer and winter breaks of the academic semesters.

Apart from its internship programme, RIS also has a University Connect Programme under which it invites young scholars and academicians to its major conferences such as annual International Conference on South-South Cooperation.

b. RIS Publication Programme

3.27 In order to disseminate its research output, RIS brings out a number of publications, viz. Reports, Books, Policy Briefs and Discussion Papers. The flagship RIS Publications include:

Reports

- World Trade and Development Report (WTDR)
- South Asia Development Cooperation Report (SADCR)
- ASEAN-India Development Cooperation Report.

Journals

- 20 Digest,
- Development Cooperation Review (DCR)
- Science Diplomacy Review (SDR)
- South Asia Economic Journal (SAEJ)
- Traditional Medicine Review (TMR)
- Asian Biotechnology and Development Review (ABDR)
- Journal of Asian Economic Integration.

RIS faculty also contributes regularly to outside publications

3.28 In this regard RIS have further submitted that in the recent past, RIS brought out several publications on such themes, including India-EU Connectivity: Partnership for Development, Demand and Democracy; Ayush Sector in India: Prospects and Challenges; Deepening Cooperation in IBSA Perspectives From Key Sectors; ASEAN-India Development Cooperation Report-2021; E-Commerce Issues at the WTO Discussions and in India; ASEAN and India Partners of Integration in Asia; Bulk Drug Industry in India: Challenges and Prospects; Strategising India's Exports; What Ails Global Multilateralism: Prognosis and Way Forward; Need for Setting Up of a New Development Bank; India-EU Connectivity Partnership: Potential & Challenges; Global Goals (SDGs) for post-COVID: Dealing with Reversal of Gains and Spectre of Global Poverty; An Integrated Approach to TRIPS Flexibilities in the Post-pandemic Era; Access, Equity and Inclusion and Science, Technology and Innovation Policy; Global Governance of Technology and

Institutional Architecture; Intellectual Property Rights and Innovation in the Times of Corona Epidemic; Revisiting Economic Cooperation in BIMSTEC in Post-COVID-19; India's Import Dependence on China in Pharmaceuticals: Status, Issues and Policy Options; Intra-Industry Trade in Manufactured Goods: A Case of India; Fisheries Subsidy Issues before the MC12 Lessons from the May Text for the July Meeting; Post-pandemic Social Security Agenda: Universalizing Developmental Interventions Over Universal Basic Income; Pharmaceutical Trade: India's Growth Trajectories; 75 Years of Development Partnership –Saga of Commitment to Plurality, Diversity and Collective Progress; Developments in Agriculture Trade in the BIMSTEC Region; International Discussions on Indigenous People and India, among others.

X. RIS Human Resources Base

3.29 The sanctioned strength of regular Faculty posts of RIS consists of three Professors, three Associate Professors and not more than one or two Assistant Professors. RIS has not been able to expand its regular Faculty due to ongoing restrictions imposed by the Government on creation of new posts despite the strong recommendations made by its Governing Council of RIS in this regard. As such, RIS has to substantially rely on its contractual Faculty and continuously confronts the serious problem of frequent and sudden exits due to lack of job security as their contractual appointments can only be approved by RIS for not more than one year at a given point of time with the approval of Chairman. During the period of their engagement at RIS, most of the contractual Faculty employees of RIS keep looking for lucrative opportunities in other institutions or in the corporate sector and exit from RIS after gaining basic experience.

Table 01

2006	
Human Resource RIS	
Permanent	
Faculty	Staff
8	21
Contractual	
Faculty	Staff
8	6

Table 2

2010	
Human Resource RIS	
Permanent	
Faculty	Staff
7	24
Contractual	
Faculty	Staff
17	9
Outsourced	
Faculty	Staff
0	4

Table 3

2016	
Human Resource RIS	
Permanent	
Faculty	Staff
5	30
Contractual	
Faculty	Staff
24	4
Outsourced	
Faculty	Staff
0	9

Table 4

2022	
Human Resource RIS	
Permanent	
Faculty	Staff
8	19
Contractual	
Faculty	Staff
36	11
Outsourced	
Faculty	Staff
0	9

Table 5

2023	
Human Resource RIS	
Permanent	
Faculty	Staff
7	17
Contractual	
Faculty	Staff
49	9
Outsourced	
Faculty	Staff
0	9

3.30 Asked about the challenges being faced by RIS in fulfilling their aims and objectives. The Ministry in their written reply have stated as under:

“As per RIS, the two major challenges faced by them are space crunch, and the need to strengthen RIS faculty/human resource.

Space Crunch: As per RIS, the existing space at the India Habitat Centre, covering its initially acquired built up area of 1000 sq. mt. allocated to it on lease at IHC in September 1988 and the additional built up space of 381.46 mtrs acquired by it from IHC, is still insufficient to meet its present and emerging requirements. RIS does not have any facility to house visiting scholars, including six IBSA Fellowship holders instituted by the MEA or around 30 ITEC course participants coming from Global South to take part in its five specialized courses annually. Due to lack of required conference facilities within its limited space, RIS has to frequently look for appropriate venues outside for holding its key meetings or conferences in which a large number of scholars from within the country and abroad participate to deliberate on policy research issues. Needless to add that the grave

problem of space crunch is going to seriously confront RIS with the rising stature of India and the growing footprint of RIS within and outside the country particularly since RIS has to conduct a large number of policy research studies and programmes for its in-house platforms such as the Global Development Centre, ASEAN India Centre, Centre for Maritime Economy and Connectivity(CMEC) under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, which are going to play an extremely important part in the growth of the institution and would enable the country to leverage its domestic strength for advancement of its core economic interests.

It would be best if RIS is allocated a plot of land or some built up space within the Central Delhi region or within the institutional areas in the capital. It needs to have its campus, hostel and allied facilities as an institution of excellence in the country.

Strengthening RIS Faculty: As a credible research institution, RIS needs to have a far stronger regular Faculty base given the wide spectrum of its work programme requiring engagement of a large number of scholars with deeper domain knowledge and experience to conduct meaningful studies. RIS has to substantially rely on its contractual Faculty and continuously confronts the serious problem of frequent and sudden exits due to lack of job security as their contractual appointments can only be approved by RIS for not more than one year at a given point of time with the approval of Chairman. Over the years, most of the contractual Faculty employees of RIS keep looking for lucrative opportunities in other institutions or in the corporate sector and exit from RIS after gaining basic experience. An alternate mechanism to encourage and retain talent should be worked out.”

XI. Overlapping of Mandate of ICWA and RIS:

3.31 The Committee sought to know whether taking into account the mandate of ICWA and RIS whether there is any chance of overlapping of subjects. Responding to the query, Foreign Secretary during the sitting held on 22.11.2023 deposed as under:

“xxxx we segregated very consciously the differences between ICWA and RIS which we have just presented in three or four points here. One is governed by an Act; the other is a society under Societies Registration Act. The focus of ICWA is broadly on geopolitics and foreign policy whereas the principal worldview for RIS is economic. Now, there is geopolitics of economy; geopolitics of energy; geopolitics of food. In those, sometimes, there might be one or two specific activities; there might be a degree of overlap. If I have to commission a study which is focused exclusively on economic orientation where the principal demand is economic in nature, I will not go to ICWA; I will go to RIS because that is their core competence. But if I have a commissioning of studies which is predominantly geopolitics, there is no way I will go to RIS, I will go to ICWA.”

3.32 Adding further on the matter, Foreign Secretary during the sitting held on 05.04.2023 reiterated as under:

“With regard to the overlapping or otherwise of the work of the RIS and the ICWA, I would simply submit, xxxx, that these two bodies have separate mandates of their own, and have been great successes in their own effort.

]

3.33 Adding further to the query, DG, ICWA stated as under:

“xxxx the ICWA mandate is very wide. But the scholarship we draw on is largely the scholarship which brings political, strategic maybe security and, to some level, economics also. So, we have a very broad mandate our scholars can cover. But I have to go into depth into economics, my scholar may not be able to bring the product that RIS can get because RIS has got scholars who are very much into the economic field. So, I could not really take up their work.”

3.34 The Committee note that Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) is an autonomous policy research think tank that specialises in issues related to international economic development, trade, investment and technology. RIS advises the Government on all matters pertaining to multilateral and regional economic issues referred to it from time to time including collaborative arrangements with other developing countries. Pursuant to the mandate, RIS coordinates with the Policy Planning and Research Division and other Divisions in the MEA and provides its inputs and programmatic/ research support to MEA. Since RIS provides wide range of divergent views on issues of significant importance to the country which assists the government to have a multi-dimensional view on key issues, the Committee desire that the specialized research programme of RIS should be strengthened further and integrated within the Government system. Moreover, the Committee also desire RIS to widen its outreach to vigorously promote India’s narrative on areas of critical importance in the evolving world where counter narratives need to be handled effectively through evidence-based research.

(Recommendation No. 26)

3.35 The Committee understand that RIS brings out evidence-based policy research studies, policy briefs and research papers on emerging issues and organizes a wide range of events within the country and abroad under the overall guidance and support of the Ministry of External Affairs. The Committee note that the RIS gets Grant in Aid from MEA as well as other agencies. In 2021-22 , the grant was Rs. 22.19 crore including a special grant of Rs. 10.22 crore for acquiring an additional built up areas from India Habitat Center to overcome space crunch and in the FY 2022-23, the outlay was Rs. 14.19 crore. The Committee have been further informed that under BE 2023- 24 the allocation is Rs. 16.64 crore which is a substantial increase of 14.05% from last year's budget. The Committee have been told that these funds are used for the day-to-day functioning of the institution in terms of pay and allowances to its employees and for holding national and international meetings/ seminars/ conferences with the participation of national, regional and global scholars. Taking into account the impeccable track record of RIS in utilization of funds over the years and the growing spectrum of its work programme including the special policy research studies on G20 issues and the specific requirements of being MEA's Knowledge Partner for Think (T20) during India's Presidency of G 20, the Committee urge the Ministry to keep monitoring the budgetary requirements of RIS and make appropriate additional allocation at RE stage, if required.

(Recommendation No. 27)

3.36 The Committee note that RIS is envisioned as a forum for fostering effective policy dialogue and capacity-building among developing countries on global and regional economic issues. Since its inception, the focus of the work programme of RIS has been the promotion of South-South Cooperation and collaboration with developing countries in multilateral negotiations in various forums. The Committee have been told that RIS works

as a bridge to bring both Global South and Global North together to identify best possible solutions for accelerated growth of Global South. It has also been submitted that RIS has entered into research partnership agreements with the financial support of Northern partners to promote some of the best global practices for the economic development of Global South. The establishment of Global Development Centre at RIS clearly shows that RIS is moving towards the engagement of its Northern partners for accelerated economic development of Global South. In the emerging global scenario of interdependence amongst the nations, the Committee feel that forging working partnerships for attainment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDDGs), financial inclusion, gender equality, reformed multilateralism, etc. need to be upheld and India with her rising stature in the world economy and politics, should support every effort towards that end. The Committee, therefore, desire that MEA should encourage and support RIS to continue to act as a bridge and be the voice of the country in its attempts to bring about convergence of Global South with the Global North in areas of collective interest, at the same time guiding the Global South to defend and promote its core trade and economic interests at bilateral, regional and global levels during intergovernmental negotiations.

(Recommendation No. 28)

3.37 The Committee understand that RIS has expertise in theoretical exposition and empirical assessment of regional connectivity initiatives to assess long term gains and related issues. The Committee note that India does not have a dedicated think-tank to address regional connectivity issues which is of critical importance in contemporary times. The Committee have been assured that RIS has supported Government of India's track 1.5 initiatives by providing robust inputs in these areas and that its inputs have provided

valuable support to Government's decision making in terms of regional cooperation. The Committee understand that physical connectivity not only improves mobility between growth centers and hinterland but also promotes cross-border trade, foster people-to-people movement, and enhance cultural connect with the neighbouring countries. Closely linked with connectivity is trade facilitation. With a robust network of physical and digital connectivity, trade facilitation reforms and border infrastructure in place, trade costs gets reduced, value chains gets strengthened contributing to industrialization along the economic corridors. Taking into account the increasing role of India in the region as connectivity provider and infrastructure facilitator, the Committee urge the Ministry to utilize the expertise of RIS and encourage them to augment their expertise in the areas of trade facilitation and regional connectivity through new research, knowledge creation and data collection on neighbouring countries and specific sectors to provide valuable inputs to the Government in formulating India's connectivity strategy.

(Recommendation No. 29)

3.38 The Committee are given to understand that fostering policy dialogue on trade, investment and economic cooperation forms an integral part of the RIS work programme. The Committee note that in the recent past RIS has organized a number of dialogues, meetings and discussions encompassing various themes of national interest such as Energy Efficiency in Effective Energy Transition; Future Digital Currencies and Crypto-Currencies; Revisiting Economic Cooperation in BIMSTEC in Post-COVID-19; Need for Setting Up of a New Development Bank, etc. The Committee feel that such policy dialogues are of profound importance for our country since these enable academicians, policy makers, practitioners and other stakeholders to carry out extensive deliberations on various economic issues confronting the Global South at national, regional, sub-regional and

multilateral level and share their insights towards evolving possible solutions. The Committee, hope that RIS would plan to organize similar in-depth discussions on regular basis in coordination with its wide range of national and international partner institutions on key issues and strengthen its connect to the Ministries of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), Ministry of Finance (MoF) and Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST) to bring to table holistic understanding of issues on trade, investment and economic cooperation assimilated from subject scholars from across the globe with different affiliations and MEA should appropriately utilize the value of such discussions for betterment of foreign policy.

(Recommendation No.30)

3.39 The Committee note that RIS has been engaged in G20 work for Indian Presidency at multiple levels in the 'Working Group' as well as the 'Engagement Group' tracks. The Committee have been told that RIS is a knowledge partner for the Agriculture Working Group (AWG) and the Development Working Group (DWG) wherein it has been providing inputs and comments on various thematic issues concerned to each group. The Committee note that in addition to the above, RIS is also actively working with five engagement groups viz. Think 20 (T20), Science 20 (S20), Youth 20 (Y20) and Civil 20 (C20) as one of the lead coordination institutions for organizing events/conferences/seminars as also providing valued inputs to various activities being organized by these groups. In view of the diversity of issues and complex challenges the world is grappling with, the Committee are aware that the expectations from India's Presidency of G20 has really multiplied. While applauding the humongous role RIS is playing in shaping concerns of Think 20, Science 20, Youth 20 and Civil 20, the Committee urge RIS to infuse fresh ideas on G20 by carefully assessing its implications for global economy. The Committee also desire RIS to compare, contrast and

create new knowledge that matter for the people in the G20 countries and in rest of the world, including the developing countries, LDCs, SIDS, etc.

(Recommendation No.31)

3.40 The Committee note that under its University Connect Programme, RIS organizes a wide range of national seminars in collaboration with universities and academia across the country to generate greater awareness on foreign policy issues. Under the Programme it invites young scholars and academicians to take part in its major conferences such as Annual International Conference on South-South Cooperation. The Committee are aware that as a part of the '*Jan Bhagidari*' initiative of the G20 Indian Presidency, RIS has been organizing G20 Lecture Series in 75 universities across the country with the aim to reaching out to the youth and student fraternity of our country. The Committee view University Connect as an important means to connect with the youth of the country and generate awareness about the importance of India's G20 Presidency. It is also an opportunity for young Indians to bring new ideas and perspectives to G-20-related topics. The Committee hope that MEA will facilitate the RIS to successfully cover all the 75 Universities under the Jan Bhagedari Programme and rope in the youth of the country as cultural ambassadors who can help build long-lasting relationships with G-20 fraternity. Moreover, MEA alongwith RIS should also look into the possibility of continuing to bring in more and more Universities under the umbrella of University Connect Programme even after the end of India's G20 Presidency on 30 November 2023 and chalk out a mechanism to use the networks created during this period to build long-lasting relationships with the Universities in the country.

(Recommendation No. 32)

3.41 The Committee note that as part of its wider dissemination programme, RIS has been conducting a number of capacity building programmes which include Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programmes and the IBSA Visiting Fellowship Programme with the Ministry of External Affairs the Summer School on Trade with EXIM Bank of India and Internship Programme for university students. In addition, RIS also conducted capacity building programmes on Agricultural Trade Policy Analysis with the support of its partner institutions. As regards the IBSA Visiting Fellowship Program instituted at RIS to promote academic exchange of young scholars in the field of economics and social sciences for strengthening research collaboration among India, Brazil and South Africa in the spirit of South-South Cooperation, the Committee find that only three candidates have joined the programme in 2023. In view of the focus of this Fellowship programme on multilateral institutional frameworks and the diverse range of important issues that concerns IBSA, the Committee urge RIS and the MEA to ensure that all the available slots are filled so that every opportunity to do in-depth joint research and exchange of information in the fields of macro-economy, trade and development among India, Brazil and South Africa is fully utilized.

(Recommendation No. 33)

3.42 The Committee note that RIS offers internship to post-graduate students in economics from reputed institutes/universities for a period of two to three months mostly during the summer and winter breaks of the academic semesters. The Committee have been informed that 14 students from different universities of India completed their internship at RIS during the last one year. The Committee feel that to inculcate interest in policy research on international affairs, training to budding scholars needs to be encouraged from a very young age. As such Committee are of the view that being a premier think-tank in

India on global and regional economic policy, having accumulated unique expertise and knowledge base in the field of international trade, regional economic integration, new technologies and industrialization, regional connectivity and infrastructure development, blue economy, development finance and related areas, RIS should actively consider opening its internship programme in these specialized areas for students at graduate levels too. The Committee, hence, urge upon RIS to evaluate their internship programme and offer more opportunities to students and apprise the Committee about the same.

(Recommendation No. 34)

3.43 The Committee note that RIS disseminates its research output through a wide range of its publications like Policy Briefs, Reports, Discussion Papers, etc. The Committee also note RIS has brought out several publications on various themes including India-EU Connectivity: Partnership for Development, Demand and Democracy; Ayush Sector in India: Prospects and Challenges; Deepening Cooperation in IBSA Perspectives From Key Sectors; ASEAN-India Development Cooperation Report-2021; E-Commerce Issues at the WTO Discussions and in India; ASEAN and India Partners of Integration in Asia, etc. The Committee concur with submission of RIS that these research publications provide vital information to policy makers and shapers and are valuable reference points to the research community on issues related to trade, investment, finance, technology, health, development partnership, etc. The Committee, however, feel that there is a need for wider publicity for the research output of RIS and hence, urge RIS to take steps to ensure wider dissemination and easy availability of its publications for research scholars and academicians.

(Recommendation No. 35)

3.44 The Committee note that RIS has been having only a tiny regular faculty ranging between 5 to 8 scholars at a given point of time since 2006 in addition to contractual faculty hovering between eight to 36. The Committee further note that the sanctioned strength is three Professors, three Associate Professors and just one or two Assistant Professors. It is learnt that despite strong recommendations by its Governing Council, expansion of regular faculty could not be done due to restrictions imposed by the Government on creation of new posts. As such, RIS has to substantially rely on its contractual faculty who due to lack of job security exits suddenly as the contractual appointments can be approved by RIS for not more than one year. At times, it becomes even difficult to get well qualified scholars as Professors or Associate Professors. The Committee feel that as a credible research institution, RIS needs to have a far stronger regular faculty base given the wide spectrum of its work programme requiring engagement of a large number of scholars with deeper domain knowledge and experience to conduct meaningful studies. The Committee are of the considered view that RIS needs to have a larger number of young and promising scholars at the level of Associate Professor, Assistant Professor, apart from Research Assistants to ensure organic growth of RIS Faculty and give its junior and middle level members a sense of security and career advancement. Hence, the Committee urge RIS and the Ministry to take up the matter of creation of additional posts with the appropriate authority for appointment of regular faculty and intimate the Committee about the progress in this direction.

(Recommendation No. 36)

3.45 The Committee note that RIS functions from the India Habitat Centre (IHC) premises in Delhi covering an initially acquired built up area of 1000 sq. mt. in September 1988 and

an additional built-up space of 381.46 metres acquired by it from IHC later. The Committee have been told that RIS does not have any facility to house visiting scholars, including the six IBSA Fellowship holders or around 30 ITEC course participants coming from Global South to take part in its five specialized courses annually. Due to lack of required conference facilities within its limited space, RIS has to frequently look for appropriate venues outside for holding its key meetings or conferences in which a large number of scholars from the country and abroad participate. Looking into the situation, the Committee feel that the built-up space available with RIS is insufficient to meet its present and emerging requirements. The existing space provides no scope for expansion of RIS's Faculty, which is absolutely essential for its organic growth to carry forward its mission of conducting evidence based specialized studies on trade and economic issues to give a boost to Government's efforts towards Atmanirbharta. The Committee are of the considered view that RIS needs to have its campus, hostel and allied facilities as an institution of excellence in the country which is mandated to conduct a large number of policy research studies for its in-house platforms such as the Global Development Centre, ASEAN India Centre, Centre for Maritime Economy and Connectivity (CMEC), etc. apart from the wide range of other studies commissioned by its partners. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry may seriously take up the issue of providing adequate infrastructure facilities to RIS and apprise the Committee about the specific steps taken in this regard. RIS may also, in consultation with Ministry of External Affairs, create a futuristic work plan and seek necessary budgetary allocation from the Ministry of Finance.

(Recommendation No. 37)

3.46. The Committee desire that the Ministry of External Affairs may closely monitor the recommendations of the Committee with ICWA and RIS and submit the outcome to the Committee.

(Recommendation No. 38)

NEW DELHI
August, 2023
Sravana 1945(Saka)

Shri P.P. Chaudhary
Chairperson
Committee on External Affairs

**CONFERENCES AND RESEARCH STUDIES ORGANISED BY MEA WITH VARIOUS
THINK TANKS**

FY 2018-19:

● **Seminar/Conferences/Events**

Sl. No.	Conference/Seminars/Research Studies	Institute
1	Raisina Dialogue	Observer Research Foundation
2	Indian Ocean Conference	India Foundation
3	India US Forum	Ananta Centre
4	Global Technology Summit	Carnegie India
5	India Strategy Forum	Carnegie India
6	India-Canada Track 1.5 Dialogue	Gateway House
7	India Korea Track 1.5 Dialogue	Ananta Centre
8	India-Japan Track 1.5 Dialogue	Delhi Policy Group
9	Foreign Policy Outreach Initiative	Pune International Centre
10	Conference on Trump's Presidency	Vidya Prasarak Mandal
11	A Conference on Act East	Jadhavpur Association of International Studies
12	9th Biennial IAAPS Conference	Indian Association for Asian and Pacific Studies
13	West Asia Conference	Manohar Parikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MPIDSA)

● **Research Studies**

Sl. No.	Research Studies	Institute
1	Various research activities for understanding China and India-China Relations	Chennai Centre for Chinese Studies (CCCS)
2	Research Project	Centre for China Analysis and Strategy (CCAS)
3	Research Projects and Publications	Manoharparikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MPIDSA)
4	Research Projects and Publications	Association of Indian Diplomats (AID)
5	Research on BRICS	Observer Research Foundation

FY 2019-20

● **Events/Conferences/Seminars**

Sl. No.	Conference/Seminars/Research Studies	Institute
1	Raisina Dialogue	Observer Research Foundation
2	Indian Ocean Conference	India Foundation

3	India US Forum	Ananta Centre
4	Asia Economic Dialogue	Pune International Centre
5	Global Technology Summit	Carnegie India
6	India Strategy Forum	Carnegie India
7	India-Canada Track 1.5 Dialogue	Gateway House
8	India Korea Track 1.5 Dialogue	Ananta Centre
9	India-Japan Track 1.5 Dialogue	Delhi Policy Group
10	Conference on India's Neighbourhood First Policy	VidyaPrasarak Mandal
11	India-Bangladesh Relations	Jadavpur Association of International Relations
12	Three day international conference on Indo-Pacific	MaduraiKamraj University
13	Dialogue on Strategic Security Threats	National Institute of Advanced Studies
14	4th West Asia Conference	Manoharparikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MPIDSA)

● **Research Studies**

Sl. No.	Conference/Seminars/Research Studies	Institute
1	Various research activities for understanding China and India-China Relations	Chennai Centre for Chinese Studies (CCCS)
2	Research Project	Centre for China Analysis and Strategy (CCAS)
3	Research Projects and Publications	Manoharparikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MPIDSA)
4.	Research Projects and Publications	Association of Indian Diplomats (AID)

FY 2020-21:

● **Events/Conferences/Seminars**

Sl. No.	Conference/Seminars/Research Studies	Institute
1	Conference on India- Bangladesh	Jadavpur University
2	Seminar on India's Neighborhood First Policy	Vidya Prasarak Mandal (VPM)
3	Indian Ocean Conference	India Foundation
4	Conference on Indo-Pacific	Madurai University
5	India-Korea Track 1.5 Dialogue	Ananta Aspen Centre
6	NIAS-CISAC Dialogue on Strategic Security Threats	NIAS
7	Raisina Dialogue	Observer Research Foundation (ORF)

8	Asia Economic Dialogue	Pune International Centre
9	4th Global Technology Summit	Carnegie Endowment
10	4th West Asia Conference	Manoharparikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MPIDSA)
11	Prabhav	Impact Investor Council
12	4th India-US Forum Track 1.5 Dialogue	Ananta Centre
13	India-U.S. Track 1.5	Hudson Institute
14	Global Technology Summit	Carnegie Endowment

● **Research Studies**

Sl. No.	Conference/Seminars/Research Studies	Institute
1.	Various research activities for understanding China and India-China Relations	Chennai Centre for Chinese Studies (CCCS)
2.	Research Project	Centre for China Analysis and Strategy (CCAS)
3.	Research Projects and Publications	Association of Indian Diplomats
4.	Research and Publications	Manoharparikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MPIDSA)

FY 2021-22

● **Events/Seminars/Conferences**

Sl. No.	Conference/Seminars/Research Studies	Institute
1.	Asia Economic Dialogue	Pune International Centre (PIC)
2.	1st India-EU Track 1.5 Dialogue, 2021	Ananta Aspen Centre
3.	5th Indian Ocean Conference	India Foundation
4.	National Seminar on “Changing contours of Indo-US relations with special reference to issues like Trade, National Security Strategy, Covid 19 and underlying Geopolitical Trends”	Vidya Prasarak Mandal’s Centre for International Studies
5.	Global Tech Summit 2021	Carnegie Endowment
6.	India-France Track 1.5 Dialogue	Gateway House
7.	20th India-Korea Track 1.5 Dialogue	Ananta Aspen Centre
8.	5th India-US forum Track 1.5 Dialogue	Ananta Aspen Centre
9.	Kolkata- Dhaka Dialogue	HP Ghosh Research Centre (Bandhan

		Konnagar)
10.	India Japan Forum	Ananta Centre
11.	Asia Economic Dialogue 2022	Pune International Centre (PIC)
12.	4th India-Japan Indo-Pacific Forum	Delhi Policy Group (DPG)
13.	Bimstec- A Vehicle for Growth and Development	ISCS
14.	Foreign Relations Study on Indo-Pacific	European Council on Foreign Relation's (ECFR)

- **Research Studies**

Sl. No.	Conference/Seminars/Research Studies	Institute
1.	Various research activities for understanding China and India-China Relations	Chennai Centre for Chinese Studies (CCCS)
2.	Research Project	Centre for China Analysis and Strategy (CCAS)
3.	Research and Publications	Manoharparikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MPIDSA)
4.	Research Projects and Publications	Association of Indian Diplomats (AID)
5.	Research Project	Delhi Policy Group (DPG)

FY 2022-23

- **Events/Seminars/Conferences**

SI No.	Conference/Seminars/Research Studies	Institute
1.	NADI Dialogue, Guwahati on 28-29 May, 2022	Asian Confluence
2.	Annual Seminar at its Annual General Meeting	CIRC
4..	7th Raisina Dialogue 2022	Observer Research Foundation
6.	2nd India-EU Track 1.5 Dialogue	Ananta Aspen Centre
7.	1st Raisina Forum for Future of Diplomacy, 2022 in Delhi and Varanasi	Observer Research Foundation
8.	Policy Dialogue "Act East to Indo-Pacific: Role of North-east Indian states in 'Connecting the Connectivities' at Imphal	Asian Confluence
9.	8th India Japan Track 1.5 Dialogue	Delhi Policy Group
10.	6th India-US Forum	Ananta Aspen Centre
11.	8th Raisina Dialogue 2023 2-4 March 2023	Observer Research Foundation

12.	21st India-Korea Dialogue	Ananta Aspen Centre
13.	Global Tech Summit 2022 in Nov-Dec 2022	Carnegie Endowment
14.	India & Her Neighbours	Vidya Prasark Mandal
15.	7th Asian Economic Dialogue	Pune International Centre
16.	India-Global Forum in December, 2022	India Inc. Forum

- **Research Studies**

Sl. No.	Research Studies	Institute
1	Various research activities for understanding China and India-China Relations	Chennai Centre for Chinese Studies (CCCS)
2	Research Project	Centre for China Analysis and Strategy (CCAS)
3	Research and Publications	Manoharparikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA)
4	Research and Publications	Association of Indian Diplomats (AID)
5	MEA Chair of Excellence	USI
6.	Study on connectivity projects b/w the North-eastern States of India and Neighbouring Countries FY 2022-23)	NEDFi

**MINUTES OF THE FIFTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(2022-23) HELD ON 22 NOVEMBER, 2022**

The Committee sat from 1600 hrs. to 1750 hrs. in Committee Room '2', Extension Building, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

Present

Shri P.P. Chaudhary – Chairperson

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Smt. Preeneet Kaur
3. Smt. Goddeti Madhavi
4. Shri P.C. Mohan
5. Dr. Ritesh Pandey
6. Shri Rebati Tripura
7. Dr. Harsh Vardhan
8. Shri E. T. Mohammed Basheer

RAJYA SABHA

9. Shri Anil Desai
10. Shri Deepender Singh Hooda
11. Dr. Ashok Kumar Mittal

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

- | | | | |
|----|------------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1. | Shri Vinay Kwatra | : | Foreign Secretary |
| 2. | Ms. Vijay Thakur Singh | : | DG, ICWA |
| 3. | Dr. Sachin Chaturvedi | : | DG, RIS |
| 4. | Shri Soumen Bagchi | : | DDG, ICWA |
| 5. | Shri Anil Kumar Rai | : | JS (Parl. & Coord.) |
| 6. | Dr. Sumit Seth | : | JS (PP&R) |
| 7. | Ms. Kajaria Biswas | : | Director (PP&R) |

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------|---|-----------------|
| 1. | Dr. Ram Raj Rai | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Ms. Maya Menon | - | Under Secretary |

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members of the Committee and the representatives of the Ministry of External Affairs, ICWA and RIS to the sitting of the Committee convened to have a briefing on 'India's Policy Planning and Role of Think Tanks with Special Reference to ICWA and RIS'. After outlining the subject for deliberation, the Chairperson drew the attention of the witnesses to Direction 58 of the Directions by the Speaker, Lok Sabha regarding confidentiality of the proceedings.

3. Thereafter, the Foreign Secretary gave a power point presentation covering areas such as the history of policy planning in Ministry of External Affairs from the constitution of Policy planning division through its advancement over the years, its role within the Government functioning, its mandate, execution of the same, how the mandate of the policy planning division is delivered as specific policy product and policy recommendation and the various Track Dialogues that India currently has. The Foreign Secretary also briefed the Committee on the Flagship conferences organized by MEA, in – house and commissioned publications of MEA and various discourses held by MEA outside Delhi. Thereafter, the representatives of ICWA and RIS each gave brief presentation covering their mandate and working.

4. During the course of briefing, Members of the Committee raised several queries which *inter-alia* included the Raisina Dialogue of ORF and its relation to the Government, non representation of elected representatives to the Track 2 dialogue, factoring of issue of fake currencies supplied by China and narcotics supplied by neighboring countries in policy planning, absence of dialogues with Africa or neighboring countries of India, North America and South America except USA and Brazil, overlapping of mandates of ICWA and RIS etc.

5. The representatives from the Ministry of External Affairs responded to the queries of the Members. The Committee also desired that replies may be furnished to the points raised by the members of the Committee at the earliest. The Chairperson then thanked the representatives of the Ministry for valuable and insightful inputs on the topic.

The Committee then adjourned

(The witnesses then withdrew)

A verbatim proceeding of the Sitting has been kept on record.

MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(2022-23) HELD ON 12 DECEMBER, 2022

The Committee sat on Monday, 12 December, 2022 from 1515 hrs. to 1705 hrs. in Committee Room No. '2', Parliament House Annexe, Extension Building, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri P.P. Chaudhary, Chairperson

Lok Sabha

2. Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal
3. Shri Kalyan Banerjee
4. Shri Dileshwar Kamait
5. Smt. Preneet Kaur
6. Smt. Goddeti Madhavi
7. Smt. Poonam Pramod Mahajan
8. Shri P. C. Mohan
9. Smt. Queen Oja
10. Shri N.K. Premachandran
11. Smt. Navneet Ravi Rana
12. Shri Manne Srinivas Reddy
13. Dr. Harsh Vardhan

Rajya Sabha

14. Smt. Jaya Bachchan
15. Shri Anil Desai
16. Shri Prakash Javadekar
17. Dr. Wanweiroy Kharlukhi
18. Dr. Ashok Kumar Mittal

INDIAN COUNCIL OF WORLD AFFAIRS (ICWA)

- | | | | |
|----|------------------------|---|----------|
| 1. | Ms. Vijay Thakur Singh | - | DG,ICWA |
| 2. | Shri Soumen Bagchi | - | DDG,ICWA |

3.	Ms. Nutan Kapoor	-	JS (ICWA)
4.	Ms. Kajaria Biswas	-	Director (PP&R)
5.	Dr. Vaibhav Tandale	-	DS(ICWA)
6.	Dr. Nivedita Ray	-	DR(ICWA)

RESEARCH AND INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (RIS)

1.	Professor Sachin Chaturvedi	-	Director General, RIS
2.	Dr. S. K. Mohanty	-	Professor
3.	Dr. Beena Pandey	-	Assistant Professor

Secretariat

1.	Dr. Ram Raj Rai	-	Joint Secretary
2.	Smt. Reena Gopalakrishna	-	Director
3.	Ms. K. Muanniang Tunlut	-	Deputy Secretary
4.	Ms. Maya Menon	-	Under Secretary

2.	xxxx	xxxxxx	xxxxx	xxxxx
3.	xxxx	xxxxxx	xxxxx	xxxxx
4.	xxxx	xxxxxx	xxxxx	xxxxx
5.	xxxx	xxxxxx	xxxxx	xxxxx

The representatives of ICWA and RIS were called in.

6. The Chairperson welcomed the representatives of ICWA and RIS to the sitting of the Committee convened to have briefing by the representatives of the ICWA & RIS on the subject 'India's Policy Planning and Role of Think Tanks with Special Reference to ICWA and RIS'. After outlining the subject for deliberation, the Chairperson drew the attention of the witnesses to Direction 58 of the Directions by the Speaker, Lok Sabha regarding confidentiality of the proceedings.

7. Thereafter, DG, ICWA gave a power point presentation covering the history of ICWA, its vision, its composition, activities of ICWA encompassing details of its publication, research areas, programmes, details of Track 1.5/2 bilateral dialogues it is party to, its outreach initiatives, its

national and international partners etc. Thereafter DG, RIS also gave a power point presentation touching upon the history of RIS, details the Governing Council and Research Advisory Council of RIS, its vision, aims and objectives, its activities, its outreach programmes, its contribution to India's G20 presidency etc.

8. During the course of briefing, Members of the Committee raised several queries which *inter-alia* included the mandate of ICWA & RIS especially with reference to overlapping of areas of interest and research and how the same have been dealt with, the role of both the organisations in the articulation and promotion of India's foreign policy goals, the details of the total funds received by both the think tanks during the last five years and the purpose for which the funds have been utilized, preparedness of both the organizations to G20 Presidency of India etc.

9. The representatives from the ICWA and RIS responded to the queries of the Members. The Committee also desired that replies may be furnished to the points raised by the members of the Committee at the earliest. The Chairperson then thanked the representatives of the Ministry for valuable and insightful inputs on the topic.

*The Committee then adjourned
(The witnesses then withdrew)*

MINUTES OF THE SIXTEENTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (2022-23) HELD ON 05 APRIL, 2023

The Committee sat from 1500 hrs. to 1700 hrs. in Committee Room 'D', Parliament House Annex, New Delhi.

Present

Shri P.P. Chaudhary – Chairperson

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri. Dileshwar Kamait
3. Smt. Poonam Mahajan
4. Shri Ritesh Pandey
5. Dr. K. C. Patel
6. Shri N. K. Premachandran
7. Shri Manne Srinivas Reddy
8. Shri Rebati Tripura
9. Dr. Harsh Vardhan
10. Shri E. T. Mohammed Basheer
11. Shri Vishnu Datt Sharma

RAJYA SABHA

12. Shri Anil Desai
13. Shri Abdul Wahab
14. Shri Prakash Javadekar

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

1. Shri Vinay Kwatra : Foreign Secretary
2. Ms. Vijay Thakur Singh : DG, ICWA
3. Dr. Sachin Chaturvedi : DG, RIS
4. Shri Soumen Bagchi : DDG, ICWA
5. Ms. Nutan Kapoor Mahawar : JS (ICWA)
6. Shri Anil Kumar Rai : JS (Parl. & Coord.)
7. Dr. Sumit Seth : JS (PP&R)
8. Shri Rohit Mishra : Dir (FSO)

SECRETARIAT

1.	Dr. Ram Raj Rai	-	Joint Secretary
2.	Smt. Reena Gopalakrishnan	-	Director
3.	Ms. K Muanniang Tunglut	-	Deputy Secretary
4.	Ms. Maya Menon	-	Under Secretary

XXXXXX XXXXX XXXX

(XXXX XXXX XXXX)

(Witnesses were called in)

2. After welcoming the representatives of the Ministry of External Affairs, ICWA and RIS, the Chairperson gave a brief outline of the subject for deliberation and also drew the attention of the witnesses to Direction 58 of the Directions by the Speaker, Lok Sabha regarding confidentiality of the proceedings.

3. The Foreign Secretary then gave an overview of the subject covering *inter-alia* the mandate of Policy Planning Division, an update on the its recent activities, strategy in place for direct interaction with universities and academic institutions for research, effectiveness of output provided by think tanks in foreign policy formulation etc. Thereafter, the representatives of ICWA and RIS each gave a brief overview covering their mandate, an update on their activities, interaction with various universities and academic institutions, concerns of the Committee regarding overlapping of activities of the two organizations etc.

4. During the course of briefing, Members of the Committee raised several queries which *inter-alia* included the objectives of extension of mandate of policy planning division in 2015, getting and retaining quality research faculty in ICWA and RIS, steps taken by ICWA and RIS to attract young scholars, challenges being faced by ICWA and RIS in fulfilling their objectives, participation of young parliamentarians in foreign policy making etc.

5. The representatives from the Ministry of External Affairs responded to the queries of the Members. The Committee also desired that replies may be furnished to the points raised by the

members of the Committee at the earliest. The Chairperson then thanked the representatives of the Ministry for valuable and insightful inputs on the topic.

The Committee then adjourned

(The witnesses then withdrew)

A verbatim proceeding of the Sitting has been kept on record.

**MINUTES OF THE TWENTY SECOND SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (2022-23) HELD ON 03 AUGUST, 2023**

The Committee sat from 1030 hrs. to 1100 hrs. in Room No. 116 (Chairperson Room) Block 'B', Extension Building, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

Present

Shri P.P. Chaudhary – Chairperson

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Smt. Preneet Kaur
3. Smt. Poonam Mahajan
4. Shri P. C. Mohan
5. Smt. Queen Oja
6. Dr. K. C. Patel
7. Smt. Navneet Ravi Rana
8. Shri Soyam Babu Rao
9. Shri Manne Srinivas Reddy

RAJYA SABHA

10. Shri Anil Desai
11. Shri Abdul Wahab
12. Dr. Ashok Mittal

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------------|---|-----------------|
| 1. | Dr. Ram Raj Rai | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Smt. Reena Gopalakrishnan | - | Director |
| 3. | Ms. Maya Menon | - | Under Secretary |

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the Sitting of the Committee.
3. The Committee took up for consideration the draft Report on the subject "India's Policy Planning and Role of Think Tanks with Special Reference to ICWA and RIS.

4. The Chairperson invited the Members to offer their suggestions, if any, for incorporation in the draft Report. The members suggested some minor modifications. The Committee adopted the draft Report with these minor modifications.

5. The Committee then authorized the Chairperson to finalize the Report incorporating the suggestions made by the Members and present the same to Parliament.

The Committee then adjourned.