



Russian International
Affairs Council



**ANNUAL
REPORT**

2023

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01

GENERAL INFORMATION

The The Russian International Affairs Council Non-Profit Partnership (RIAC) is a membership-based Russian non-profit organization. RIAC was established by the decision of its founders in accordance with the President of the Russian Federation's Decree No. 50-rp of February 2, 2010, "On the Establishment of RIAC Non-Profit Partnership".

RIAC MISSION

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

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

FOUNDERS



Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Russian Federation
mid.ru



Ministry of Education and Science
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Russian Academy of Sciences
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Russian Union of Industrialists
and Entrepreneurs
rspp.ru



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Sergey Lavrov

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



"Smolensk Square [MFA Headquarters] cherishes close business ties and camaraderie with our RIAC colleagues. Such a mutually enriching partnership is especially needed today. The constant exchange of relevant and analytical information allows the Council's experts to better feel the 'nerve' of ongoing foreign policy work, while the Foreign Ministry's employees may keep abreast of the most advanced and innovative concepts in the theoretical understanding of major international relations trends, courtesy of these contacts. We also pay constant attention to the Council's proposals and recommendations on calibrating the direction of Russia's foreign policy, incorporating specific issues on the international agenda. Further developing fruitful interaction will have 'added value' due to the growing need to develop balanced and professional assessments of the increasingly complex international reality."

МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫЕ ОТНОШЕНИЯ:
ГРАНИ НАСТОЯЩЕГО
И БУДУЩЕГО



ТРА



РОССИЯ СЕГОДНЯ
БАРАНОВСКИЙ
Владимир Георгиевич



РОССИЯ СЕГОДНЯ
АФОНЦЕВ
Сергей Александрович

РОССИЯ СЕГОДНЯ
ИВАНОВ
Игорь Сергеевич

SPUTNIK

ВОСТИ

SPUTNIK

РИА
НС

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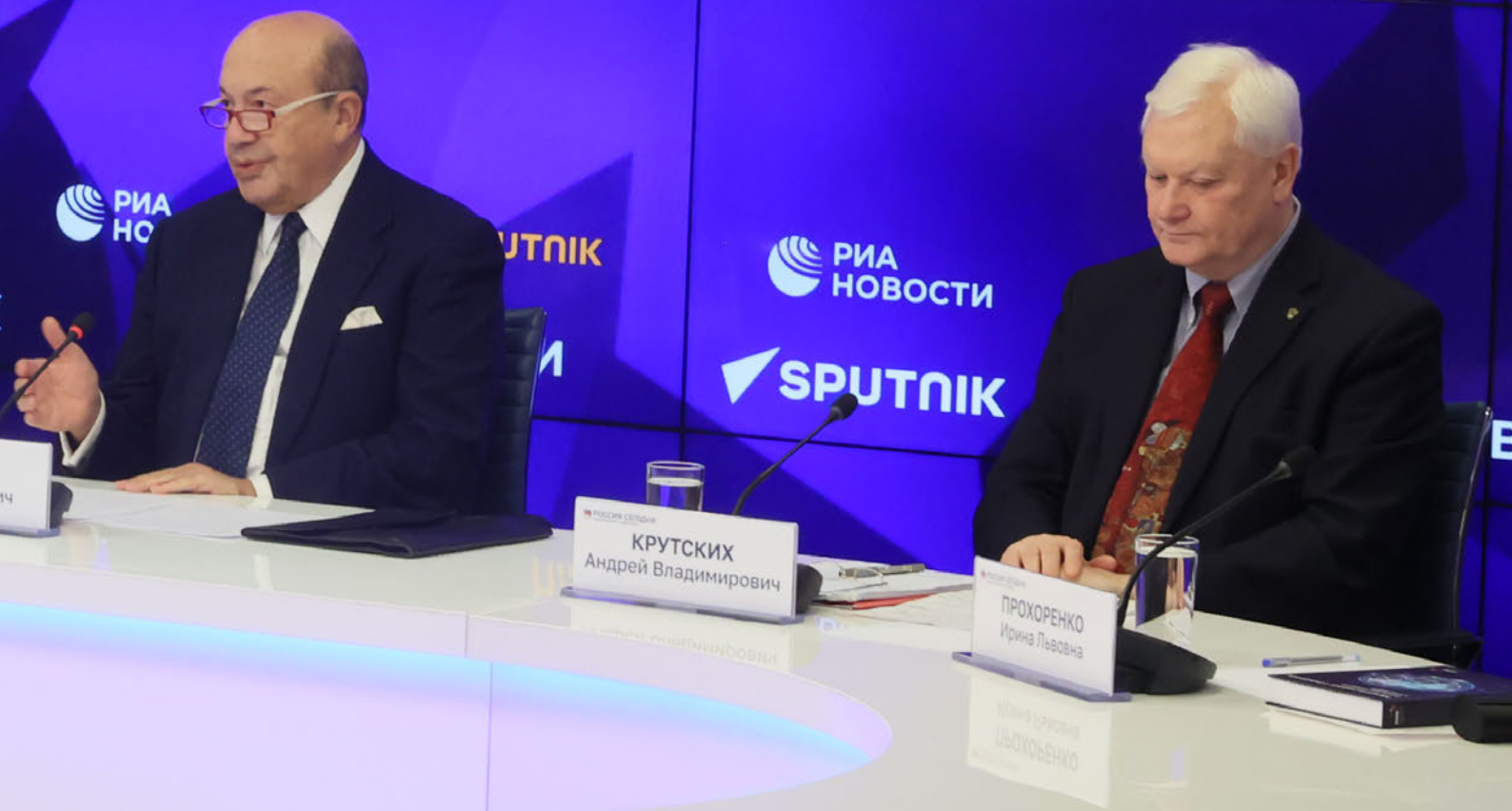
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PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

ИНФОРМАЦИЯ МЕЖДУНАРОДНОЙ СИСТЕМЫ
НАСТОЯЩЕЕ И БУДУЩЕЕ



02

PROGRAM
ACTIVITIES

The year 2023 was a time of serious restructuring of the Russian International Affairs Council's (RIAC) substantive work. On the one hand, such changes were dictated by large-scale shifts in the international arena and the emergence of new conceptual frameworks for Russia's foreign policy. On the other hand, they were determined by analyzing the Council's experience over the past twelve years. The task was to adapt RIAC's activities to the world's new conditions, while retaining areas and developments that have previously proved highly efficient.

RIAC continues to prioritize research and academic support for Russian governmental agencies, as well as the consolidation of Russian university and think tank efforts towards international relations. Over the past twelve years, the Council has established itself as a major source of international expertise, as well as an "assembly point" for advanced international relations achievements, coupled with the experience of those working in government agencies, public and private companies, as well as leading media and public organizations.

Additionally, RIAC carries out many of its more traditional activities – preparing analytical documents in various formats, organizing and holding major international conferences, seminars, roundtables, lectures by Russian and foreign experts, as well as many other events. The Council actively uses these formats to conduct a multifaceted analysis of current international issues, develop a dialogue with foreign partners, and promote Russia's approach to solving international problems abroad and domestically. These events are designed to open up new opportunities and mechanisms for cooperation with a wide range of states in the Asia-Pacific and Middle East, in addition to Africa and Latin America, the new associated directions for Russia's future development.

In 2023, activities focusing on Eurasian economic integration rose to a new level in terms of quality. RIAC actively cooperates with the Eurasian Economic Commission. A key achievement was RIAC's ability to organize regular expert seminars on the sidelines of the Eurasian Intergovernmen-

tal Council. To clarify the positions and interests of the EAEU member states, RIAC held numerous bilateral meetings with EAEU member state think tanks. Particularly, a productive exchange took place with the Belarusian Institute for Strategic Studies (BISI) and the Kazakhstan Institute for Strategic Studies (KISI). Contacts were regularly maintained with other partner organizations in Belarus, Armenia and Kyrgyzstan.

Collaboration with Chinese and Indian research centers, institutes and think tanks has also intensified. Promoting Moscow and Beijing's common interest in the global arena, Russian-Chinese economic cooperation and interaction in various regions of the world remained important, as per tradition. Special emphasis was placed on developing logistics and transportation cooperation between Greater Eurasian states, including in the context of growing cooperation between the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Such is most relevant, given the ongoing redistribution of global production and supply chains.

While engaging with Indian think tanks, RIAC sought to diversify its links and topics for discussion. In addition to its key partner, the Indian Council on World Affairs (ICWA), a high level of joint work has been accomplished with the Gateway House research center (Mumbai) on global economic and energy issues, as well as with Synergia Foundation (Bangalore) on technological cooperation.

RIAC has also actively supported Russia-Africa summits. A series of analytical materials were prepared and posted on the Council's website and numerous research seminars were held as part of the event.

RIAC activities in Latin America have also intensified. A series of expert seminars and consultations were held with the region's public officials from individual countries. This included coordinating work with multilateral institutions (primarily BRICS) and developing trade and economic relations with the region's countries in the new geopolitical environment.

Studying key regional political and economic trends has been prioritized in RIAC's Middle East

track. To inquire into the current regional dynamics and the views of other players involved in the Middle East, RIAC has held several expert discussions with partner organizations from Iran, Turkey, Syria and China, as well as several research seminars.

In all the above-mentioned areas, work has been carried out in close cooperation with experts from specialized Russian institutions and think tanks, including institutes, the Moscow State Institute of International Relations under the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, St. Petersburg State University, Immanuel Kant Baltic Federal University, Tomsk State University, Lomonosov Northern (Arctic) Federal University, and others. Such successful cooperation is exemplified by a series of joint methodological seminars with the Institute of World Economy and International Relations, Russian Academy of Sciences (IMEMO RAS), as well as with the World Economy and International Relations journal (ME&IR), all aiming to explore current problems pertaining to international relations.

Some cross-cutting substantive topics that received special attention in 2023 include sanctions, the climate agenda's political dimension, the international dimension of technology-related policies, nuclear weapons and technology, migration policy, promising areas of scientific cooperation between Russia and BRICS nations, developing public diplomacy in Russian regions, and digitally promoting Russian education and research in foreign markets.

Significant emphasis was placed on strengthening the Council's informational presence in the public space, both in Russia and abroad. RIAC organized numerous events via *Urbi et Orbi* City Breakfasts, targeting a wide audience. RIAC con-

tinued to expand its podcast projects and has participated in the annual non/fiction book fair, presenting its past year's publications.

In 2023, the Russian International Affairs Council confirmed its status as one of the most recognizable and authoritative sources of information pertaining to international relations and Russia's foreign policy. RIAC maintains stable partnerships with leading Russian media outlets and regularly holds press conferences and roundtables, involving RIAC members and experts on specific areas, in addition to pressing issues that are on the top of the international agenda at venues such as Russia Today INA, Izvestiya INC, Interfax, Sputnik and others. The Council also has continued its close cooperation with leading Russian news agencies: Russia Today, Izvestiya, and others.

RIAC members and partners are active in providing expert commentary on the most widely read and prestigious online publications, newspapers, news agencies, and often serve as guests on TV and radio programs.

RIAC's website continues to be RIAC's main tool in presenting RIAC-related information. Statistically, the website's views increased significantly in 2023, with a 70% growth year-on-year. The average monthly audience has exceeded 2.5 million users.

Rapid changes in the international environment pose new challenges to RIAC in terms of its further development. RIAC is searching for new areas and formats of work as well as partners in Russia and abroad. The key goal is to conduct an unbiased analysis of world politics and international relations and increase foreign audience trust towards Russia.



ГЛОБАЛЬНЫЕ ПРОЦЕССЫ

ОБЩЕСТВО, КУЛЬТУРА

ГЛОБАЛЬНЫЕ ПРОЦЕССЫ

ОБЩЕСТВО

ГЛОБАЛЬНЫЕ

ГЛОБАЛЬНЫЕ ПРОЦЕ

REGIONAL AND BILATERAL PROJECTS



RUSSIA'S FOREIGN POLICY IN EURASIA: OPPORTUNITIES FOR DEVELOPING COOPERATION BETWEEN RUSSIA AND EAEU MEMBER STATES

Developing integration processes in the Eurasian space in 2023 was marked by Russia's Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) chairmanship.

Ambitious tasks such as updating the EAEU's Strategic Development Guidelines until 2025 and intensifying free trade zone agreement negotiations with key partners in the non-Western world – Iran, Indonesia, the United Arab Emirates, and Egypt – were put forward. Special attention was placed on expanding the Roadmap for the Development of Trade and Economic Cooperation between the EAEU and the People's Republic of China (PRC).

In 2023, Eurasian issues occupied a central role in RIAC's programs and activities. Thematic research projects were organized around the priorities put forward by Russia's EAEU chairman. During the year, RIAC Report No. 84/2023 "EAEU Development 2022+: Strategic Challenges and

Imperatives of Our Time" continued to be discussed at various venues. As a follow-up to its main provisions, experts were invited to assess the possibility of deepening parallel integration and the expansion of the Union's external partnerships to identify associated risks and prioritize issues. The prospects for free trade zones on relevant negotiation tracks were analyzed separately in Working Paper No. 83/2023 "Proactive vs Reactive: Interim Results of the EAEU Foreign Economic Policy".

To clarify the positions and interests of EAEU member states, RIAC held various bilateral meetings with leading EAEU member state think tanks – particularly, with the Belarusian Institute for Strategic Studies and the Kazakhstan Institute for Strategic Studies. Contacts are maintained with several partner organizations in Belarus, Armenia and Kyrgyzstan.





Various projects have been developed in close cooperation with specialized agencies. For example, RIAC's draft proposals on the preparation of a new EAEU strategic plan were submitted to the Russian Ministry of Economic Development. With the substantive support of the Eurasian Economic Commission, work continued with the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council's expert and analytical support. The closed discussions were attended by representatives of the academic community of Russia, EAEU countries and states – potential participants of free trade zones, business circles, employees of specialized agencies.

The main academic project of the year was RIAC's participation in writing the section, "Integration Processes in the Eurasian Space", as part of the XV Convention of the Russian International Studies Association, co-organized with the Department of Integration Processes of the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO). The section summarized EAEU interim results of the year, outlined promising directions for further research of certain integration aspects; particularly, developing regional connectivity projects in the EAEU, improving food and agricultural cooperation, and raising awareness of the Union's activities. Participants assessed the Union's role in building the Greater Eurasian Partnership.

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“A window of opportunity is now emerging as developing nations could make an economic breakthrough on a long new Kondratieff wave. This is exactly how all economic miracles have happened, including China and India's breakthroughs, which are mastering key industries of the new economic order faster than the West.”

Sergey Glazyev, Minister (panelist) for Integration and Macroeconomics of the EEC (from his speech at the roundtable, “Outlook for Eurasian Integration Development in the New Environment. International Experience of Adapting Integration Practices to Changing Realities”, June 07, 2023)



“The European Union was called a ‘fair-weather community’ some 15-20 years ago. It turns out that for the EAEU, it is during ‘foul weather’ when our integration ties have a most visible effect. This is good, but not enough for development.”

Andrey Tochin, Director of the Institute for the Development of Integration Processes at the National Academy of Foreign Trade (from his report presentation, “The EAEU Development 2022+: Strategic Challenges and Imperatives of Our Time”, March 14, 2023)

KEY EVENTS

- February 28 – City Breakfast, “Russian Chairmanship of the EAEU 2023: Challenges and Expectations”
- March 14 – Roundtable, “The Development of the EAEU 2022+: Strategic Challenges and Imperatives of Our Time”
- April 28 – Roundtable, “Prospects for Cooperation Within the EAEU: Interests of Member Countries and Foreign Economic Partners”, held in Tomsk during Tomsk State University’s conference “The Greater Eurasian Partnership under the Transformation of the International System”
- June 7 – Roundtable, “Prospects for the Development of Eurasian Integration in the New Environment. International Experience of Adapting Integration Practices to Changing Realities”, held in Sochi
- October 12 – Participation in the “Integration Processes in Eurasia”, part of the XV Convention of the Russian Association of International Studies (jointly with MGIMO’s Department of Integration Processes)
- October 25 – Roundtable, “The Green Economy of the EAEU: Challenges and Prospects”, held in Bishkek (jointly with B.N. Yeltsin Ural Federal University)
- December 20 – Roundtable, “Free Trade Zones in the EAEU Foreign Economic Policy: Interim Results and Challenges for the Future”
- December 27 – Roundtable, “2023 Results of the Russian Presidency in the EAEU”, held in the press center of Russia Today INA

PUBLICATIONS

1. *Report No. 84/2023, “EAEU Development 2022+: Strategic Challenges and Imperatives of Our Time”, A. Tochin, N. Pyzhikov, T. Aliev, E. Chimiris, A. Bezrukov, K. Kuzmichev, E. Stoyanova*
2. *Working Paper No. 83/2023, “Proactive vs Reactive: Interim Results of the EAEU Foreign Economic Policy”, A. Korolev*

Key Publications on RIAC’s Website

1. *Alexander Starkov, “New International Agenda of the EAEU”*
2. *Alexander Korolev, “Marriage by Sanctions Convenience: Russia Rethinks the Role of the EAEU”*
3. *Elena Maslova, “Food Security of the EAEU: Achievements and Challenges”*
4. *Vladislav Tolstykh, “In Search of a New Kazakhstan: Economic and International Legal Analysis”*
5. *Elizaveta Strukova, “The Problem of Building a Dialogue in Russian-Kazakh Relations at the Present Stage”*
6. *Larisa Khoperskaya, “The Pen Is Mightier Than the Sword: Attitudes of Kyrgyzstan’s Political Elite to the Russian Language”*
7. *Evgeniya Makhmutova (Voyko), “Prospects of Turkmenistan as a Transportation Hub of Eurasia”*
8. *Tigran Meloyan, “Russia’s Participation in the Development of Transportation and Energy Corridors in Central Asia Under Sanctions”*

RUSSIA AND CHINA: PARTNERSHIP IN THE CONTEXT OF SECURITY CHALLENGES AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE ASIAN PACIFIC REGION (APR)

In 2023, amid global geopolitical competition and a transforming world order, China has continued to be one of Russia's key strategic partners.

In March 2023, a significant event for Russian-Chinese relations took place: President Xi Jinping arrived in Moscow on an official visit, which was his first trip abroad since his third term re-election. In September 2023, Russian President Vladimir Putin paid a return visit to Beijing during the third Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) forum. The dynamic development of Moscow and Beijing's relations is driven by a shared vision of the global order; a desire to see it more equitable, and mutual interest in stronger bilateral ties. These states have also become the main representatives for the interests of the Global South, promoting the positions of developing countries on the world agenda.

For the Russian International Affairs Council,

promoting Moscow and Beijing's common interests in the global arena, as well as Russian-Chinese economic cooperation and interaction in various regions of the world remained important in 2023. Special attention was paid to developing logistics and transportation inter-state cooperation in Greater Eurasia, including in conjunction with the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) and BRI, in terms of redistributing global production and supply chains.

Here, a central event in 2023 was the Eighth International Conference "Russia and China: Cooperation in a New Era," which RIAC yearly conducts with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS). For the first time since the onslaught of the COVID-19 pandemic, the conference was held in Beijing last June. Cooperation with the Institute of International Studies (IIS) of Fudan University also resumed: an IIS delegation visited Moscow





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“China and Russia are friendly neighbors connected by shared mountains and rivers, and the friendship between our people share a long history. The strengthening and successful development of Sino-Russian relations is not only due to the direction of people’s hearts and minds, but also to the zeitgeist of today. Regardless of how the international environment changes, the ship of Sino-Russian relations has always been determined to set sail full steam and steadily move ahead.”

Zhang Hanhui, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People’s Republic of China to the Russian Federation (from his speech at the Eighth International Conference, “Russia and China: Cooperation in a New Era”, June 27, 2023)

to participate in the conference “Russian-Chinese Dialogue and International Order” last August.

Relations with new Chinese partners have been successfully developing; delegations from the Chinese Institutes of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR), the Economic and Social Council (ESC) of the People’s Republic of China, and the CITIC Foundation for Reform and Development Studies had visited RIAC throughout the year. In addition, a joint roundtable with the Grandview Institution was held in October, which laid the foundation for further cooperation between the think tanks.

In terms of research, the results of Moscow and Beijing’s cooperation in 2022-2023 were compre-

hensively analyzed by experts from RIAC, Fudan University and the Institute of China and Contemporary Asia (ICCA), Russian Academy of Sciences in the Ninth Annual Report, “Russia-China Dialogue: A Model for 2023”. Prospects for deepening transport and logistics cooperation were separately discussed in the policy brief, “Development of Regional Connectivity in Eurasia: The Role of Russia and China in Establishing Transportation Routes on the Continent”. A series of interviews with leading Chinese experts, timed to coincide with the visit of the PRC leader to Russia became a side project in 2023.

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“The harmony of overlapping interests has elevated our relationship to the highest level in their history. This relationship is unparalleled in the world by their nature and content and can serve as a solid example of great power relations in the new era.”

*Igor Ivanov, President of RIAC,
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation
(1998-2004), Corresponding Member
of the Russian Academy of Sciences*

*(from his speech at the Eighth International Conference,
“Russia and China: Cooperation in a New Era”, June 27, 2023)*



KEY EVENTS

- March 16 – Roundtable, “Results of the Two Sessions: Opportunities and Limitations for Russian-Chinese Cooperation”, held in the press center of Russia Today INA
- March 23 – Roundtable, “Russia-China Cooperation in the Middle East: New Dynamics and New Opportunities” (held jointly with the Shanghai Institute of International Studies)
- June 26-27 – Eighth RIAC and CASS International Conference, “Russia and China: Cooperation in a New Era”, held in Beijing (jointly with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences)
- July 6 – Roundtable, “Russia-China Dialogue: Model 2023”, held at the press center of Russia Today INA. Presentation of a joint report by RIAC, ICCA RAS and the Institute of International Studies at Fudan University (IIS Fudan)
- August 17 – International Conference, “Russian-Chinese Dialogue and International Order” (jointly with IIS Fudan)
- October 23 – Roundtable, “Sino-Russian Relations in the Modern Geopolitical Landscape: Opportunities and Challenges” (jointly with Grandview)
- December 4 – Roundtable, “Belt and Road Initiative in Contemporary Geopolitical Realities” (jointly with the CITIC Foundation for Reform and Development Studies)

PUBLICATIONS

1. *Report No. 87/2023, “Russian-Chinese Dialogue: Model 2023”, K. Babaev, A. Kortunov, Feng Yujun, et al.*
2. *Policy Brief No. 46/23, “Developing Regional Connectivity in Eurasia: The Role of Russia and China in Establishing Transportation Routes on the Continent”, S. Sazonov, L. Nechaeva*
3. *Results of the Eighth International Conference “Russia and China: Cooperation in a New Era”, Y. Melnikova, P. Bakulina, A. Alexandrov, L. Nechaeva, L. Panin*

Key Publications on RIAC’s Website

1. *Vasily Kashin, “China and Discursive Power”*
2. *Vasily Kashin, “The Balloon and US-China Relations”*
3. *Andrei Gubin, “The Crouching Dragon and Lurking Tiger: China’s Interests in the Indian Ocean”*
4. *Elena Zinovieva and Bai Yajie, “Practicing Digital Sovereignty in Russia and the PRC”*
5. *Andrei Gubin, “What is Power? China in Global Governance”*
6. *Yulia Melnikova, “Risk Reduction: The New Old EU Policy Towards China”*
7. *Vasily Kashin, Kristina Kondakova and Alexandra Yankova, “Xi Jinping in San Francisco: Modest Expectations and Modest Results”*

RUSSIA AND INDIA: TOWARDS A NEW AGENDA FOR BILATERAL RELATIONS

In 2023, Russia and India celebrated the 30th anniversary of the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation. The fundamental principles enshrined in the document define the strong nature of the bilateral partnership and the similarities in state approaches to pressing global issues.

In the midst of ongoing pressure from Western countries, deepening Russian-Indian ties is a strategic priority for Moscow, since, on the one hand, it allows it to solve opportunistic economic problems associated with the need to minimize the impact of sanctions, and on the other hand, it contributes to the formation of an inclusive development model for countries of the global South. India is also a crucial partner in strengthening the multipolar world order and developing the Greater Eurasia macro-region. In 2023, additional opportunities for the realization of these tasks were generated due to India's chairmanship in the SCO and the G20.

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“A fundamental point for maintaining long-term ties between Russian and Indian companies is how successful joint projects will be, which in turn depends on the countries conducting fundamental analytical work related to identifying future development trends in high-tech.”

*Tobby Simon, President of Synergia Foundation
(from his roundtable speech, “Russian-Indian Relations in a New Environment: Economic, Technological and Strategic Aspects”, June 20, 2023)*

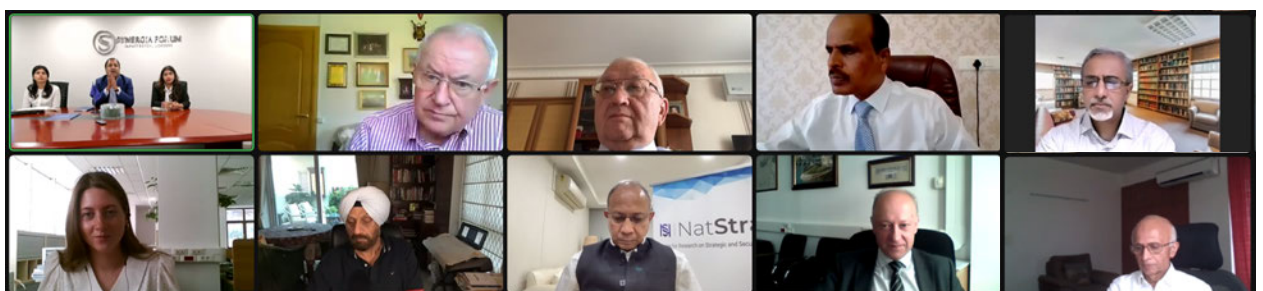
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“We are living in a time of profound change and relations between countries, including Russia and India, are under pressure from external factors. However, Moscow and New Delhi’s goodwill towards each other, as well as the level of trust, stability of bilateral ties, and the broad list of decades-long mutual interests have helped our two nations minimize the impact of heightened geopolitical turbulence.”

Venkatesh Varma, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of India to the Russian Federation (2018-2021)

(from his roundtable speech, “Russian-Indian Relations in a Broad Geopolitical Context”, June 16, 2023)

RIAC’s engagement with its Indian partners mainly focused on exploring current and future directions of bilateral ties in the altered economic environment. This project was aimed at deepening the existing partnerships with Indian experts and think tanks. The year started with an annual joint conference with the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), which was held in person for the first time since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Two roundtables were held with Synergia Foundation on the political and economic dimension of Moscow and New Delhi’s interactions.





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“Russia and India are participants in international cooperation formats that promote a forward-looking global agenda that serve the best interests of the world community. Constructive interaction between Russia and India, a member of the UN Security Council in 2021-2022, has made it possible to avoid double standards in implementing the principles of the UN Charter... The priority of our nations is to achieve true democracy in global governance and to strengthen the role of developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America.”

*Denis Alipov, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to the Republic of India
(from his conference speech, “Russia-India Specially Privileged Strategic Partnership: Challenges and New Opportunities in a Changing World Order”, February 2, 2023)*

KEY EVENTS

- February 2 – RIAC and ICWA’s Annual Conference in New Delhi
- June 16 and 20 – Roundtable, “Russian-Indian Relations in a Broad Geopolitical Context” and “Russian-Indian Relations in a New Environment: Economic, Technological and Strategic Aspects” (jointly with Synergia Foundation)
- November 29 – Roundtable, “Russia and India in Transport and Logistics Connectivity Projects” with the participation of D. Roy Chowdhury, Editor of the Economic Times
- December 25 – Closed meeting of the Russian expert community with Indian Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar

PUBLICATIONS

1. *Petr Topychkanov and Ivan Shchedrov, “Indian Space Triptych: Main Results of India’s Lunar Mission”*
2. *Andrey Kortunov, “Dynamics of the India-US Partnership: Russian Views”*
3. *Andrei Gubin, “Faster and Higher: India Conquers the World Aviation Market”*
4. *Andrei Kortunov, “Is Russia Losing India?”*
5. *Vladislav Ignatov, “The Pendulum Principle: Narendra Modi’s Visit to Washington”*
6. *Alexei Kupriyanov, “Important Step on the Road to Infinity”*

SECURITY SYSTEM IN THE MIDDLE EAST

In 2023, the Middle East remained tense due to contradictions between regional players, as well as social and political instability in some countries.

Against this backdrop, RIAC's Middle East track prioritized the exploration of key regional political and economic trends. RIAC held a number of expert discussions with partner organizations from Iran, Turkey, Syria and China to explore current regional dynamics and other player views on the situation in the Middle East. The flagship publication within the Middle East track was RIAC's report "Regional Trends in the Middle East: Political and Economic Dynamics," authored by leading Russian orientalists. The report analyzed the overall regional dynamics in the Middle East and examined domestic political trends in Arab countries, Iran, Turkey and Israel.

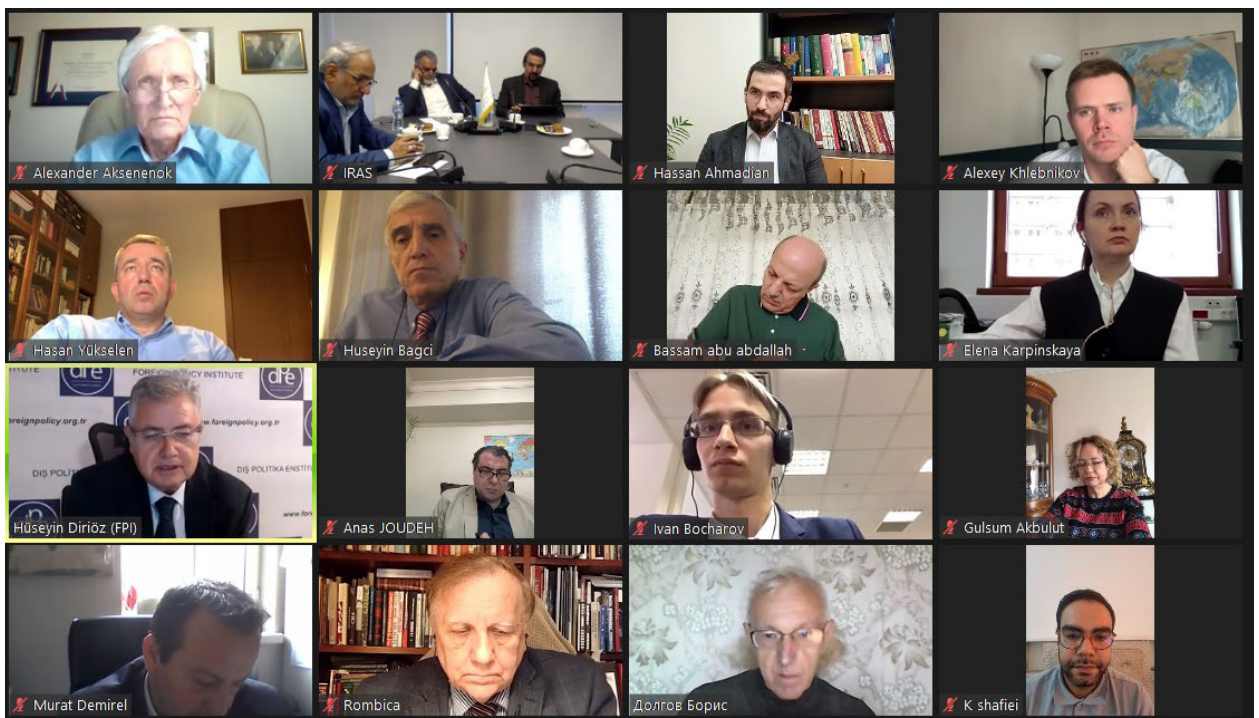
The Russian Foreign Policy Concept adopted in 2023 notes that one of Russia's most important priorities in the Middle East is to promote the normalization of relations between the region's countries. Promoting possible improvements in



"The Middle East is no longer what it was two or three decades ago. From a geopolitical point of view, it has, in many respects, turned into a serious actor that world powers must reckon with or are forced to reckon with."

Alexander Aksenok, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Russia, Vice President of RIAC (from an article on RIAC's website, "Middle Eastern Statehood: In Search of New Models", October 17, 2023)

Syria-Turkey relations remains an urgent task. between Syria and Turkey remains an urgent task. RIAC has paid great attention to studying the prospects for Syrian-Turkish normalization. In 2023, a series of publications and events were prepared on various aspects of Syrian-Turkish relations. A key one was a quadrilateral meeting involving experts from Russia, Iran, Turkey and Syria, which focused on Ankara-Damascus relations.





KEY EVENTS

- March 25 – Roundtable, “Cooperation between Russia and China in the Middle East: New Dynamics and New Opportunities” (jointly with SIIS)
- May 15 – Roundtable, “Election Results in Turkey” (jointly with Izvestiya MIC)
- August 1 – Roundtable, “Prospects for Normalizing Syrian-Turkish Relations” (jointly with Izvestiya MIC)
- October 18 – Roundtable, “Cooperation between Russia, Iran, Turkey and Syria in the Context of Regional Dynamics” (jointly with IRAS, FPI and NBM)
- October 19 – Roundtable, “Escalation of the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict: Causes and Possible Consequences” (jointly with Russia Today INA)
- December 26 – Roundtable, “Middle East: Results of 2023” (jointly with Izvestiya MIC)



“The reaction of the world community to the events taking place in the Middle East today shows that the Middle East contradictions and conflicts, as several decades ago, remain a complex international problem – not just a regional, but also a global issue.”

*Andrey Kortunov, Research Director of RIAC
(from RIAC Report No. 91/2023, “Regional Trends in the Middle East: Political and Economic Dynamics”)*

PUBLICATIONS

1. *Policy Brief No. 47/2023, “Syrian-Turkish Relations: Towards Normalization”, I. Vedeneyev*
2. *Policy Brief No. 48/2023, “Prospects for the Development of Energy Cooperation between Russia and the UAE”, V. Likhachev, M. Shetivi*
3. *Report No. 91/2023, “Regional Trends in the Middle East: Political and Economic Dynamics”, A. Kortunov, V. Kuznetsov, A. Yakovlev, E. Dunaeva, A. Gadzhiev, L. Khlebnikova, I. Bocharov*

Key Publications on RIAC’s Website

1. *Alexander Aksenonok, “Middle Eastern Statehood: in Search of New Models”*
2. *Igor Matveev, “Will Islamic Banking Help Russia to Withstand Western Sanctions?”*
3. *Lyudmila Samarskaya, “The War of ‘Iron Swords’: Another Tragic Page of the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict”*
4. *Ibrahim Ibragimov, “Egypt Is Sliding into a Crisis”*
5. *Viktor Smirnov, “On the Current State of Russian-Israeli Relations”*
6. *Ruslan Mamedov, “Collective Security in the Gulf and West Asia”*
7. *Amur Gadzhiev, “Turkey After the May 2023 Elections: Erdogan’s Victory and Opposition Collapse”*
8. *Nikolay Surkov, “Positive Neutrality as a New Credo of Riyadh’s Policy”*
9. *Kirill Semyonov, “Syria Approaching a New ‘Arab Spring’?”*
10. *Anastasia Vasilenko, “With Nostalgia for the Future: Prospects for Russian-Algerian Economic Cooperation”*

RUSSIAN STRATEGY IN AFRICA

In its relations with African countries, the Russian Federation adheres to an approach that welcomes “African solutions to African problems”. This aims to support the sovereignty of the continent’s states and their freedom to choose how to promote their socio-economic and political development.

Russia’s last two summits with African leaders and representatives demonstrates its return to the continent, and the intention to develop mutually beneficial cooperation with African states. As noted in the Declaration of the Second Russia-Africa Summit, Russia aims to “form a fairer, more balanced and sustainable multipolar world order, firmly opposing any form of international confrontation on the African continent”.

The Second Russia-Africa Summit and the Russia-Africa Economic Forum held in Saint Petersburg in July 2023, demonstrated the transition from political agreements and defining general principles of cooperation with African nations, enshrined in the Declaration of the First Russia-Africa Summit in 2019, to the development of specific cooperation plans and implementation mechanisms until the next summit. It is expected that roadmaps will be signed, and projects in the energy sector, oil and gas, construction of nuclear power plants, geological exploration, fertilizer production and other areas will be developed.

The XV BRICS Summit, held in Johannesburg in August 2023, showed the growing geopoliti-

cal influence of the association, and revealed the growing interest of African countries in its activities. It was decided at the Summit to include two African states – Egypt and Ethiopia – demonstrating the activity of African nations and their desire to fully participate in building a multipolar world order.

The project’s objective in 2023 was to study Russian-African cooperation in security and conflict resolution, as well as support Russia’s understanding and image of its relationship with African nations. The role of BRICS in the emerging multipolar world, as well as the accession of new African countries within the organization was analyzed, along with the formation of a new agenda for Russian-African interaction in the association.

Collaboration with Russian think tanks and leading Africanists on issues facing the project have continued. The voting practices of Sub-Saharan African states in the UNGA have been studied. In preparation for the Second Russia-Africa Summit, the main directions of Russian-African cooperation between the summits and the interaction of the European Union and the United States with African nations during this period were analyzed.

Roundtables with ambassadors and representative offices of African embassies in the Russian Federation has continued to be an integral part of the project, discussing topical issues pertaining to Russian-African relations.





KEY EVENTS

- March 24 – Roundtable, “Western and Non-Western Security Providers in Africa: Complementary or Mutually Exclusive?” (jointly with Patrice Lumumba RUDN University)
- May 16 – Roundtable, “Information and Image Support of Russian-African Relations: Problems and Prospects” (jointly with the Institute of African Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences)
- April 21 – Roundtable, “Voting Practice of Sub-Saharan African States in the UN General Assembly: Recent Trends and Main Strategies” (jointly with Russia Today INA)
- June 21 – City Breakfast, “African Motives of the Modern World”
- October 16 – Round Table, “XV BRICS Summit: Results and Prospects for Russia and Africa in 2023. Opportunities and Risks, Second Edition” (jointly with the Higher School of Economics)
- November 23 – Roundtable with the African diplomatic corps, “Results of the Second Russian-African Summit: Prospects for African Countries”
- December 13 – Roundtable, “Ensuring Security in Africa: Leading Players” (jointly with Russia Today INA)

PUBLICATIONS

1. *Working Paper No. 74/2023, “Voting Practices of Sub-Saharan African States in the UN General Assembly: Recent Trends and Key Strategies”, N. Panin*
2. *Working Paper No. 81/2023, “The Road to the Second Russia-Africa Summit: International Background”, O. Kulkova*
3. *Report No. 89/2023, “Western and Non-Western Actors in Ensuring Security in Africa”, A. Kortunov, F. Trunov, I. Dubrovsky, M. Nikolskaya, I. Loshkarev, S. Bokeria, A. Andronova, A. Nicaez, A. Meziaev, A. Gadzhiev, A. Davidchuk, D. Degtyarev, T. Bogdasarova*

Key Publications on RIAC’s Website

1. *Tatiana Denisova, “African Region at the Present Stage”*
2. *Alexey Chikhachev, “France and Africa: Another New Start?”*
3. *Kirill Semyonov, “The Islamic State¹ in Africa – Branches and Competitors”*
4. *Ibrahim Ibragimov, “Egypt on Its Way to BRICS Membership?”*
5. *Ivan Kopyttsev and Ivan Loshkarev, “How Can BRICS Expand to Africa?”*
6. *Anastasia Vasilenko, “Unbearable Proximity: A Tale of Algerian-Moroccan Relations”*
7. *Nikita Panin, “African Strategies: Comparing Key Player Approaches Currently on the Continent”*
8. *Katerina Trotskaya, “Undoing Sanctions: The Significance of Russia’s Veto on Mali”*
9. *Vsevolod Sviridov, “Re-Acquaintance: How Russia and Africa Met under New Circumstances”*

¹This organization is banned in Russia.

RUSSIA IN THE SOUTH CAUCASUS

The past year has seen historic changes in the South Caucasus. The main event was the end of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, which had lasted for more than 30 years. A unique window of opportunity has opened in the region to solve long-standing problems.

Armenia and Azerbaijan's official recognition of each other's territorial integrity, including the recognition of Nagorno-Karabakh as an integral part of Azerbaijan, as well as the decree on liquidating the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic and restoring Azerbaijan's territorial integrity and sovereignty over the Karabakh region, has opened a path towards the normalization of Armenian-Azerbaijani relations, the natural finale of which should be the signing of a peace treaty between Yerevan and Baku.

Project-wise, RIAC has organized expert seminars and roundtables jointly with think tanks from Azerbaijan and Armenia. The Council is interested in maintaining a dialogue with all partners in the region to develop objective views on the processes taking place in the South Caucasus and to discuss Russia's role in the region.

Expert meetings went on within the framework of the Russian-Azerbaijani Expert Council (RAEC), established at RIAC's initiative, as well as Azerbaijan's Center for Analysis of International Relations (CAIR). In 2023, two events were held within this format, to address the Russian-Azerbaijani strategic partnership based on the Moscow 2022 Declaration and Moscow-Baku's interaction following the end of the conflict in the South

Caucasus. A landmark event included the published edited volume, "Thirty Years of Diplomatic Relations between Russia and Azerbaijan: The Path Traveled and a Look into the Future", and its presentation by both foreign ministers at the third RAES meeting in February.

Cooperation with Armenian think tanks continued as well. Together with the NGO "Dialogue", a roundtable was held on how Russia and Armenia's national images are being perceived,

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"The existing system of internal and external coordinates in the South Caucasus, the configuration of economic relations, the brewing conflicts and the dynamics of their resolution make Russia a key external actor for the region with a wide range of tools for getting involved in many regional processes. In the meantime, Russia's retention of its status as a key external actor in the region is possible only if it maintains the strategic nature of its relations with two most important regional partners – Azerbaijan and Armenia."

Stanislav Pritchkin, Senior Researcher at the E.M. Primakov Center for Post-Soviet Studies of IMEMO RAS (from a chapter in the edited volume, "Thirty Years of Diplomatic Relations between Russia and Azerbaijan: The Path Traveled and a Look into the Future"; S. Chernyavsky, I. Mamedov, G. Pashayeva, A. Lavrina, R. Ismailov, V. Shuper, S. Pritchkin, S. Tkachenko, I. Velizadeh, A. Artamonov, R. Bayramli)





as well as media-related problems in their bilateral relations. In 2023, RIAC also took part in the Russian-Armenian Media Forum in Yerevan, organized by the Public Relations and Information Center at the Armenian Prime Minister’s office.

KEY EVENTS

- February 28 – The Third Session of the Russian-Azerbaijani Expert Council, “Russian-Azerbaijani Relations in the XXI Century: Strategic Partnership in the Context of Regional Security” (jointly with the Center for Analysis of International Relations, Baku)
- May 26 – Roundtable, “Perception of Images of Russia and Armenia” (jointly with NGO Dialogue)
- September 6-8 – Participation in the Russian-Armenian Media Forum (Yerevan)
- October 10 – Roundtable, “Security Issues in the South Caucasus in the Context of Interaction between Regional Players” (jointly with the Center for Analysis of International Relations)
- November 27 – The Fourth Session of the RAEC, “Interaction between Russia and Azerbaijan under Post-Conflict Development in the South Caucasus” (jointly with the Center for Analysis of International Relations, Moscow)

PUBLICATIONS

1. *Edited volume, “Thirty Years of Diplomatic Relations between Russia and Azerbaijan – the Path Traveled and a Look into the Future”* S. Chern, I. Mammadov, G. Pashayeva, A. Lavrina, R. Ismailov, V. Shuper, S. Pritchkin, T.I. Velizadeh, A. Artamonov, R. Bayramli

Key Publications on RIAC’s Website

1. *Kamran Gasanov, “Karabakh within Azerbaijan: How Will Regional Geopolitics Change?”*
2. *Sergey Markedonov, “Armenian-Azerbaijani Conflict: The Last Chapter or To Be Continued?”*
3. *Ayk Khalatyan, “The South Caucasus Tangle of Contradictions”*

COOPERATION BETWEEN RUSSIA AND LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES IN THE NEW ENVIRONMENT

In 2023, a new direction focused on Latin America and the Caribbean saw rampant development at RIAC. The need to analyze the dynamics of external and internal factors of the countries in this region, as well as the prospects for the development of bilateral relations, is explained by the challenge of searching for new partners and deepening Russia's relations with existing ones.

According to the Russia's new Foreign Policy Concept, "the Russian Federation intends to develop relations with them (Latin American and Caribbean states) on a pragmatic, de-ideologized and mutually beneficial basis..."

One can note the increased interest in the region not only from the Russian government, but also from representatives of the business community, academia, and the expert community. The discussion topics cover limitations to the expansion of mutual trade, opportunities to lift these hurdles, as well as other promising areas.

Trade and economic issues were raised at a roundtable organized jointly with the Institute of Latin America, Russian Academy of Sciences. During the discussion, it was pointed out that it is necessary to place special emphasis on expanding trade cooperation in traditional areas where Russia's competitive advantages are obvious and

where there is a high demand for it in the Latin American market. It is also necessary to develop new logistical supply schemes through friendly country ports.

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"On the one hand, we feel an increased interest in Latin America on the part of businesses, the expert community, academia and the state. On the other hand, we see numerous problems cropping up in our relations with Latin American nations. In my opinion, now is the time to stop and think about where to go next."

Dmitry Rosenthal, Director of the Institute of Latin America, Russian Academy of Sciences (from his roundtable address, "Cooperation between Russia and Latin American Countries in the New Environment: Are There Any Points of Economic Growth?"; June 1, 2023)

Given that Russia is highly advanced in developing modern technology and has extensive experience in the nuclear industry, space and digital transformation, RIAC is actively working to strengthen this cooperation thrust with friendly countries. Within the framework of the Sixth International Forum, "Russia and Iberoamerica in





a Turbulent World: History and Modernity,” organized by the Center for Iberoamerican Studies at Saint Petersburg State University and the Institute of Latin America, Russian Academy of Sciences, RIAC held a roundtable dedicated to the development of science diplomacy. Experts discussed track-related projects, while representatives

of the country’s leading universities presented their case studies on the implementation of joint scientific and technical projects with Latin American partners, emphasizing that they aim to deepen and strengthen scientific cooperation with Latin American nations.

KEY EVENTS

- June 1 – Roundtable, “Cooperation between Russia and Latin American Countries in the New Environment: Are there Any Points of Economic Growth?” (jointly with the Institute of Latin America, Russian Academy of Sciences)
- October 6 – Roundtable, “Cooperation between Russia and Latin American Nations in the Sphere of Scientific Diplomacy” as part of the Sixth International Forum, “Russia and Iberoamerica in a Turbulent World: History and Modernity,” organized by Saint Petersburg State University
- December 15 – RIAC club meeting with Sergey Brilev, “Russia and Latin America: A Course for Rapprochement”

PUBLICATIONS

Key Publications on RIAC’s Website

1. *Petr Yakovlev*, “Presidential Elections in Argentina: ‘Lion’ with a Chainsaw Goes to the Second Round”
2. *Dmitry Kravtsov*, “US Strategy in Relation to Latin America”
3. *Alexander Korolkov*, “Between the Dollar and the Yuan: Argentina and Brazil are Moving to a Single Currency... Again”
4. *Nikolai Shkolyar*, “The Fourth Transformation in Mexico and the Prospects for its Continuation”
5. *Alla Borzova*, “Model of Scientific Diplomacy in Brazil and Outlook for Bilateral Scientific Cooperation between Russia and Brazil”
6. *Viktor Heifets*, “Sergey Lavrov’s Visit to Latin America: Testing Communication”
7. *Nadezhda Kudayarova*, “Mexico-US Border: Crisis Forever?”

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE ARCTIC



RIAC continues its research highlighting cooperation and confrontation between different countries in the Arctic. The year 2023 was a year when the Arctic region once again has become seen as a field for deploying security and economic competition.

Security issues in the Arctic have become even more acute with the accession of Sweden and Finland (two Arctic states) to NATO.

As part of its Arctic project, RIAC is conducting expert and analytical work on the current status of the Arctic Council, its main areas of activity, and Russia's place and role in it. Special attention is also paid to the Asian dimension in the Arctic, taking into account the interest of states such as China and India in this region.

This year, the Council has prepared and presented analytical materials on the future of the Arctic Council and the results of Russia's chairmanship in this organization (2021–2023).

KEY EVENTS

- May 15 – Roundtable, “Results of Russia’s Chairmanship in the Arctic Council and the Future of Cooperation in the Region” (jointly with Russia Today INA)
- June 16 – Participation in the “Digital North: Potential for Data Center Network Development in Russia’s Northern Regions” at SPIEF 2023
- June 18 – Participation in “Russia-Asia: Trust-Based Development” at SPIEF 2023 (jointly with NEFU)

PUBLICATIONS

1. *Working Paper No. 75/2023, “The Future of the Arctic Council”*, A. Vylegzhanin, M. Lysenko, N. Vyakhireva, A. Snyatkov

Key Publications on RIAC’s Website

1. *Natalia Vyakhireva, “New US Arctic Strategy”*
2. *Nikita Belukhin, “Norway Preparing to Chair the Arctic Council”*
3. *Natalia Vyakhireva, “Arctic with a Focus on Asia”*

RUSSIA-WEST CONFRONTATION: POLICIES OF CERTAIN COUNTRIES AND RISKS OF ESCALATION

In 2023, Russia's relations with Western nations continued to deteriorate. Western countries have accelerated their push to build up their militaries. The United States and its allies are no less active in forming closed-end blocs in a number of regions. The confrontation between Russia and Western countries transpires not just in the military-political sphere but has become more hybrid in nature.

As international contradictions keep growing, the study of security issues in the Euro-Atlantic region, particularly those related to the termination of the INF Treaty, the actual suspension of the START-III, NATO expansion, the buildup of defense budgets by the NATO member states, etc., is of particular importance. In 2023, RIAC shifted the focus of its Euro-Atlantic studies to cover a military-political component. RIAC research projects have analyzed changes in the military and political potential of NATO member states, as well as an objective assessment of the current situation in the Euro-Atlantic region to forecast the possible escalation or de-escalation of relations between Russia and Western states militarily or politically.

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“The crisis in the relations between Russia and the West is to the latter's advantage. NATO expansion is a calculated, carefully implemented strategy.”

Dmitry Danilov, Head of the European Security Department, Institute of Europe, Russian Academy of Sciences (address at the RIAC and SPbSU roundtable, “Changing Security Contours and Balance of Power in the Baltic Region”, September 27, 2023)

RIAC is also covering the Balkans as part of its European project. The main trends in the region are the recurrent escalations in Kosovo, Russian-Serbian relations under pressure and Belgrade's refusal to implement sanctions against Moscow, as well as issues concerning Western Balkan state European integration. In this regard, RIAC initiated a round table concerning Kosovo, where experts discussed ways of managing escalation and possibilities for a peaceful conflict settlement in the future. Also, as part of the Council's expert and analytical activities, a working paper on the current aspects of Russian-Serbian relations in the current international environment was published. These studies have been designed to identify Russia's current position in the region,





analyze the possibilities for intensifying Russia's relations with Balkan states, and develop practical recommendations on the most pressing issues relating to their bilateral relations.

Within this project, RIAC also carries out expert and analytical work relating to the Baltic agenda. The key issues in the Baltic region in the current international environment are ensuring security and maintaining stability amid the growing "Atlanticization" of the region, as well as unfriendly actions taken by Baltic states. Equally important are the issues tied to economic and humanitarian cooperation between Russia and the EU in the midst of the geopolitical crisis. In this regard, RIAC, Saint Petersburg State University and the Kant Baltic Federal University initiated two expert workshops to discuss said aspects.

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“Serbia has accumulated resentment against NATO and the Western world in general, which has never accepted Serbs as ‘their own’ and ‘equals’, despite all the concessions and efforts of Belgrade during the last twenty years.”

Ekaterina Entina, Head of the Department of Black Sea-Mediterranean Studies, Institute of Europe, Russian Academy of Sciences, Professor at the National Research University - Higher School of Economics (section in Working Paper No. 77/2023, “Prospects for Russian-Serbian Relations under Sanctions Pressure”; E. Entina, E. Chimiris, M. Lazovic)



KEY EVENTS

- March 20 – Roundtable, “Results of Presidential Elections in Montenegro” (jointly with Russia Today INA)
- April 3 – Roundtable, “The Results of Elections in Finland” (jointly with Russia Today INA)
- April 17 – Roundtable, “Kosovo Crisis: International Dimension of the Conflict and Prospects for Settlement”
- June 16 – Roundtable, “Implementation of the Law and International Relations” Section in the Concept of Foreign Policy of the Russian Federation
- July 13 – Roundtable, “Main Results of the NATO Meeting in Vilnius” (jointly with Russia Today INA)
- September 27 – Roundtable, “Changing the Contours of Security and Balance of Power in the Baltic Region” (jointly with Saint Petersburg State University)
- October 16 – Roundtable, “Preliminary Results of the Parliamentary Elections in Poland” (jointly with Russia Today INA)
- November 23 – Roundtable, “Problems and Consequences of the Destruction of Economic and Humanitarian Ties between the European Union and the Russian Federation under Geopolitical Crisis” (jointly with the Kant Baltic Federal University)
- December 18 – Roundtable, “Dynamics of the Situation in Central Europe in 2023” (jointly with the Institute of Europe, Russian Academy of Sciences and the Institute of International Studies at the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO))
- December 20 – Roundtable, “Strategic Sovereignty of the EU: Essence, Manifestations and Significance for Russia”

PUBLICATIONS

1. *Working Paper No. 76/2023*, “Changing Security Contours and Balance of Power in the Baltic Sea Region: Implications for Russia”, N. Markushina
2. *Working Paper No. 77/2023*, “Prospects for Russian-Serbian Relations under Sanctions Pressure”, E. Entina, E. Chimiris, M. Lazovic
3. *Working Paper No. 78/2023*, “Possibilities of Russia’s Economic Cooperation with the States of the Baltic Region”, D. Lanko
4. *Policy Brief No. 42/2023*, “European Union Response to the 2022 Energy Crisis”, N. Kaveshnikov
5. *Policy Brief No. 49/2023*, “Strategic Sovereignty of the European Union and Russia’s Interests: From Theory to Policy Recommendations”, T. Romanova, G. Kotsur, S.M.E. Treshchenkov
6. *Working Paper No. 84/2023*, “Connectivity Completion: The EU’s Global Gateway Initiative”, J. Melnikova, G. Famigli

Key Publications on RIAC’s Website

1. *Sergey Andreev*, “International Aid to Ukraine: Donors, Volumes, Prospects”
2. *Ivan Timofeev*, “Russia – the West: The Stakes Are Growing”
3. *Vadim Voynikov*, “Legal Absurdity of the European Commission”
4. *Andrei Kortunov*, “Geopolitical Cracks at Munich-2023”
5. *Alexey Chikhachev*, “Saving Hegemony: French View on the Changing World Order”
6. *Milan Lazovic*, “Turkey’s Return to the Balkans”
7. *Vladislav Belov*, “On Russia and Germany: Reaching One New Low after Another”
8. *Lev Sokolschik*, “Russia and the United States under Strategic Instability: What Are the Risks of Nuclear Escalation?”
9. *Alla Levchenko*, “Credo of the Transatlantic Alliance: One for All, and All Hiding Behind One”
10. *Yakov Smirnov*, “Presidential Elections in Montenegro and Radical Changes in Public Sentiment”



FUNCTIONAL PROJECTS



SANCTIONS AGAINST RUSSIA: AREAS OF ESCALATION AND COUNTERACTION POLICIES

The year 2023 was marked by the further intensification of Western sanctions pressure and the expansion of sanctions mechanisms used against Russia.

To date, Russia continues to be the greatest target of unilateral sanctions from foreign countries. The imposed restrictions have had a significant impact on all strategically important sectors of the Russian economy, including finance, energy, technology and other sectors. Within RIAC's sanction research projects, constant effort is made to study the structure of sanctions imposed on Russia, assess their impact on Russia's economic and technological potential, and analyze the measures taken to adapt to sanctions pressure and counteract it.

New trends in the sanctions policy of foreign countries have become a factor in expanding RIAC's research activities on a number of issues. In particular, one of the key areas is the study and analysis of the risks of secondary sanctions, as well

as the administrative and criminal prosecution of Russian businesses and its citizens. RIAC shares its own expertise on these issues during specialized events. Expert seminars and briefings organized jointly with the Moscow Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), as well as Interfax Group's X-Compliance, often participate in these discussions.

RIAC continues to develop databases on sanction-related issues. Being an important methodological tool for analysis, sanction databases make it possible to trace the dynamics of sanctions policies pursued by foreign states, assess the role of agencies and parameters of decision-making on sanctions restrictions, as well as draw conclusions about potential methods of adapting to foreign sanctions and minimizing the risks for Russia. The analysis conducted using these databases have resulted in a number of research materials published on RIAC's website, in addition to key expert informational resources (Valdai, Profile, etc.) and in leading academic journals on international issues ("Polis", "Modern Europe", "International Analytics", etc.).

Cooperation with external experts, including lawyers, political scientists and economists specializing in the study of sanctions, is expanding and deepening. Thus, RIAC members and leading experts in the field of sanctions helped prepare and publish the Third Edition of the edited volume, "Sanctions Policy: Goals, Strategies, Tools." The practical value of the publication was appreciated both by representatives of the expert and academic community, as well as by specialized authorities and business organizations. Such research is in high demand among this target audience.





KEY EVENTS

- February 6 – Expert seminar, “Russian Business under Sanctions in 2023: New Strategies and Sanctions Risk Mitigation” (jointly with the Moscow Chamber of Commerce and Industry)
- March 2 – Seminar, “The Tenth Package of EU Sanctions and the Year of the ‘Sanctions Tsunami’: Transformation of Risks for Russian Business” (jointly with Interfax and X-Compliance)
- April 4 – Conference, “Legal Challenges and Opportunities in the Era of Sanctions” (jointly with Pravo.ru)
- June 20 – Expert Seminar, “Sanctions against Russia: Results of the First Half of 2023” (jointly with Interfax)
- October 13 – Participation in “Sanctions Policy in Contemporary International Relations: New Trends” at the XV RISA Convention
- October 20 – Seminar, “Russian Counter-Sanctions Measures: Relevant Amendments to Corporate Law, Currency Regulation and Certain Types of Transactions” (jointly with the Moscow Chamber of Commerce and Industry)
- December 20 – Roundtable, “Sanctions Policy: Results of 2023 and a Look into 2024” (jointly with Interfax)

PUBLICATIONS

1. Edited volume, “Sanctions Policy: Goals, Strategies, Instruments” Third Edition, revised and edited

Key Publications on RIAC’s Website

1. *Ivan Timofeev*, “How to Study the Politics of Sanctions? An Empirical Research Strategy”
2. *Ivan Timofeev*, “The US Congress and Sanctions Against Russia”
3. *Ivan Timofeev, Denis Primakov and Yaroslav Soldatkin*, “The Shrinking Sanctions Space”
4. *Ivan Timofeev*, “What Sanctions the West Imposed Against Russia on the Anniversary of the SMO, and How They Are Dangerous”
5. *Ivan Timofeev*, “US-China: Creeping Escalation”
6. *Ivan Timofeev*, “Weapons Against Armor: What Do the ‘Red Flags’ of Foreign Sanctions Regulators Mean?”
7. *Sergey Shein and Polina Chupriyanova*, “Striking Beyond Capabilities”
8. *Sergey Glandin*, “Sanctions and Criminal Consequences in Case of Their Violation”
9. *Vadim Voynikov*, “The Legal Absurdity of the European Commission”
10. *Stepan Popov*, “To the Issue of Russian Property Seizure Within the Framework of Sanctions Policy: The Legal Side”

DEVELOPMENTING SCIENCE DIPLOMACY MECHANISMS AND TOOLS IN RUSSIA

Science diplomacy is the most promising area for interaction between countries, implying the use of certain tools in the field of scientific and technical cooperation.

In the modern-day, it seems necessary for Russia to develop this area and build mutually beneficial and constructive cooperation with partners from friendly nations, as it has experience in conducting large-scale joint international projects and has achieved significant success in finding new potential in developing its space, energy, agriculture and other spheres.

A key event in this track was the release of Report No. 90/2023, "Promising Areas for Scientific Cooperation: BRICS States", which focuses on BRICS models of science diplomacy, as well as general trends and prospects of multilateral scientific cooperation within BRICS. Based on the conceptual and institutional aspects of science diplomacy of Brazil, India, China and South Africa, and taking into account their potential and opportunities (bearing in mind their experiences in delivering various projects), the authors of the report formulated specific proposals and recommendations for the development of cooperation between Russia and the BRICS member states in scientific research.

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“BRICS nations differ in their scientific potentials, priorities and their thematic efforts, geopolitical ambitions and orientation towards ‘centers of power’. Particularly, they differ in the specifics of national innovation policies, national strategies in science, technology and innovation, as well as specialty training. These differences are not only a challenge; they hold great potential, creating opportunities for introducing complementarity, where all countries, including Russia, may be able to realize their comparative advantages.”

Georgiy Toloraya, Deputy Chairman of the Board of the National Committee for BRICS Research, Head of the Center for Russian Strategy in Asia, Institute of Economics, Russian Academy of Sciences, Professor of Oriental Studies at the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO) (foreword to RIAC Report No. 92/2023, “Prospective Areas of Scientific Cooperation: BRICS Countries”)





KEY EVENTS

- October 6 – Roundtable, “Cooperation between Russia and Latin American Countries in Science Diplomacy” as part of the Sixth International Forum, “Russia and Iberoamerica in a Turbulent World: History and Modernity”, organized by Saint Petersburg State University
- October 16 – Participation in the special section “Science Diplomacy in the Modern World: New Areas and Platforms for Cooperation” as part of the XV Convention of the Russian Association for International Studies (RAIS), Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO)
- December 22 – Roundtable, “Opportunities and Constraints of Scientific and Technological Cooperation between Russia and BRICS Member States”

PUBLICATIONS

1. *Report No. 90/2023, “Perspective Directions of Scientific Cooperation: BRICS Countries”, G. Toloraya, A. Borzova, I. Dezhina, R. M. Nikolskaya, G. Krasnova*

Key Publications on RIAC’s Website

1. *Alla Borzova, “The Model of Science Diplomacy in Brazil and Prospects for the Development of Bilateral Scientific Cooperation between Russia and Brazil”*
2. *Irina Dezhina, “Science Diplomacy in India”*
3. *Gulnara Krasnova, “The State and Prospects of Multilateral Scientific Cooperation within BRICS”*
4. *Ksenia Tabarintseva-Romanova, “Science Diplomacy and SDC: ‘Chained Together’”*
5. *Roman Reinhardt, “Forgotten and Unforgettable Science Diplomacy: Toward the Anniversary of the Lacey-Zarubin Agreement”*

DEVELOPING PUBLIC DIPLOMACY TOOLS IN RUSSIA

In 2023, RIAC continued to study foreign and Russian experiences in using various public diplomacy tools in order to develop recommendations on further developing this area in Russia, taking into account the current global geopolitical situation.

At the beginning of the year, the report, “Practices of Public Diplomacy in Russian Regions 2017-2021”, prepared by experts of the Center for Support and Development of Public Initiatives – “Creative Diplomacy” at RIAC was presented. During the expert discussion, the participants noted that this study is one of the first and most significant steps in the field of public diplomacy. The authors were able to systematize a large amount of data and identify the most vulnerable spots in the current state of public diplomacy in their regions. As a result of the event, a briefing note was prepared, which, together with the report, was sent to the governors and heads of Russia’s 85 constituent entities.

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“One day, when Russia has its own presidential commission on public diplomacy, we will say that despite any sanctions and bans, despite the attempt to abolish Russian public diplomacy in the Western Hemisphere, Russian public diplomacy is alive and continues its work in different parts of the world.”

Natalia Burlinova, President of the Center for Support and Development of Public Initiatives – “Creative Diplomacy”, Associate Professor at Lomonosov Moscow State University, Associate Professor, Finance University of the Government of the Russian Federation and at the Russian State University for the Humanities (analytical article posted on RIAC’s website, “The West Does Not Recognize Russia’s Right to Public Diplomacy”, September 14, 2023)



In November 2023, an expert discussion, “The Humanitarian Toolkit of Political Influence of World Actors in Central Asia and the South Caucasus” was held. The report, “The Politics of Influence of World Actors in Central Asia, Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and the Baltic States” prepared by Rossotrudnichestvo’s team, was used as a substantive basis for the discussion. During the expert debate, plenty of assessments of the research results and recommendations for further work were given. Special attention was paid to various methodological approaches. The experts emphasized the importance of such studies for the development of Russia’s humanitarian policy in different regions of the world.

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“In the current situation, it is possible to unite Russian society and strengthen international links with partners who are ready and willing to cooperate with Russia using the tools of public diplomacy and horizontal ties with foreign colleagues, which can still be preserved and developed.”

Alexei Efremov, leading researcher at the Center for Public Administration Technologies, Russian Academy of National Economy and Public Administration, Professor of the Department of International and Eurasian Law, Voronezh State University (speech from an expert discussion on the report, “Public Diplomacy Practices of Russian Regions 2017-2021”, February 9, 2023)

KEY EVENTS

- February 10 – Report Discussion, “Public Diplomacy Practices of Russian Regions 2017-2021,” prepared by experts of the Center for Support and Development of Public Initiatives – “Creative Diplomacy” at RIAC
- November 7 – Expert discussion, “Humanitarian Tools of Political Influence Used by World Actors in Central Asia and the South Caucasus” (jointly with the Federal Agency for the Commonwealth of Independent States, Compatriots Living Abroad and International Humanitarian Cooperation – Rossotrudnichestvo)

PUBLICATIONS

Key Publications on RIAC’s Website

1. *Natalia Burlinova, “The West Does Not Recognize Russia’s Right to Public Diplomacy”*
2. *Dmitry Polikanov, “On the Capabilities of Rossotrudnichestvo and the Potential for the Development of the Agency”*
3. *Natalia Burlinova, “American Legislation on Foreign Agents: Criminal Law on the Guard of Public Diplomacy”*
4. *Dmitry Polikanov, “The Role of ‘Soft Power’ in International Relations: Modern Russian Experience and Outlook”*

THE GREEN AGENDA: THE POLITICAL DIMENSION

After the COVID-19 pandemic and the energy crisis caused mainly by Western anti-Russian sanctions, attention towards green policies and climate change issues started to return to the agenda.

Today, the desire to preserve the Earth's climate can be used by states as a pretext for protectionist measures. For example, the European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) has raised questions about its compatibility with WTO law, while the US Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 has even provoked friction with European allies over unfair competition practices. In addition to these economic complexities, there are also broad political tensions over climate change. Many traditional international structures are also beginning to put climate change on their agenda. Attempts to link climate change and security in the UN Security Council are particularly noteworthy. Russia opposes such attempts and insists on considering only the UN FCCC as the main climate negotiation process.

The crisis in relations with the West has not only created economic difficulties for Russia's green transition but has also contributed to reduced opportunities for dialogue in this area. However, Moscow continues to work on climate policy and

the green agenda with other states, particularly with nations of the Global South.

In 2023, RIAC continued to actively explore the global green agenda. In view of the changing geopolitical and geo-economic realities in the world, and the possibility of climate policy being used exclusively to promote national interests (especially by Western countries), RIAC has focused its research on achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement. Additionally, attention is given to cooperation between Russia and friendly countries in the climate field, and Russia's ability to achieve its own climate goals.

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“We continue to consider the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change as the main intergovernmental discussion platform – this is written in our Foreign Policy Concept. At the same time, we are ready to interact with other countries in various formats, but this requires mutual willingness.”

Ruslan Edelgeriev, Advisor to the President of the Russian Federation, Special Representative of the President of the Russian Federation on Climate Issues (from an interview on RIAC's website, “We will definitely not be left alone”)





“It is important for Russia to create its own narrative for the climate agenda to further promote it in the international arena. The main aspects of this narrative includes creating a universal solution to climate change and shifting the focus from greenwashing to the actual creation of new green infrastructure.”

Ivan Gudkov, Associate Professor, Department of Fuel and Energy Sector Legal Regulation, Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO) (from his speech at the RIAC and International Institute of Energy Policy and Diplomacy roundtable at MGIMO, “International Climate Agenda as a Tool of Western Gas Diplomacy”)

KEY EVENTS

- January 24 – Lecture by RIAC Program Manager Konstantin Sukhoverkhov, “Outlook for Russia’s Green Transition Under Western Sanctions Pressure,” organized with RIAC as part of the Days of Rossotrudnichestvo Public Council
- March 16 – Academic seminar, “Scientific Support of Climate Policy in Russia”, organized by RIAC and the Department of International Complex Problems of Nature Management and Ecology, MGIMO
- April 12 – Roundtable, “Russia’s Food Sovereignty in the Context of Globalization”, as part of the XXIV Yasin (April) International Scientific Conference on Problems of Economic and Social Development
- September 21 – RIAC and Kutafin Moscow State Law University expert discussion, “Legal Mechanisms of Counteracting Greenwashing: Experience of Russia and Foreign Countries”, as part of the VI International Forum of Lawyers and Economists “Modern Problems of Law and Economics”
- October 13 – Roundtable, “International Climate Agenda as a Tool of Western Gas Diplomacy” (jointly held by RIAC and the International Institute of Energy Policy and Diplomacy (IIEPD), MGIMO), as part of the Tenth Convention of the Russian Association for International Studies (RAIS)

PUBLICATIONS

1. *Briefing note No. 45/2023, “Evolution of Approaches to Environmental-Climatic Issues in the Foreign Policy Doctrines of the Russian Federation”, I. Milgizin*
2. *Working Paper No. 80/2023, “International Climate Agenda as a Tool of Western Gas Diplomacy”, E. Tipailov*

Key Publications on RIAC’s Website

1. *Ruslan Edelgeriev, “We Will Definitely Not Be Left Alone”*
2. *Alexey Kokorin, “No Need to Dramatize the Situation on the Way to Addressing the Climate Problem”*
3. *Alexander Ginzburg, “Climate Agenda, Energy and Methane”*
4. *Lyubov Nechaeva, “Standby: How Germany Is Saying Goodbye to the Atom”*
5. *Dmitry Poptsov, “Prospects for the Development of ‘Green’ Energy in Azerbaijan”*

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION: THE INSTITUTIONAL DIMENSION

Migration-related projects make up an important area of RIAC's activities. In the context of current global and regional trends, it seems particularly important to identify the most effective migration and human capital management practices for Russia.

In 2023, RIAC focused on examining key trends in demographic development and migration challenges. Special attention was paid to the current state of the labor market and how it is influenced by robotization and digitalization. These processes are increasingly affecting the labor market in Russia, modifying its structure and changing the demand for labor. In addition, RIAC paid attention to studying the main trends for external migration in the Russian Federation with a focus on educational and scientific migration to Russia, which retains potential for further development.

These topics were the focus of the IX International Conference, "Demographic Crisis and External Migration: Problems and Solutions" organized by RIAC and RANEPA. The conference was attended by Russian and foreign demographers and migration specialists.



KEY EVENTS

- November 24 – Conference, "Demographic Crisis and External Migration: Problems and Solutions" (jointly with RANEPA)

PUBLICATIONS

1. *Conference Results, "Eurasian Migration System: Relevant Trends and Development Vistas"*, N. Kokoeva

Key Publications on RIAC's Website

1. *Irina Ivakhnyuk, "Labor Migration to Russia: A View through the Prism of Political, Economic and Demographic Trends"*
2. *Natalia Filippova, "Migration to the East"*
3. *Nadezhda Kudayarova, "The Mexican-American Border: Forever a Crisis?"*

NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND TECHNOLOGY IN CONTEMPORARY INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

In 2023, the rapid degradation of a limited international arms regime continued. In the context of the nearly frozen strategic arms dialogues between Russia and the United States, the accelerated development of nuclear technology and capacity building in countries not included in the international system of arms reduction treaties continues. The risks of new additions to the nuclear powers list are also increasing, given the failure of the Iranian nuclear deal.



“Nuclear weapons ought to prevent not only nuclear war, but also conflicts between great powers. This is not happening now; for example, there is a high-intensity conflict raging between Russia and Ukraine, international sanctions have become commonplace, while the likelihood of a direct military clash between the United States and China keeps rising. New nuclear arms negotiations and new strategic stability are unlikely until a balance between the great powers is reached.”

(from the address of a Pakistani expert speaking at a joint SVI roundtable discussion, “Strategic Rivalry in South Asia: Regional Security and Global Implications”, October 25, 2023)

In this situation, it is increasingly important to analyze and consider the nuclear doctrines and approaches of those states that have previously received less attention from researchers. Among them, the Pakistan-India-China triangle stands out first and foremost. It is these nations that are most rapidly developing new strategic capabilities, while at the same time being in a state of acute confrontation with each other.

The arms race between the United States and China, which are not bound by treaties aimed at reducing the nuclear threat, is accelerating. The parties have been able to achieve the parity of their potential in all spheres, while in areas where such parity is impossible, they leverage technological breakthroughs to make up for a lag.

In the debut year of this RIAC project, a working paper titled “American Nuclear Doctrine: Key Stages of Development and Principles of Operation” was prepared and analyzed key milestones and principles of American nuclear doctrine developments from 1945 to date. The roundtable, “Strategic Stability in South Asia: Regional Security and Global Implications”, was also held jointly with the Pakistani think tank SVI on global and regional trends in strategic stability.

KEY EVENTS

- October 25 – “Strategic Rivalry in South Asia: Regional Security and Global Implications” (with SVI Pakistan)

PUBLICATIONS

1. Working Paper No. 79/2023, “American Nuclear Doctrine: Key Stages of Development and Principles of Operation”, L. Panin

Key Publications on RIAC’s Website

1. Alexei Arbatov, “Nuclear Metamorphosis” (the article was first published in “Polis. Political Studies”)
2. Ivan Timofeev, “Preventive Nuclear Strike? No” (the article was first published on the website of “Russia in Global Affairs”)
3. Lev Panin, “The Nuclear Triangle of the Indian Subcontinent”
4. Alexander Yermakov, “Mirror Fortress”
5. Alexander Yermakov, “Don’t Trust and Don’t Verify: The New Normal and the Future of the START Treaty?”
6. Vladislav Timchenko, “The Concept of ‘Red Lines’”

INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION OF TECHNOLOGY-RELATED POLICIES

Today, humanity is experiencing a complex period of throes as it gives birth not only to a multipolar world order, but also to a new technological mode, accompanied by intensified competition between different nations, including in technological leadership. Technology is moving to the geopolitical plane and is acquiring strategic importance. Overall, technological dominance will play an important role in determining the future world order.

In order to survive these turbulent times, with established supply chains collapsing and globalization winding down, the issue of being technologically self-sufficient becomes crucial for the majority of actors in international relations. The demand for techno-nationalism arises once again. However, because the high-tech industry has been developing due to global labor divisions, technological sovereignty may soon reach its limits – no country today can achieve import substitution for an entire production chain. In this regard, international cooperation in scientific and technological spheres is of particular importance.

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“The global military establishment is 100% certain that future wars will be fought by unmanned vehicles on land, water, underwater and in the air. Technological developments lead to the fact that combat robots will make their own decision to attack, generating protest from the world community.”

Vadim Kozyulin, Director of the PIR Center's Program on New Technologies and International Security, Researcher at the Diplomatic Academy of the Russian Foreign Ministry (from the article, “Military Force in International Relations: Room for a Step Forward”, published on RIAC's website)

Since the beginning of 2023, RIAC launched a new project, “The International Dimension of Technology Policy”, aiming to critically review approaches in technology-related policies, mainly in states that are strategically important to Russia. The goal is to study the specifics of how different countries implement S&T development strategies, their approaches to strengthening technological sovereignty and expanding its boundaries, as well as issues of international cooperation in the field of science and technology.





“The romance of the era of ‘super spies’ like James Bond is a thing of the past, as intelligence is gradually transforming from an exciting duel of human intellects into an almost invisible to the outside observer, but no less fierce high-tech battle.”

Andrey Kortunov, RIAC Academic Director and Member of the RIAC Presidium, RIAC Member (from the article, “On the Way to Artificial Intelligence: The Coming of Laplace’s Demon,” first published in “The Invisible Dimension” No. 1, 2023)

KEY EVENTS

- April 24 – Lecture by RIAC Expert Ivan Danilin, “Regulation of Transnational Technological Corporations,” organized with RIAC as part of the Days of the Public Council, Rossotrudnichestvo
- June 30 – The Ninth Joint Research and Practice Seminar, “Technological Leadership under Transformation of the World Order,” organized by RIAC, the E.M. Primakov IMEMO, Russian Academy of Sciences and the World Economy and International Relations (WE&IR)
- November 21 – City Breakfast, “India’s Technology Policy: Present and Future”

PUBLICATIONS

1. *Working Paper No. 82/2023, “India’s Technology Policy”, I. Shchedrov*

Key Publications on RIAC’s Website

1. *Korinna Kostyukova, “Japan’s Technology Policy”*
2. *Leonid Kovacic, “The Battle for Semiconductors: Will There Be Winners?”*
3. *Petr Topychkanov and Ivan Shchedrov, “Indian Space Triptych: Main Results of India’s Lunar Mission”*
4. *Ivan Shchedrov, “Virtual Reality: Technological Cooperation between India and the USA”*
5. *Andrey Kortunov, “On the Way to Artificial Intelligence – the Coming of Laplace’s Demon”*
6. *Anastasia Tolstukhina, “US Technology Policy under Rivalry with China” (first published on the website of the Valdai International Discussion Club)*
7. *Evgeniya Drozhashchikh, “Space Economy – Space Security Nexus: In Search for Common Ground”*
8. *Evgeny Kiktenko, “When to Prepare for the Quantum Threat?”*

ELECTRONIC INTERNATIONALIZATION OF RUSSIAN UNIVERSITIES

In a modern environment, the promotion of Russian education and science on foreign markets, as well as the attraction of foreign students and scientific personnel, is impossible without the use of digital resources and technology.

Today, English-language websites of Russian universities are one of the main channels that may aid their international positioning, given the restrictions on domestic universities with popular social networks, as well as on their presence on foreign educational resources and in world rankings.

In 2023, RIAC published the results of a new stage of research on English-language Internet resources of Russian universities as part of Report No. 88/2023 "Electronic Internationalization: English-Language Internet Resources of Russian Universities" (2023). The first chapter presents an updated rating of English-language websites of Russian universities, analyzes typical problems and gives recommendations for their solution. The second chapter contains a survey of employees of international services from Russian universities, identifying the stimulating and restraining factors of e-internationalization development in Russian universities. Based on the data obtained, it was analyzed how the model of e-internationalization management had changed in recent years, internal problems were identified and the best practices of e-internationalization management in a period of digital constraints were named.

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"E-internationalization involves creating and maintaining multilingual versions of university websites to give students from different countries access to information in their own language. Since English is the language of international communication and the first foreign language for most students, it is extremely important for universities to create websites in this language. Nowadays, an urgent task for universities is to create a Chinese version of the resource, which could be instrumental in reaching a wide audience of students and applicants by providing them with necessary and interesting information."

Ivan Timofeev, RIAC Director General (speech at the roundtable, "Strategies of Russian Universities for Working in the International Digital Environment and Specifics of Promotion in China and India Markets", coinciding with the release of RIAC Report No. 88/2023, "Electronic Internationalization: English-Language Internet Resources of Russian Universities 2023", November 14, 2023)

In the context of suspended cooperation with traditional partners, the urgent goals for Russian tertiary education are to enter and advance in underexplored or new foreign markets. Taking into account the significant role assigned to the development of cooperation with China and India, the current report analyzes the factors that foreign



students from these countries pay special attention to when enrolling in Russian universities, as well as to the problems they face when searching for necessary information and communicating with university staff.

In order to identify the most significant factors influencing the final decision when enrolling in Russian universities, RIAC and the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Russian Federation, conducted a survey of over 5,000 Chinese and Indian students studying at Russian universities. A review of the responses received, and the proposed recommendations will help Russian higher education institutions strengthen their strategy for attracting foreign students.

This report was presented at the Moscow City Pedagogical University as part of the roundtable, "University Positions in the Internet Space and their Reorientation to Chinese and Indian Educational Markets". During the discussion, experts focused on a number of issues related to the efficiency of using digital resources for the implementation of international activities, as well as existing problems and best practices of e-internationalization.



RIAC is also focused on the current challenges and problems of Russian scientific research. At the turn of the year, RIAC and the National Research University - Higher School of Economics (HSE) organized an expert seminar, "The Issues of Promoting Russian Science in International Markets". During discussion, proposals were made to update the Concept of Scientific and Technological Cooperation of the Russian Federation and to prioritize mutually beneficial international scientific and technical cooperation with various countries, both in fundamental and applied research and developments.

KEY EVENTS

- January 18 – Expert seminar, "Issues of Russian Science Promotion of Russian Science in International Markets" (jointly with the National Research University – Higher School of Economics)
- September 19 – Webinar, "Strategic Routes of International Activities for Academic Organizations" as part of the module, "Management of International Activities within the Academic Reserve of the Ministry of Education's Program"
- November 15 – Roundtable, "Positioning of Russian Universities in the Internet Space and Their Reorientation to the Educational Markets of China and India" (jointly with the Moscow City Pedagogical University)

PUBLICATIONS

1. *Report No. 88/2023, "Electronic Internationalization: English-Language Internet Resources of Russian Universities"*, I. Timofeev, E. Karpinskaya, O. Ba, E. Solodukhina

Key Publications on RIAC's website

1. *Olga Bakumenko, "Electronic Internationalization of Universities – a Soft Power Tool?"*
2. *Elena Karpinskaya and Elizaveta Solodukhina, "Positioning of Russian Universities in the Internet Space and Their Reorientation to the Educational Markets of China and India. Results of RIAC's Roundtable"*
3. *Maria Ulyanova, "Using Digital (Online) Resources and Information Technologies to Promote Russian Universities and Scientific Organizations in China"*

RIAC JOINT PROJECTS WITH IMEMO RAS AND WE&IR JOURNAL TO DISCUSS CURRENT INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ISSUES

The first stage of RIAC's joint projects in 2023 included completed research with the E.M. Primakov Institute of World Economy and International Relations (IMEMO), Russian Academy of Sciences, and the journal *World Economy and International Relations*.

Two seminars were held to highlight the role of the African continent in global politics and the problem of scientific and technological leadership in the context of growing global competition. In 2021-2023, a series of scientific and practical seminars organized by RIAC, IMEMO and WE&IR to study current problems in international relations, and share experiences in applying empirical methods and fundamental theories aroused the interest of a broad and professional audience. The openness of the format, the variety of topics, and the high level of experts became a hallmark of the project. Analytical reviews based on the results of the seminars were published in *World Economy and International Relations*.

In 2024, the joint projects will be continued. The second cycle of seminars is planned, this time focusing on Russia's foreign policy in a changed environment.

KEY EVENTS

- March 28 – Scientific and practical seminar, “The Role of the African Continent in Global Affairs: The Year of Africa in Russia”
- June 30 – Research and practice seminar, “Technological Leadership under Transformation of the World Order”



“Looking for opportunities to realize Russia's strategy in Africa should not be conducted summit to summit, opportunistically. Rather, it should be done on a systematic basis, to breathe confidence in our partners on the continent that Russia has sustainable interest in its prosperity.”

From the address of Irina Abramova, Director of the Africa Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences, RIAC Member, March 28, 2023.



INTERNSHIPS

In 2023, over 100 students from Russian universities (Lomonosov Moscow State University, Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO), National Research University - Higher School of Economics, Russian State Saint Petersburg University, Far Eastern Federal University, Diplomatic Academy of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, etc.) and from universities of other countries have completed an internship at RIAC. It is noteworthy that among the Russian trainees, there were students representing universities from different parts of the country. After the COVID-19 pandemic, RIAC developed and improved its remote internships, which seems to be important for interns from foreign and domestic regional far-off universities.

Students interning at RIAC have the opportunity to become involved in the Council's projects in areas that interest them. The internship includes both participation in ongoing project activities (preparing events, searching for information, compiling databases) and working on their own texts and research projects under the guidance of a supervisor. RIAC internships are supervised by program managers and coordinators.

In 2023, RIAC expanded its network of future international experts and continues to maintain social media accounts for graduates of the Council's internship program. Information about interns, their research interests and publications, and the work they have done is published on the Council's website.



"My internship at the Russian International Affairs Council was a very significant milestone in my professional life. It made me realize that international relations are exactly what I wanted to study all my life. Here, I had the opportunity to realize

my professional potential and enrich my portfolio through vigorous work on writing articles and analytical materials. In addition, I met outstanding professionals and had the opportunity to participate in various events, which greatly enriched my experience."

*Yana Gorshkova,
RIAC intern, student of the Russian Presidential
Academy of National Economy and Public
Administration (RANEPA)*

"My internship experience at RIAC was very useful for me. I gained skills in organizing events, communicating with experts, writing news and press releases. Direct participation in roundtables and personal communication with experts was precious to me. I enjoyed the opportunity to write and publish analytical papers, which was my first serious experience writing about international issues. I am glad that I did my internship at RIAC!"



*Daniil Rastegaev,
RIAC intern, student at Lomonosov
Moscow State University*

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

In 2023, RIAC organized a number of events targeting a wider audience, from specialized experts to young professionals, students and anyone interested in international relations.

RIAC's Urbi et Orbi City Breakfasts traditionally co-opted a rich palette of topics: experts discussed the contours of Eurasian integration and the prospects for BRICS enlargement, the role of Africa in world politics and the bundles of contradictions in the Middle East, as well as the image of Russia's future and its foreign policy present. City breakfasts remain a strong magnet for specialists and those interested in international relations. More and more listeners take the opportunity to communicate directly with leading experts on various international issues, while the discussions, maintaining a high professional level year after year, can serve as a model for public debate of the most pressing topics.

RIAC continued to participate in the annual non-fiction book fairs. RIAC's stand, which reflected its publication activity over the past few years, attracted the interest of hundreds of readers, who noted the high informative level of RIAC's analytical materials.

City Breakfasts

- February 28 – Russian Presidency of the EAEU 2023: Challenges and Expectations
- March 15 – The EU Response to the Energy Crisis in 2022
- March 29 – Sociology of the Image of the Future – 2033: Self-Painted Russia
- April 20 – Major Trends in the Middle East in the Context of Regional and Global Crises
- June 21 – African Motifs of the Modern World
- July 18 – Russia and China: Friendship Across Frontiers a Year and a Half Later
- August 10 – Russian-Serbian Relations under Sanctions Pressure
- September 28 – Argentina's Accession to BRICS and the Future of Russian-Argentine Relations
- October 24 – Escalation of the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict and Its Impact on Regional Dynamics
- November 21 – India's Technology Policy: Present and Future
- December 28 – Foreign Policy Outcomes of 2023



PODCASTS

In 2023, the Russian International Affairs Council continued to develop its podcasts.

As part of the new issues, RIAC specialists conducted interviews with leading Russian experts on international relations in a number of areas. Russia's bilateral cooperation in the new environment, as well as the relevant events on the international agenda, took an important place among the topics discussed.

The involvement of non-Arctic states in the activities and development of projects in the Arctic region, accompanied by cooperation with Western nations being frozen showed the importance of discussing key trends in building Russian-Chinese and Russian-Indian relations in the Arctic. Russia's chairmanship of BRICS in 2024 was a good occasion to consider potential formats of cooperation between forum participants in the Arctic region.

The grave humanitarian situation in Syria, resulting from the ongoing military operations in the country and aggravated by the consequences of natural disasters, predetermined the need to assess the prospects for the settlement of Syrian-Turkish contradictions, as well as the opportunities for the country to overcome the economic and humanitarian crisis along with its potential for emerging as an independent player in the region.

The ongoing technological confrontation between the US and China, along with global trends toward technological sovereignty, was an equally high-priority topic for discussion. Within the framework of the above-mentioned agenda, experts paid much attention to issues related to China's emergence as a technological superpower, the outlook for the formation of a bipolar system in the high-tech sphere, as well as the possibilities of creating interstate technological alliances.

RIAC podcasts highlighting the above-mentioned and other topics are distributed on the leading Russian and international online platforms: Yandex, VKontakte, Google and Apple.

The following podcasts were released between November 2022 and December 2023:

- Poetry and International Relations: Podcast with Evgeniy Tipailov. RIAC. 15.12.2022
- The Main Danger for Syria Lies in the Economy: Podcast with Alexander Aksenok. RIAC. 17.03.2023
- Russia and Asian Nations in the Arctic: Podcast with Irina Strelnikova. RIAC. 29.06.2023
- Internet and BRICS Policy in the Arctic: Podcast with Maria Lagutina. RIAC. 01.12.2023
- Brazilian Carnival of Opportunities for Russian Business: Podcast with Yuliana Titaeva. RIAC. 05.12.2023
- Rivalry of Technological Superpowers: Podcast with Vasily Kashin. RIAC. 11.12.2023



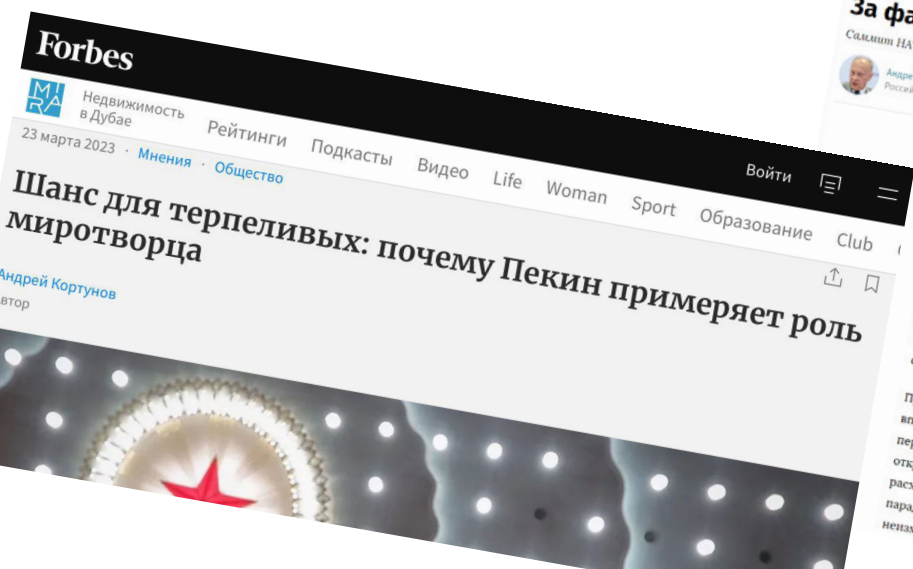
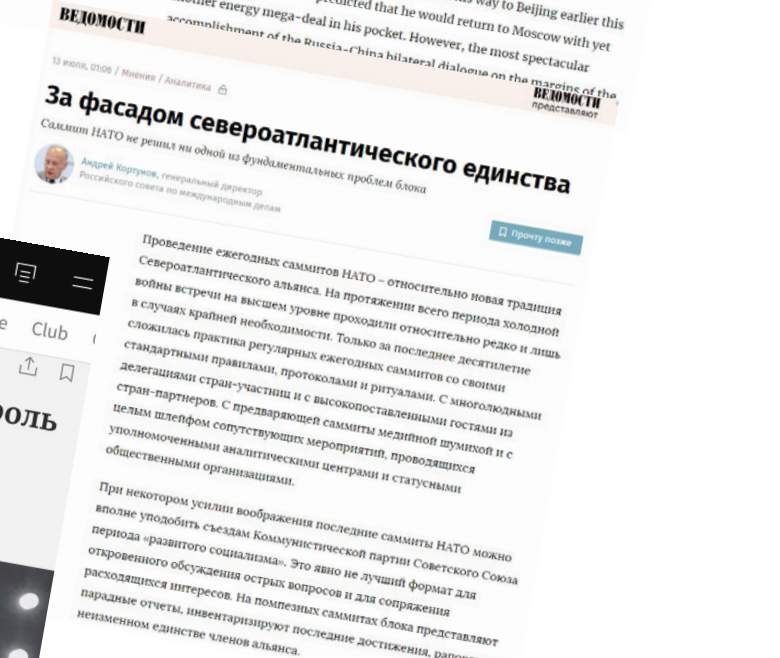
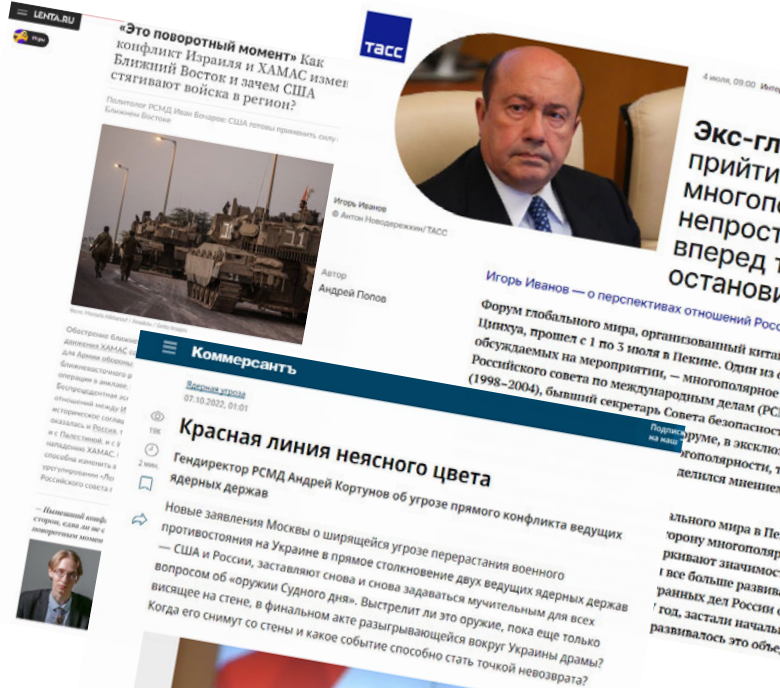
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RIAC IN THE MEDIA

In 2023, the Russian International Affairs Council confirmed its status as one of the most recognizable and authoritative sources of information on Russia's approach to international relations and foreign policy.

RIAC continues to maintain stable partnerships with leading Russian media outlets, regularly holding press conferences and roundtables with the participation of RIAC members and experts at the press centers of Russia Today and Izvestiya.

The Council continued its cooperation with leading Russian news agencies: Russia Today, TASS, Interfax, and Sputnik. RIAC members and partners actively provide expert commentaries for the most widely read and authoritative online publications, newspapers, news agencies, becoming guests of TV and radio programs. RIAC experts have authored analytical articles on international issues for RBC, Izvestiya, Kommersant, Nezavisimaya Gazeta, Vedomosti, Forbes, and Lenta.ru. The Council has retained contacts with leading foreign media outlets and continues to actively participate in broadcasting the opinions of RIAC members and experts to foreign audiences.



Opinion

Andrei Kortunov

North Korea crisis: six-party talks the only way to avert nuclear war

Anti-proliferation mechanisms that once kept nuclear ambitions in check are failing as the old global order crumbles
The North Korean nuclear impasse is part of this trend, and cannot be resolved without multilateral talks that take into account divergent interests

Published: 3:30am, 13 Oct, 2023

OPINION / VIEWPOINT

US foreign policy is advanced smartphone with weak battery

By Andrei Kortunov
Published: May 25, 2023 07:41 PM



A couple of days ago, a Quad summit meeting in Sydney scheduled for May 24 was abruptly canceled. The US president had to pull out of his long-anticipated trip to Australia and Papua New Guinea. Instead, the heads of the four Quad member states got together on the margins of the G7 Summit in Hiroshima on May 20.



ВЕДОМОСТИ

Подъем переворотом

Приход к власти в Египте Абделя Фаттах ас-Сиси способствовал изменению отношений

Иван Бочаров, программный координатор Российского совета по международным делам



Дамасская даль

Востоковед Иван Бочаров — о том, какой стала Сирия спустя годы затнувшегося конфликта в стране

15 марта 2023, 08:00

Война в Сирии длится уже 12 лет — именно 15 марта 2011 года считается датой начала конфликта. Тогда на фоне «арабской весны» республику захлестнули массовые акции протеста. В итоге политический кризис вылился в острое затем были вовлечены внешние игроки — в первую очередь арабская коалиция. В первые годы военных действий, говорить о том, что происходит. На территории страны до сих пор числятся с участием иностранных

Многополярность по-китайски

Эксперт клуба «Валдай» Юлия Мельникова — о том, как Пекин выстраивает отношения с Европой

20 февраля 2023, 08:00

Европейское турне Ван И — недавно министра иностранных дел КНР, а теперь главы канцелярии комиссии ЦК КПК по иностранным делам — это сигнал для региона. Восстановившись после COVID-19, Китай готов к диалогу с европейскими столицами как по глобальным вопросам (таким как поиск альтернативных поставщиков энергоресурсов), так и по

Арктика с акцентом на Азию

Россия нашла новых партнеров по освоению Заполярья

Наталья Вихирева

Об авторе: Наталья Сергеевна Вихирева — кандидат политических наук Российского совета по международным делам.

Над Сербией нависла угроза санкций

В Брюсселе просчитывают варианты введения ограничительных мер против международной делами

Милан Лазович

Об авторе: Милан Светиславович Лазович — программный координатор Российского совета по международным делам.

Хорватская развилка

Балканист Милан Лазович — о политических разногласиях внутри страны из-за разных подходов к РФ и украинскому кризису

21 августа 2023, 08:00

В Хорватии, которая одновременно входит в ЕС и НАТО, нарастают разногласия относительно внешнеполитического курса страны в контексте украинского кризиса. Сторонники жесткого подхода к российскому агрессору и сторонники

Ответственная палатер

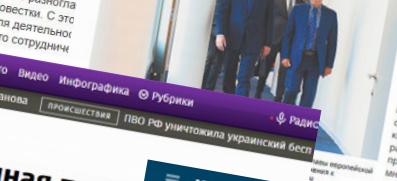
Программный координатор РСМД Константин Суховерхов — о перспективах ООН и разных подходах к мировым державам

15 мая 2023, 08:00

Несмотря на то что Ялтинско-Потсдамская система претерпела серьезные изменения, так же как и одна из ее главных пружин — Организация Объединенных Наций, в текущих условиях вопрос относительно того, не назрела ли реформа структуры международных отношений.

За последние 30 лет в связи с яростной биполярной спешкой многополярности регулярно выдвигались разные проекты обновления ООН, чтобы она отвечала современным условиям. Сейчас эти размышления и разговоры активизировались. Очевидно, что реформа ООН необходима. Россия предлагает следующий вариант: расширить СБ ООН, включая в него страны Африки и Азии. В частности, Москва, исходя из постоянных членом Совбеза. При этом РФ выступает за сохранение права вето.

В России все более широкое распространение получает точка зрения о том, что цель США и возглавляемого ими «коллективного Запада» — окончательное решение «русского вопроса». Подобная цель видится как нанесение поражения России, нивелирование ее военного потенциала, перестройка ее государственности, переписывание истории, ликвидация ее государственности, переписывание истории, ликвидация ее государственности, переписывание истории, ликвидация ее государственности.



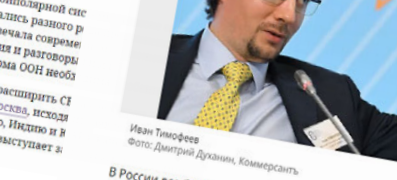
Милан Лазович

«Возвращения в реальность 2021 года не будет»

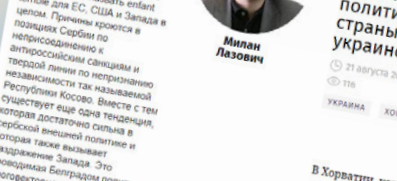
Иван Тимофеев — об эволюции отношений России и Запада

Иван Тимофеев

Об авторе: Иван Тимофеев — программный директор клуба «Валдай» и директор по связям с общественностью.



Иван Тимофеев



Константин Суховерхов

Серьезная эскалация

Программный директор клуба «Валдай» Иван Тимофеев — о последствиях введения новых антироссийских санкций

16 ноября 2023, 13:00

Группа западных стран к годовщине начала СВО на Украине ввела масштабные экономические санкции против России. При этом новые ограничения уже введены со столь до этой даты. За время эскалации против России санкции казались исчерпывающими. Тем не менее очередные рестрикции против России. Они едва ли приведут к эскалации экономической войны издержки, затруднит промышленную модернизацию, создадут дополнительные проблемы для бизнеса.

Наиболее значимый пакет ограничений ввела США. Под блокирующие санкции попали 11 банков «второго эшелона». Это относительно небольшие структуры, однако после блокировки крупных российских финансовых институтов в 2022 году они стали играть важную роль в долларовых транзакциях с зарубежными странами. Теперь такие возможности существенно сузились. Также заблокированы российские компании, имеющие капиталом (Confidery, Veles Capital).

04

RIAC'S WEBSITE

RUSSIANCOUNCIL.RU

YEARLY AUDIENCE IN 2023

30,863,394

SESSIONS

From 2022, 2023 saw an increase of

70%

AVERAGE MONTHLY TRAFFIC IN 2023:

2.5 million sessions

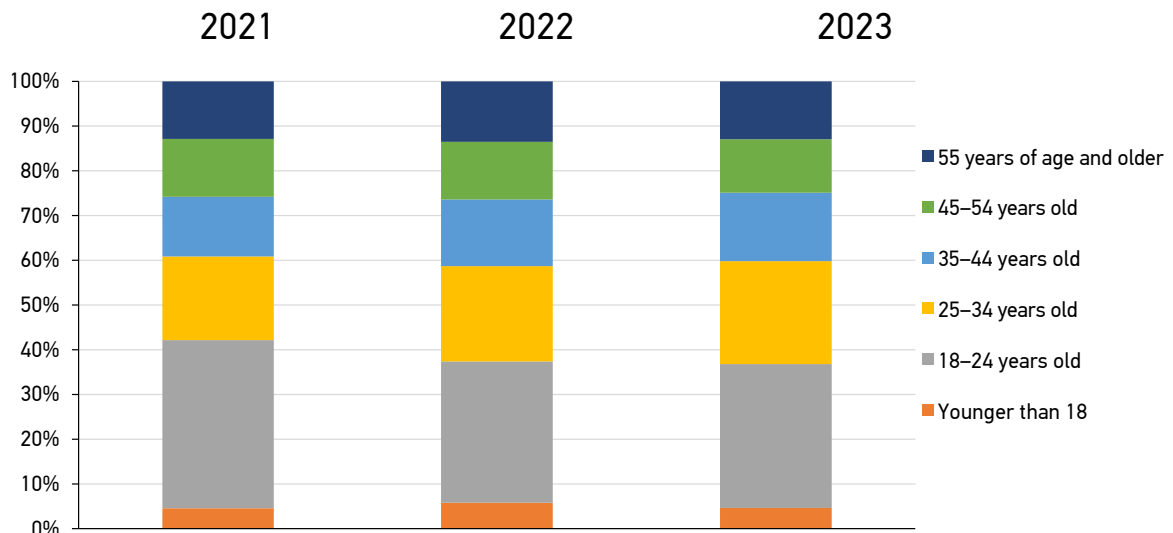
RIAC's website retains its position as one of the most popular and in-demand Russian online resources in the field of international relations. In 2023, the average monthly audience exceeded 2.5 million users, which is almost 70% higher than the previous year's figures.

In 2023, the audience growth rates continued following 2022, part due to the large attraction of a broader Russian public to expert and academic analytical research amid an aggravated international situation.

The website's audience continues to be dominated by the "student segment" in the age group of 18 to 24 – over 32%. Pleasingly notable is that as the audience grows older, it stays with RIAC – the share of the audience aged 25-34 is steadily growing and amounts to 23%.

In 2023, the share of the Russian audience continued to grow – 65.4% versus 63.2% a year before, followed by the US audience, which ranks second, contributing to almost 13% of all website visits.

WEBSITE AUDIENCE AGE



WEBSITE TRAFFIC DYNAMICS FOR 2012-2023

2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
408,000	884,000	1,003,641	1,100,000	1,560,000	1,836,000	3,066,406	4,427,311	6,212,485	7,273,145	18,290,587	30,863,394

*Data is from November 2022 to October 2023.

GEOGRAPHY



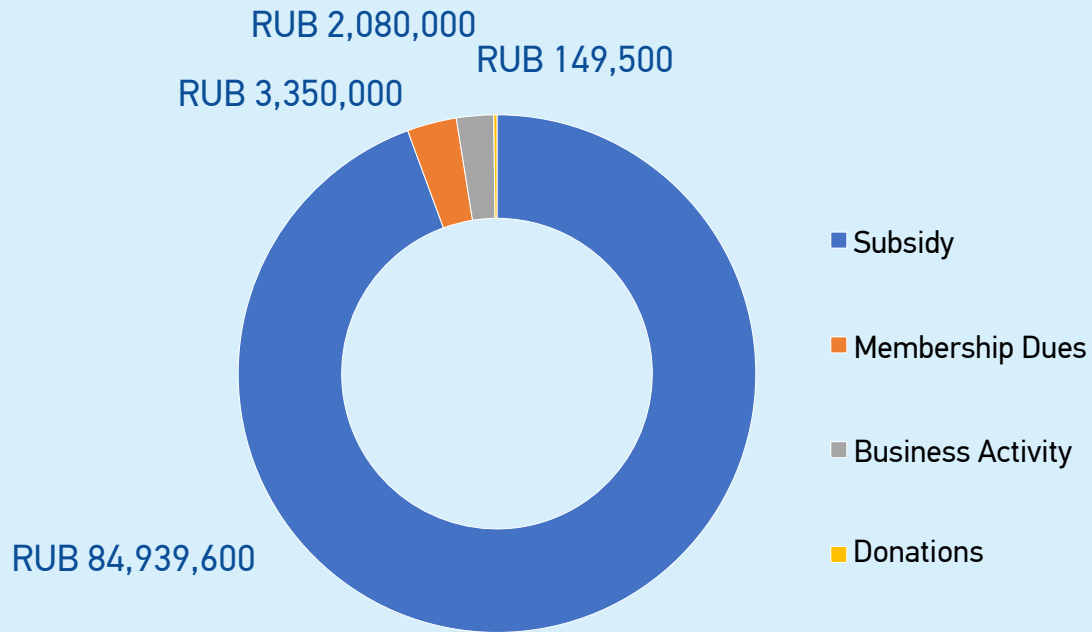
TOP-20 WEBSITE AUDIENCE COUNTRIES

1	Russia	65.4%
2	USA	12.9%
3	China	1.94%
4	Kazakhstan	1.72%
5	Germany	1.46%
6	Belarus	1.14%
7	UK	0.78%
8	India	0.75%
9	France	0.73%
10	Uzbekistan	0.72%

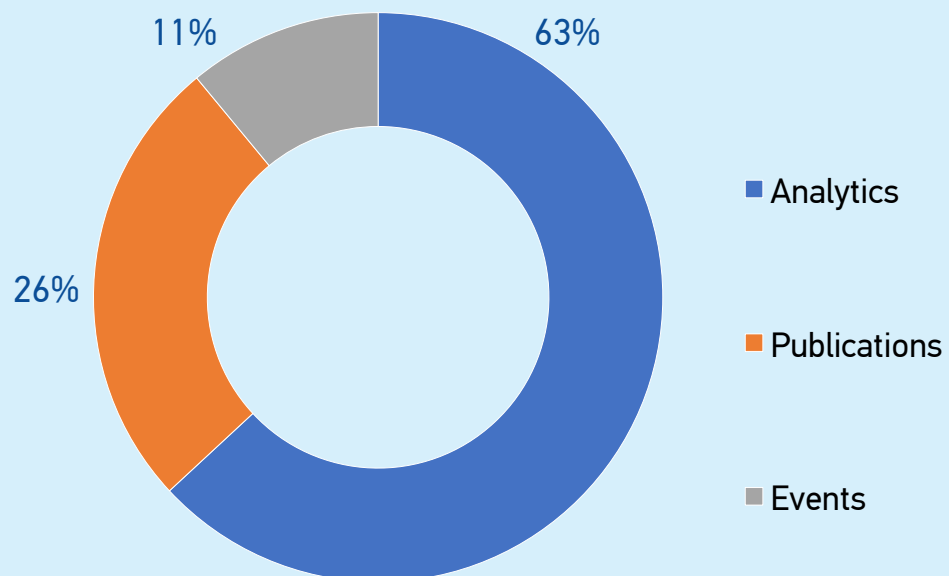
11	Turkey	0.63%
12	Netherlands	0.57%
13	Kyrgyzstan	0.55%
14	Armenia	0.53%
15	Italy	0.47%
16	Azerbaijan	0.44%
17	Poland	0.43%
18	Canada	0.41%
19	Finland	0.35%
20	Sweden	0.34%

05

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE



EXPENDITURE OF PROGRAM ACTIVITIES IN 2022



06

RIAC EXECUTIVES



Igor Ivanov
President of RIAC



Ivan Timofeev
Director General of RIAC

07

RIAC MEMBERS

RIAC MEMBER GENERAL MEETING

The supreme governing body of RIAC is the General Meeting of the Partnership Members. The main function of the General Meeting is to ensure compliance with the goals for which the Partnership was established.

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Vice-President of the Union of Printing Industry Enterprises

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Director of the Institute of Africa, Russian Academy of Sciences, Member of the Presidium of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Corresponding Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences

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Pyotr Aven

Member of RIAC

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Honorary President of the Association for Euro-Atlantic Cooperation, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Russia

Alexander Aksenok

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Russia, RIAC Vice-President

Vagit Alekperov

Chairman of the Public Council of the Our Future Foundation, Founder of the Our Future Foundation

Anatoly Alexandrov

President of Bauman Moscow State Technical University

Olga Alekseeva

Advisor on interactions with government and business structures, Lomonosov Academic Project LLC.

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Kirill Babaev

Director, Institute of China and Modern Asia, RAS

Vladimir Baranovsky

Head of Research and Director of Center of the Situational Analysis at IMEMO RAS, Member of the IMEMO RAS Directorate, Academician of RAS

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Alexander Belonogov

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Russia

Roman Berdnikov

Member of the Management Board, First Deputy Director General of RusHydro PJSC

Alexander Bessmertnykh

President of the International Foreign Policy Association, Chairman of the World Council of Former Foreign Ministers, President of the MGIMO Alumni Association

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Rector, Kutafin Moscow State Law University

Mikhail Bogdanov

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Director General of the UN Headquarters in Geneva

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Governor of Ivanovo Oblast

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Mining University

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Yefim Ostrovsky

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Yuri Pivovarov

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President, Center for Asia-Pacific Studies

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Dean of the Faculty of Sociology, Professor, Saint Petersburg State University

Leonid Slutsky

Head of the LDPR party, Chairman of the State Duma Committee on International Affairs, Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation

Valentin Sobolev

Colonel General

Nikolay Spassky

Deputy Director General – International Activities Block at Rosatom State Corporation, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Russia

Natalya Stapran

Trade Representative of the Russian Federation in Japan

Pyotr Stegny

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Oleg Stepanov

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Chairman of the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society

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Dmitry Suslov

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Vladimir Titov

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Leading Researcher, Center for International Security IMEMO RAS

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President of RUDN (People's Friendship) University

Vladislav Fronin

Editor-in-Chief, Rossiyskaya Gazeta

Andrey Fursenko

Assistant to the President of the Russian Federation

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Alexander Khlunov

Director General of the Russian Science Foundation

Viktor Khristenko

President of the EAEU Business Council

Konstantin Khudoley

Head of the Department of European Studies at Saint Petersburg State University

Alexander Chepurin

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Academic Advisor, Lobachevsky University in Nizhny Novgorod

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Yuri Shafranik

Chairman of the Council of the All-Russian Public Organization Union of Oil and Gas Producers of Russia

Mikhail Shvydkoy

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Alexander Shokhin

President of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, Head of the Department of Theory and Practice of Interaction between Business and Government, Member of the Academic Council at the National Research University – Higher School of Economics (HSE)

Dmitry Shugaev

Director of the Federal Service for Military-Technical Cooperation

Inga Yumasheva

Chairman of the regional NGO Zemliachestvo Bashkortostana

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alfagroup.ru



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lukoil.ru



Yakovlev PJSC
yakovlev.ru



Ростех
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rostec.ru



CREON ENERGY, CJSC
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UNIVERSITIES



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kantiana.ru



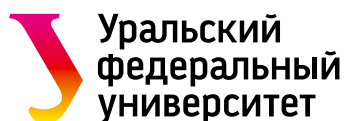
Siberian Federal University
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