

AGENDA
55th Meeting of the STCU Governing Board
December 2, 2022

16:30 to 18:30 Kyiv time (15:30 to 17:30 Brussels time and 09:30 to 11:30 DC time)

Via Zoom

1. Opening of the Meeting

- 1.1 Opening Remarks from the GB Chair (Chair, Governing Board)
- 1.2 Opening Remarks from other GB Members/Invited Guests (GB Members/Other Officials)
- 1.3 Welcome from the Executive Director (Curtis "B.J." Bjelajac)

2. Administrative Topics

- 2.1 Adoption of the Agenda

3. Agenda

- 3.1. Review and Approval of minutes of 54th GB meeting conducted on May 4, 2022 (GB Members)
- 3.2. Review of 55th Draft Record of Decisions & Funding Sheets (Curtis "B.J." Bjelajac)
- 3.3. Executive Director Report (Curtis "B.J." Bjelajac)
- 3.4. Update on 2022 AOB/SB Expenditures (Anthony Nichol)
- 3.5. 2023 AOB and SB Budget Request (Anthony Nichol)
- 3.6. Presentation of 2021 Annual Report (Curtis "B.J." Bjelajac)
- ~~3.7. Presentation of December 31, 2021 Audited Financial Statements and Management Letter (Anthony Nichol)~~
- 3.8. Public Relations (Countering Russian Disinformation) (Curtis "B.J." Bjelajac)
- 3.9. Discuss/Approve 56th GB schedule (Curtis "B.J." Bjelajac)
- 3.10. Finalize 55th GB Record of Decisions and Funding Sheet (GB Members)
- 3.11. AOB (Any Other Business) (GB Members)

4. Closing of the Meeting

- 4.1 Any Other Business (AOB) (All)
- 4.2 Final Issues/Statements from GB Members (GB Members)
- 4.3 Closing Remarks/Adjournment (Chairman, Executive Director)

STCU Governing Board 55
December 2, 2022
List of Participants

CHAIR: Mr. Eddie Maier, European Commission (Retired)

Azerbaijan

Gulam BABAYEV Azerbaijan Information Officer
STCU

European Union

Natalie PAUWELS Board Member
Head of Unit
Stability and Peace - Global and Transregional
Threats
Service for Foreign Policy Instruments
European Commission

Sorin POPA Programme Manager
European Commission

Ukraine

Ihor TARANOV Acting Board Member
Director General
Head of the Expert group on Integration into
European Research Area
Directorate on Science and Innovation
Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine

United States of America

Kathryn INSLEY Board Member
Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for
Nonproliferation Programs
Bureau of International Security and
Nonproliferation
U.S. Department of State

Barbara HALL Office of Cooperative Threat Reduction
U.S. Department of State

Mark SCHELAND Team Chief
Counterproliferation, Chemical Security, &
Nuclear Security Programs
Office of Cooperative Threat Reduction
U.S. Department of State

Laura DENLINGER Deputy Team Chief
Counterproliferation Programs
Office of Cooperative Threat Reduction
U.S. Department of State



Regina CARTER

National Nuclear Security Administration
U.S. Department of Energy

Don HATCH

National Nuclear Security Administration
U.S. Department of Energy

ISTC

Ronald LEHMAN

Chairman of the Governing Board
International Science and Technology Center

Sonya VEKSTEIN

Chief Financial Officer
International Science and Technology Center

Secretariat STCU

Curtis “B.J.” BJELAJAC

Mykola LUBIV

Anthony NICHOL

**Summary of the STCU 54th GOVERNING BOARD HYBRID MEETING
Brussels, Belgium and via ZOOM
May 4th, 2022**

Chair

Mr. Eddie MAIER, Retired

European Union:

Ms. Natalie PAUWELS, Board Member, Head of Unit, Stability and Peace - Global and Transregional Threats (FPI.1), Service for Foreign Policy Instruments, European Commission

Mr. Sorin POPA, Programme Manager – EU Policies, Stability and Peace - Global and Transregional Threats (FPI.1), Service for Foreign Policy Instruments, European Commission

Georgia:

Mr. Jaba SAMUSHIA, Director General, LEPL Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation

Ms. Rusudan JOBAVA, Head of the International Relations and Fundraising Office, LEPL Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation

Norway:

Ms. Tamara ZHUNUSSOVA, Norwegian Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority (DSA)

South Korea:

Mr. Lee YOUNG-OUK, Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute

Ukraine:

Mr. Ihor TARANOV, Director General, Head of Expert Group on Integration into European Research Area, Directorate on Science and Innovation, Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine

Mr. Andrii OSTAPENKO, Head, Division of the International Scientific and Research Programmes and Projects, Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine

Ms. Oksana LASHKOVA, Head Technician, Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine

United States of America:

Mr. Ryan TAUGHER, Acting Board Member, Director, Office of Cooperative Threat Reduction, Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation, U.S. Department of State

Ms. Barbara HALL, Office of Cooperative Threat Reduction, U.S. Department of State

Mr. Mark SCHELAND, Team Chief, Counterproliferation, Chemical Security, & Nuclear Security Programs, Office of Cooperative Threat Reduction, U.S. Department of State (virtually)

Ms. Laura DENLINGER, Deputy Team Chief, Counterproliferation Programs, Office of Cooperative Threat Reduction, U.S. Department of State

Ms. Regina CARTER, Senior Advisor, Office of Nonproliferation and Arms Control, National Nuclear Security Administration, U.S. Department of Energy

Secretariat ISTC

Mr. Ronald LEHMAN, Chair, International Science and Technology Center
Mr. David CLEAVE, Executive Director, International Science and Technology Center
Ms. Sonya VEKSTEIN, Chief Financial Officer, International Science and Technology Center

Secretariat STCU

Curtis "B.J." BJELAJAC
Mykola LUBIV
Anthony NICHOL

1.1 Opening Remarks (where possible, and for accuracy, most remarks are transcribed in their entirety)

Eddie Maier, the STCU Chair, opened the meeting with the following remarks, "Dear Governing Board members, members of the Secretariat, dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, dear friends, the first thing I would like to do is to thank the Governing Board for having renominated me as your chairman for a new period. I'm very pleased to take on this responsibility again. I would like to apologize that last November I was unable to join the 53rd GB, as I had some unfortunate other things on the agenda which were not totally under my control. But before starting today, given the circumstances we have in our region, I think it's my duty to invite all of you to stand up and observe a minute of silence for all those in Ukraine who lost their lives, were injured, or who had to leave their country and their homes. So please stand for a moment of silence."

All in attendance stood and observed a moment of silence.

Mr. Maier thanked all for their observance and support. He then went on to highlight how important, after two years of lockdowns due to COVID-19, and now a war in Ukraine, that the STCU and its Secretariat have not stopped working. He went on to mention that today we will go through the achievements of the last six months and look to the future, which looks a bit strange, compared to two years ago. Mr. Maier pointed out that we should never forget that the two science centers, ISTC and STCU, were founded to work for peace, peaceful regions, and their existence is of particular importance today, maybe more than ever. With that, the Chair invited the other Parties to take the floor to make opening remarks.

Mr. Maier welcomed opening remarks from the European Union.

Ms. Pauwels spoke on behalf of the EU and stated: "I would like to start by expressing how happy I am that most could be here in Brussels and that we've managed to meet in person. We all obviously recognize that we're in a very different context than we were the last time we met (for the 53rd GB Meeting in November '21). War has returned to Europe after 30 years since the wars in the former Yugoslavia. And this, of course, has really had an impact on all of us, has profoundly changed the way that we look at security in our region, and I think profoundly changes the way we even look at the work that we're doing in the STCU. In that sense, this meeting is extremely valuable, and it's extremely valuable that you have come all the way here to Brussels despite all the ongoing difficulties linked to the COVID-19 pandemic, and that you made the effort to come is very much welcome. And, of course, we regret very much that our Ukrainian colleagues are not able to be here with us. We extend our gratitude to our Ukrainian colleagues for being able to join online with us today. Thank you.

Since Russia invaded Ukraine on the 24th of February, the European Union has stood united in condemning this unprovoked and unjustified military aggression, which, constitutes a gross violation of international law. This aggression not only undermines Europe's security, but also the world's security. It's a common problem for all of us. The European Union has repeatedly called on Russia to cease the hostilities in Ukraine, to withdraw its military from the territory of Ukraine, and to respect Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty. We stand firmly by Ukraine and its people in the face of this terrible situation. We deplore the loss of life and the human suffering it's causing. We would point out that in the United Nation's General Assembly, 141 countries, an overwhelming majority of UN members supported the



resolution condemning the Russian Federation's invasion. This is an extremely important message. The reality is that President Putin is increasingly isolated in the global community. In Europe we like to say that unity is our strength. In the face of this crisis, I think it's appropriate to say that we're even stronger when we stand united with our allies and our partners in facing common threats and challenges. I'm therefore more grateful than ever that the science centers, both the STCU and ISTC, allow the EU to work together not only with the United States, but also other partners such as Japan and others in providing support to Ukraine at this difficult time.

Clearly, I can't name all the partners that we work with in the science centers, but it is safe to say that we're here cooperating with many both in the STCU and ISTC. In that respect, we think it's extremely important that we're able to continue to do so. For example, we've had several very good discussions informally both yesterday and again this morning, and I hope we'll continue those discussions now in this meeting today. Once more, I would like to convey our appreciation to the Executive Director, and to the entire STCU team, for the remarkable work that you continue to do under difficult circumstances for weeks and months already. Of course, I would like to further highlight that this work started even before the invasion, when the Executive Director and colleagues were working on contingency measures, and planning, to make sure that everything was in place to be able to ensure the safety of the staff of the STCU. The safety of the STCU team is the most important objective in the situation we have today. So again, we admire the courage and commitment that the STCU team continues to show and greatly appreciate the work done to date and stand ready to help in any way we possibly can. Finally, I'd like to conclude by stating that we're looking forward to discussing several important matters today, including on how best to counter Russian disinformation regarding the work of the STCU."

Mr. Maier next welcomed opening remarks from the United States.

Mr. Taugher spoke on behalf of the U.S. and stated: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Executive Director and dear colleagues and friends from around the world, it's a pleasure to be with you today. My name is Ryan Taugher, and I'm the Director of the Office of Cooperative Threat Reduction at the U.S. Department of State. As many of you may know, the previous U.S. Governing Board representative, Mr. Phil Dolliff, recently retired. I know he would have loved to be here today, not only to speak to you, but to express his own personal solidarity with the people of Ukraine. He cares deeply about this issue and sends his regards. His deputy, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary Kate Insley, unfortunately, couldn't make it today. I'm pleased to represent the United States at this meeting on her behalf as well, and it is my honor to do so. I first want to thank the STCU, especially the Executive Director, for his extraordinary leadership since February 24th. The entire STCU team remains in our thoughts under these extraordinarily challenging and difficult circumstances. Equally, I would like to echo the comments of my EU Colleague, that we're here to support the entire STCU team, not just on our non-proliferation mission, but as colleagues and friends who have our full support.

To the Ukrainian Party and to our Ukrainian partners around the world, I want to underscore and echo the comments of our EU colleague, that our commitment to Ukraine is steadfast. We are doing everything we can with our allies and partners to strengthen Ukraine's position on the battlefield and at the negotiating table, to put an end to Russia's brutal assault on Ukraine. I look forward to today's discussion and hearing from you, as well as the STCU Secretariat, on how we can continue to support you and advance our shared non-proliferation and security objectives. The world has been shocked and appalled by the atrocities committed by Russia. In stark contrast, Ukrainian forces and citizens have bravely defended their country and their freedoms. Against tremendous odds and with extraordinary courage in the face of Russia's relentless brutality, Ukraine's forces and people are inspiring the world. Yet we know that this fight is not over. The United States and our allies must continue to provide support. To that end, the United States has provided more than \$3 billion in security assistance since the beginning of Russia's brutal assault on Ukraine. And in coordination with our allies and partners, we'll continue to provide security assistance, humanitarian aid, and economic support to Ukraine. Sadly, Russia's unjust actions extend beyond the battlefield in Ukraine to include outrageous disinformation campaigns now targeting the STCU with false allegations that both the STCU and the ISTC, as well as the parties involved, have somehow participated in the development of biological weapons.

The STCU accurately pointed out in a recent press release the irony and absurdity of these claims, since it was not long ago that the Russian Federation was a member of the ISTC. Desperate to fabricate a pretense for this unjust war against Ukraine, Russia seeks to distort the STCU's peaceful research cooperation that strengthens health security



and our shared national security goals. At the most basic level, what we all do through our organizations and through the STCU is to try to protect people from harm. The specific type of harm we're trying to prevent through the STCU is among the most devastating imaginable, the impact of the use of weapons of mass destruction. On February 24th, when Russia's troops made their way towards Kyiv, my mind immediately went to you all and the other partners we work with in Ukraine and the devastating tragedies that we've seen every day since. I want to extend our deepest appreciation to the Executive Director for his leadership of the STCU. You kept your people safe, you kept this Governing Board informed, and you and your team continue to carry out the important work of this organization. Towards that end, the U.S. Party looks forward to discussing future ways that we can launch new efforts and initiatives going forward today, and indeed, in the months and years ahead through the STCU. Our thoughts continue to be with our STCU colleagues, and we look forward to identifying ways that we can support the Ukrainian scientific community and all those involved in the STCU.”

Mr. Maier next welcomed opening remarks from Ukraine.

On behalf of the Ukrainian Board member, Deputy Minister Shkuratov, who was unable to attend the meeting, the Senior Deputy Executive Director from Ukraine read his remarks as follows:

“Dear Chairman, Dear Board Members, Dear Colleagues, Friends. First of all, thank you for this opportunity to address and welcome all of you to this 54th Governing Board meeting, on behalf of the Government of Ukraine and the Ukrainian scientific community. My apologies for not being able to participate in person at this time, but I sincerely believe that we will have the next GBM in Kyiv. Once the war ends, the Ministry will welcome and provide the best hospitality to hold next meeting here in Kyiv, Kharkiv, Odesa, Dnipro or any other Ukrainian city. Speaking about Kyiv, as you may know, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine welcomes the intentions of foreign diplomatic missions to resume their full-fledged activities in Kyiv. At this time, several European missions have returned to Kyiv already. My understanding is that the STCU operates remotely at this stage, but I urge the STCU to consider resuming its activities here in Kyiv at the earliest opportunity. The Ministry is receiving daily reports from the National Guard Unit, which provides 24/7 protection safety and security monitoring of all diplomatic missions located in Ukraine, including the STCU headquarters.

My remarks were updated several times, since the situation was changing rapidly, the only thing that was not changed in the remarks was the sincere gratitude to all of our Partners, Allies and Friends. I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all our international partners for their consolidated and strong support at this difficult time in our history. I want to thank you for providing humanitarian aid for vital medical supplies and other help, for providing defensive military aid including vital weapons to Ukrainian armed forces, for changing the immigration system to support Ukrainian families who were forced to leave everything and pack their lives in one suitcase (more than 10 million people had to flee Putin's bombs and seek shelter either inside Ukraine or neighboring countries), and for delivering unprecedented packages of sanctions to cut off funding for Putin's war machine.

Thank you all for offering strong political, financial, and humanitarian assistance to Ukraine. The whole of Ukraine sees that the EU and its international partners are united in condemning Putin's aggression in Ukraine. I wish to be clear that with such support Ukraine will defeat those butchers. You all have seen the horrific images of murdered civilians in Bucha, Gostomel, Borodyanka, Mariupol, Kharkiv, and many other places. This is unbearable brutality that Europe and the whole world have not witnessed in many decades. Targeting and murdering civilians and Ukrainian children is a war crime. All the facts must and will be established. And all those responsible for these atrocities must be brought to justice.

I would like also to thank the Secretariat and the wider STCU team for their daily hard work and support of the Ukrainian scientific community. I know that every appeal from Ukrainian scientists that comes to the STCU does not go unnoticed.

Now, I would like to address my fellow Board Members.

Dear Colleagues, Dear Friends,

As you know, many of your governments extended research grants and programs to allow Ukrainian researchers and scientists to establish themselves in the U.S., EU, or another third-party country. Members of international scientific community have also found it hard to look away from this war or ignore the plight of their colleagues. The Government of Ukraine fully understands the will of assisting Ukrainian researchers and scientists, including former weapon scientists and those with dual-use knowledge.

However, the President of Ukraine signed a decree on the imposition of martial law in Ukraine and the People's deputies approved the document by 300 votes. The martial law bans all male citizen ages 18 to 60 from leaving the country. Now, the Government of Ukraine believes that the STCU mechanism of work should be applied more than ever. As you all know, the STCU core mission is to redirect former weapons scientists and scientists with dual-use knowledge by using grant funding from the Parties to implement peaceful scientific projects to be conducted in Ukraine. This mission foresaw those Ukrainian scientists, experts and researchers would not only better cooperate internationally but also eventually, they would stay to help rebuild the country.

In this regards, dear fellow Board Members, I am asking you to restart the regular projects program as soon as it is possible. It's very clear that the Center must support any initiative that encourages scientists to stay in Ukraine and work remotely on projects funded by the U.S. and E.U. I strongly believe that restarting the regular projects program will not only help Ukrainian scientists remain sufficient and proceed with their fruitful international cooperation, but it also will stop the possibility of "brain drain".

Dear fellow Board Members, I sincerely trust that this request will be accommodated, and I thank you in advance. Also, I need to ask the Center's help to develop a short to medium term strategy that allows the Center and the Ukrainian scientists to remain sustainable. From our side, the Ministry is ready to provide any assistance in relation to Host Government Concurrence and other needed help.

Please feel free to ask the Deputy Executive Director, Mykola Lubiv or any members of my team, including myself, should you require any possible assistance from any other Ukrainian governmental institutions, in relation with the STCU projects activities, we are here at your disposal.

Dear Colleagues, following today's agenda, the Ministry welcomes the U.S. Party's initiative of the 1-year contract extension for the STCU Executive Director. The Ministry also requests the 1-year contract extension of the Senior Deputy Executive Director. I will be able to sign the Record of Decisions, once its available and I agree with all the proposed decisions to be made today, during this meeting.

Dear Board Members, in conclusion, the Ukrainian Party once again confirms the fulfillment of its international obligations within the framework of the STCU activities and regarding the placement of the STCU and will take the appropriate steps in providing needed assistance in the Center's activities. Thank you all.

And, I would like to welcome once again all the Participants and wish you a fruitful and enjoyable Governing Board Meeting.. Thank you. Слава Україні!"

Mr. Maier next welcomed opening remarks from Georgia.

Mr. Samushia spoke in Georgian, with English translation provided by Ms. Jobava, on behalf of Georgia and stated: "I would like to address the audience in Georgian, and my Ukrainian colleagues as well in Ukrainian „Glory to Ukraine, Glory to the Heroes". The war with Russia is a very sensitive and familiar topic for the Georgian people – as Georgia has experienced war with the Russian Federation three times in thirty years. Also, the topic of Russian disinformation is very familiar to us as there is a constant campaign aimed at the Georgian scientific community. The Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs constantly spreads disinformation, especially targeting the Lugar Research Center in Tbilisi. Russia's foreign ministry has stated in the past that the compliance of this laboratory with the Biological Weapons Convention "raises questions". In particular, the Russian MFA accuses the Lugar Center of studying how insects can be used to



transmit dangerous infections. It is imperative that we all denounce such accusations which emanate from the side of the Russian Federation. Today it is Ukraine, tomorrow it could be any other country. Georgia fully supports the Ukrainian people. The Georgian government has taken several steps to prove this support. For example, the Georgian government has opened Ukrainian schools and will continue further supportive actions. Thank you.”

There being no other opening remarks from the Parties or Observers, Mr. Maier next welcomed opening remarks from the Executive Director.

Mr. Bjelajac stated: “First of all, I'd like to thank the EU for hosting the meeting. I know that Natalie is not as happy with the technical situation as she wants to be, but I can tell you that very few people care about the technical situation because the warmth and the familiarity of coming to Brussels overwhelms any technical difficulties that we have. Coming to Brussels just feels like coming home. So we'll get over the technical difficulties, as they are not a problem. Thank you very much to Natalie, Sorin, and Eddie for their hospitality. Having had to pack my bag and leave Ukraine in order to go to Warsaw a few months ago, I can tell you that coming to Brussels feels very warm and that warmth is extremely important for the success of our meetings. I would also like to say some thanks to some others because you learn in tough times who your friends are and the STCU wouldn't have made it through these past few weeks without help from our friends.

I would like to thank the ISTC, specifically David and Sonya and your team including Amina. The ISTC helped us to set up the meeting for the STCU here in Brussels. As I will later point out, the ISTC also took on some of STCU's responsibilities in relation to a project we are currently performing with DOE. The STCU asked David and his team to basically take over the GUAM responsibilities of the project and help us to run that project while we were focusing on other issues.

I also want to thank the Governing Board for their support. Everything in the last two months from assisting the STCU with Russian disinformation to Natalie's very constructive comments on the press release, the STCU very much appreciates the support that we have received these past two months from the Governing Board. I would also like to thank the US party, especially Mark Scheland who contacted me before New Year's in December to ask what my family's contingency plans were for any potential Russian invasion. Mark, thank you very much. After that, for almost the entire month of January and most of the month of February, Barbara, Ryan, Laura, and Mark were there to act as the driving force in making sure that the STCU and I were prepared for any potential Russian invasion.

That force pushing on me meant that I was able to assist the entire STCU team (either in person or remotely because of COVID) to help them understand that the Russian invasion was a distinct possibility. In some cases, I think I wasn't successful in convincing some team members of the danger, because it was just unfathomable for most people that this event could happen. However, everybody was warned at the STCU. Everybody was asked to prepare. In summary, I would like to say that because of the actions of the Governing Board, especially the US party, the STCU was able to prepare the team as well as you could be prepared for such an unthinkable event. I'd also like to thank the team, including Mykola and Anthony who are here, but also the entire team that is not here. As the Executive Director, I get a large amount of credit, but I can tell you there have been times that the strength and the fortitude of the STCU's team has just been awe-inspiring to me, to say the least, and it is my pleasure to be able to say that I am a member of this team.

There were times that I just didn't know where the team was located, if they were safe, and it was very difficult. But as of today, I think we can safely say that everybody's safe and we are getting back some or most of our capability. For me, to be able to say that I work with this team is a pleasure and an honor that I will always have with me for the rest of my life.

This is an important meeting at which we need to cover several pressing topics, including the status of the STCU, the current trajectory of the STCU, some short to mid-term scenarios, questions about how to help STCU and Ukrainian scientists, as well as the topic of Russian disinformation. We will talk a lot of numbers today and about the status of STCU. But it is hard to quantify the human costs of all associated with the STCU and what Ukrainians in general are going through. I want to make sure that even though in the next hour or so we're going to talk a lot of numbers, a lot of

tables, I want to emphasize that there's a human cost that is very difficult to quantify. I have learned over the past few months that people suffered different levels of trauma and that they handle trauma differently.

Some Ukrainians suffered unconscionable trauma. Although the STCU team was lucky in that it is my understanding our team has not suffered loss of life or property of those that are the closest to them to date, it is my understanding that all of us in some form are suffering the effects of trauma and are confronting it in our own ways. Why do I talk about trauma today? Because all of us at this meeting today need to understand the capability of the STCU as it is today. Some have even asked me what percentage of full capacity is the STCU operating at today. I'll often give a percentage, sometimes 80%, 90%, as some sort of estimate. But to be honest, I'm not exactly sure what percentage we're at, but I'm confident that we are not operating at the same level as February 23, 2022. As you will see, almost half of the Ukrainian team is no longer in Ukraine. And with an increased level of safety for those that are outside of Ukraine comes other issues, issues like childcare, time differences, worries about husbands and brothers left back in Ukraine. I mention this today because all of us need to remember that despite the numbers and tables that I'll present later, there are some issues facing the Center that are unquantifiable.

So what do I suggest to handle this? Well, over the course of the last two months, I have learned that when faced with existential uncertainty, it helps to just keep things simple. When the STCU looks at opportunities both new and old, we need to assess them on a case-by-case basis. What is possible for the STCU to handle now in the near-term future? Of course, we need to think about the future. However, what I've noticed is that when you think too much about the future in the current situation, your mind often goes to some dark places. How does this all end? The war is not over. Ukraine continues to fight for its sovereignty and territorial integrity. In that context, I think we need to keep it simple and work on doing our best today, and the future will take care of itself. To conclude, the big question is, what is the STCU capable of? Well, today the Center is capable of waking up, wishing each other good morning as we do every day to confirm that we're all safe, and then moving on to today's work, making the center helpful for Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Moldova and the other Parties, including the European Union, the United States and our many partners.

Today's meeting is important because it is part of returning to basics, discussing how the STCU can help its Parties. Thank you.”

The Chair made the following comments in relation to the Executive Director's remarks: “Thank you very much BJ, these are nice words and moving words. I think we will have the opportunity over the course of the afternoon to come back to several of the issues you have raised, especially how we see the ongoing work of the STCU during the war period and what we see in the future for the STCU. The world has changed because nobody thought that a pandemic could happen again on our planet. It happened, and it's not over. We thought in Europe that war was over, except for here and there some small destabilization efforts. Now we have war and it's not over. So, of course, as I said at the beginning of this meeting, we are peace-oriented organizations. We are here to fund peaceful projects, despite what Mr. Putin says. If in the past we were redirecting scientists away from the development of weapons of mass destruction via research projects, nowadays, it may not be our primary objective anymore. It may now be to keep the scientists active, so that those scientists that left the country can come back, as well as keep those that are still in Ukraine, so as to avoid brain drain, because this would be the most horrible consequence of what happens today. Ukraine would have major difficulties to stand up when the war is over and it's up to those who have created the STCU and the ISTC, I think to stand again united to help Ukraine and its neighbors. Georgia has been attacked in the past, maybe destabilized again tomorrow because of Moscow's actions. Moldova is also currently facing difficulties. Thus, nearly all the members of the STCU are facing difficulties.

So, this really is a regional objective to keep the situation in GUAM under control and to help all these countries to get out of the uncertainties that they are currently facing. Later today when we discuss possible strategies, I think we have to really think about how we will set up our future actions. This is what I wanted to say before we continue through the agenda, and with that I pass the floor to the Executive Director.”

2.1 Review and Approval of the 54th GB Agenda

The 54th Governing Board agenda was accepted as presented.

3.1 Review and Approval of the minutes of the 53rd GB Zoom meeting conducted on November 30th, 2021

The Governing Board approved the minutes as presented with the requested minor changes of the U.S. and Ukraine Parties.

3.2 Review of 54th Draft Record of Decisions & Funding Sheet

The ED walked the meeting participants through the draft 54th Record of Decisions and Funding Sheets (projects and supplemental budgets) which the Secretariat will ask the GB to approve of at the end of the hybrid meeting.

The Executive Director provided a bit of background about the second bullet point of the Record of Decisions - approval of €3.6 million project. He described the project as funded by our colleagues from the EU's DG-INTPA (International Partnerships) and that it is a project focused on upgrading the dosimeter network in the Chernobyl region. The ED went on to state that at the time that he signed the project, about the middle of March, Chernobyl was occupied by the Russian forces, but DG International Partnerships was so committed to helping Ukraine and hopeful that Ukraine would regain its territorial integrity, that the project was signed anyway, in preparation for when Ukraine would regain control over the region. The ED concluded his explanation by informing the Governing Board that given Ukraine's reassertion of control of this region, the hope was that this project could start sometime in the summer. Finally, the ED called the Board's attention to the fact that normally there is a line in the record decisions for the addition of new partners. Unfortunately, the STCU has not added any new partners since the 53rd Governing Board conducted on November 30th. The ED explained that this is due in large part to the invasion of the Russian Federation. The ED concluded by asking if there were any comments or questions related to the documents as presented.

Mr. Popa asked if the funding for the projects with the Belgian Research Center and the European Office of Aerospace and Development (EOARD) projects was with their own funds, or with funds from the EU. The ED responded that it is his understanding that the Belgian Research Center funds the project with its own money (not EU funds). In relation to the EOARD project, the ED explained that this partner's name is deceptive, as it is not a European partner, but is the UK office of the United States Air Force (a U.S. Partner). Thus, no EU funds are used for this project as well.

3.3 Approve 1 year Contract Extension of the STCU Senior DED

The Governing Board approved the one-year extension of the Sr. Deputy Executive Director for the period of January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023.

3.4 Approve 1 year Contract Extension of the STCU ED

The Governing Board approved the one-year extension of the Executive Director for the period of July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023.

3.5 STCU Status/ Contingency Plans (in-lieu of Strategic Discussion)

The Executive Director started the next topic with a status of the STCU as follows:

- Personnel
As of April 13th, 2022, ten (10) members of the STCU were located outside of Ukraine as follows: Canada, Romania, UK, Poland, Slovakia, Montenegro, Germany, Austria, Bulgaria, and Italy. The ED pointed out that most people went to a location where they had friends or family. BJ, Anthony, and Mykola departed Ukraine before the start of the invasion on February 24th.
- Physical Resources
The ED continued by confirming that all physical resources of the STCU are available. The STCU has electricity, Internet, etc. Despite the availability of the STCU offices, the ED has asked the team not to go into the STCU

offices for the following reasons: Kyiv is currently very difficult to travel through because of numerous checkpoints, the Kyiv metro system is operating at minimum capacity (i.e., trains infrequent, etc.), currently in Kyiv gasoline is rationed due to a shortage, and finally given recent Russian disinformation where pictures of our office, as well as maps locating our office were provided, it is best not to work in office due to possibilities of attack.

- What can't be performed

The ED explained that international purchases can only be delivered as far as Lviv. Currently, the STCU has no ability to deliver items to Kyiv or territory east of Lviv. The ED explained that some recent purchases for the Border and National Guards were delivered to Lviv, and from there the recipients arranged shipment to other destinations within Ukraine. The ED concluded by stating that the other service currently impacted by the Russian invasion is the provision of travel services for Ukrainians inside Ukraine to travel internationally. This type of travel is very difficult. The ED outlined why international travel for Ukrainians is so difficult: First, as mentioned in the opening remarks by the Deputy Minister of Science and Education, men of the age between 18 and 60, by law, are no longer not allowed to leave Ukraine. The ED pointed out that women, of course, can leave Ukraine with children. However, traveling from Kyiv is very difficult. The ED gave the example of an STCU female staff member going to Turkey. First, she must take a train to Lviv (Western Ukraine), then a bus to Warsaw, and then fly from Warsaw to Istanbul. The ED pointed out that this part of the trip is going to take about two days - just to get to Istanbul from Kyiv.

The Executive Director next provided a status of STCU projects as follows:

- Kharkiv is/will be potential big issue

The ED called the Board's attention to the fact that we need to keep a close eye on the situation in Kharkiv. He pointed out that over one third of STCU's active projects are in Kharkiv. The ED was pleasantly surprised that overall, most partners do not want to suspend or terminate their project. The ED pointed out that most donors, both private and public, want to keep their projects active because they understand that it helps the scientists, because now more than ever, they need their grant payments.

However, unfortunately, the STCU was asked to suspend eight projects in Kharkiv due to the ongoing shelling by the Russian army there. The ED pointed out that there are some organizations within Kharkiv that have sustained damage. For example, currently Karazin Kharkiv National University has two projects with the STCU, but due to extensive damage, the projects were suspended as the University moves operations to Western Ukraine.

The ED pointed out that there are about four or five other institutes that are important STCU partners in Kharkiv. For example, the Kharkiv Institute of Physics and Technology is an institute that the STCU has worked with throughout its history, and also is the organization with the multi-million dollar Neutron Source Facility (NSF) funded by the US Government. The ED reminded the Governing Board that the STCU currently has a \$3 million project with DOE to do some work at the NSF, and it is the STCU's understanding that the facility has taken some minor damage. The ED noted that because KIPT is located on the outskirts of Kharkiv, it's difficult to get a complete assessment of the entire damage to the facility as it's still under attack. The ED concluded by stating that the STCU needs to continue to monitor the situation in Kharkiv, as this is a very important scientific center for Ukraine and the STCU.

- Non-Government projects might decrease materially

The ED called the Governing Board's attention to the fact that some of the STCU's private sector partners have been in contact with him and have voiced nervousness about the viability of their partner projects. The ED mentioned that we need to watch the situation with private sector partners as they are much more risk averse and this risk aversion may impact our current projects, as well the STCU's ability to attract new private sector partners.

- One (EU) project signed since Invasion/No new partners added

The ED called the Governing Board's attention to the fact that the Russian invasion has caused an almost stop to newly signed projects (only one EU project signed since the start of the invasion), as well as to new partner applications to the STCU. The ED highlighted that this stop in newly signed projects and partners will impact the STCU's turnover in the coming weeks and months. The ED concluded this section by stating that the good news is that the STCU was not requested to terminate any projects; however, the STCU was requested to suspend eight projects.

Mr. Popa inquired about the process of suspending a project. He asked if it was usually at the request of the partner? Or the implementing institute(s)?

Mr. Lubiv provided an example of the recently suspended Horizon 2020 projects. He mentioned that the STCU had three big projects in the framework of the of CleanSky2 JU Program, which is part of the aviation pillar of Horizon 2020.

Mr. Lubiv mentioned that he worked in close coordination with the project organizations (Kharkiv Aviation Institute, Motor Sych and DP Ivchenko) who themselves requested to suspend their three projects (entitled, "Project Amber", "Denox", and "EVAL"). The STCU acts as coordinator for all three projects. Mr. Lubiv mentioned that the project organizations requested project suspension because the Russian invasion materially restricted their ability to perform their duties required to move the project forward (they were unable to access their workplaces located in Kharkiv and Zaporizhja).

Currently, the project organizations are developing workarounds that would allow them to restart their projects. For example, Kharkiv Aviation Institute has developed a special testing stand, which they will relocate from Kharkiv to a safer part of Ukraine in order to complete the final testing, etc. The STCU has agreed with the EU project manager that as soon as the project organizations obtain access to their workplaces, or relocate to safer workplaces, the STCU will request that the projects restart.

The Executive Director next provided a status of Events Postponed/Delayed because of the Invasion:

- Ukraine FIRST Project (looking to restart soon, remotely). The ED pointed out that this program will be discussed on the sidelines of this meeting with the US Party.
- European Commission's Evaluation of STCU (after a short delay, will start next week)
- P088 - Conference in Belgrade, Serbia (rescheduled to Istanbul in June '22)
- Trident Shield Biological Field Exercise (postponed until at least Spring 2023, with the probable need to find a new location)
- Annual Financial Statement Audit (postponed until Summer)
- 2021 Annual Report Production (on hold until Summer)
- Reconciliation of Contribution Agreement IFS 2020 420-370 (extension requested until August 31, 2022)

The Executive Director raised the topic of political considerations given the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The Governing Board discussed this issue but agreed that the discussions would not be included into the minutes.

The Executive Director next discussed possible short-term scenarios as follows:

- Kharkiv Safe/Damage Minimal

The ED called the Governing Board's attention to the fact that even if Kharkiv stays safe and damage is minimal the STCU would probably see a drop from 68 active projects down to about 45 to 55 active projects by year end. The ED wanted the Governing Board to be aware that such a drop in project turnover is important as it is what drives so many decisions at the STCU, such as budgeting, staffing levels, etc.

- Kharkiv Not Safe/Damage Extensive

The ED pointed out that if the worst-case scenario plays out, the STCU would probably see a significant drop from 68 active projects down to about 30 to 40 active projects by year end. As mentioned in the previous point, this drop in the amount of projects under management by the STCU would have serious knock-on effects for budgeting, staffing, levels, etc.

The Executive Director then asked if there were any questions. Chairman Maier asked to describe what types of projects does the STCU have in Kharkiv (i.e., nuclear, etc.).

The Executive Director answered that there is a whole range of STCU projects in Kharkiv. He started with the example of Kharkiv Institute of Physics and Technology which is in the nuclear/radiological field and is the organization with the Neutron Source Facility. The ED continued by pointing out that there is also the Institute of Single Crystals, dealing with the development and manufacturing of various crystals. He also pointed out that the STCU works with an important veterinary institute in Kharkiv called the Institute of Experimental and Clinical Veterinary Medicine. The ED also pointed out that the STCU also works with the Kharkiv Aviation Institute, which as mentioned earlier, has three Horizon 2020 projects that are implemented by the STCU. The ED concluded by stating that there are five or six institutes in Kharkiv that conduct the bulk of the STCU's project in the region.

The Executive Director discussed the ramifications of the discussed short-term scenarios as follows:

- Adherence to AOB/Projects = 10% will be difficult, but will return in long-term

The ED called the Governing Board's attention to the fact that if project turnover declines as highlighted in the scenarios above, the STCU would run into issues with maintaining the desired AOB/Projects ratio of not greater than 10%. The ED concluded by stating that the STCU will need to keep an eye on this issue going into the summertime and into the month of September, when the budgets for 2023 are developed.

- Will STCU team/scientists abroad return (esp. Kharkiv)

The ED discussed that the STCU should be prepared for the possible loss of some team members due to the Russian invasion. He went on to point out that European countries are offering temporary work permits, etc., which may entice some STCU team members or members of STCU projects to stay in Europe. The ED gave the example of Poland, where he is currently living, which is providing 18-month visas to Ukrainians with the ability to work.

The Executive Director next invited the Governing Board to discuss possible short to medium-term strategies. He mentioned that in the past weeks he has been contacted by several organizations that want to help Ukrainian scientists. Some of the help offered was to perform virtual work and stay within Ukraine; yet some of the work also involved the scientists leaving Ukraine for a period. Thus, the ED asked for the Governing Board's guidance in the following scenarios:

- Appears that STCU should support any initiative that encourages scientists to stay in UA and work remotely

All agreed that STCU should encourage remote work for Ukrainian scientists.

- Should STCU facilitate the placement of Ukrainian scientists outside of UA in general? Only short-term (3, 6, 12 months)?

In the case of Ukrainian scientists leaving Ukraine, the Executive Director turned to the Ukrainian Party and asked them if STCU can facilitate this type of assistance. On behalf of the Ukrainian Party, Senior DED Lubiv, responded that the government of Ukraine is not opposed to assisting female scientists and male scientists that were already out of Ukraine before martial law came into effect. Mr. Lubiv concluded by stating that according to martial law, men between the ages of 18 and 60 cannot leave Ukraine, and thus STCU cannot facilitate this type of assistance for them.

Mr. Maier pointed out this is a bit of a strange discussion, because within the normal life of a scientist, interactions and the exchange of ideas is a fact of life. He continued by saying that if scientists go abroad for this exchange of ideas, then there is always the risk that they don't come back. Mr. Maier stated that in his opinion the original mandate of the STCU of keeping FWS and dual-use scientists from going to places like Libya and North Korea is not as much a concern these days. He continued by saying that the institutes or organizations in Ukraine that the scientists leave should consider providing some sort of a guarantee that the scientists that do leave are not put at a disadvantage as compared with those scientists who stayed. He pointed out that the STCU may consider providing a guarantee of some sort to any scientist that leaves Ukraine so that they have some work or economic reason to come back to Ukraine. Mr. Maier went on to say that this may be a situation where the science centers have an advantage, in that they can give some sort of guarantees to assure that when the scientists come back, they may do so under an umbrella of some sort of agreement of cooperation (i.e., for funding, etc.). Mr. Maier concluded that the science centers should consider this as a possible pathway forward.

Ms. Pauwels welcomed the idea of Mr. Maier but expressed concerns about how to operationalize such a plan. For example, should the STCU facilitate a matchmaking for those scientists already legally outside of Ukraine. She is not opposed to the idea, but we would need to further think about this suggestion to flesh out the details.

The Executive Director welcomed the suggestions of the Chairman but expressed hesitancy at providing a guarantee of a scientists return to Ukraine. The Chairman responded that such a guarantee can only happen if the scientist signs a contract to return to Ukraine/their institute. The Chairman also pointed out that he strongly believes that Ukrainians want to come back to Ukraine. The Chairman concluded by stating that scientists moving around is natural and thus the science centers should not interfere with this process; however, they need to consider approaches to entice (i.e. partner projects, etc.) the scientists back to Ukraine.

Mr. Taugher added that he appreciated the comments made by the Deputy Executive Director from Ukraine. He went on to say that it is very helpful to hear the perspective of the Ukrainian Party. He went on to say that the U.S. Party wants to support Ukraine and it's important to hear from Ukraine on what types of support would be most useful. Mr. Taugher also thanked the Executive Director for his points about the need to both take things day by day, as well as to think about the medium term and what preparations need to be made. Mr. Taugher also recognized the Chairman's comments that scientists will continue to try and carry out their important work, despite the challenging circumstances. Finally, he invited his colleague, Ms. Denlinger, to provide an update on programming the U.S. Party was initiating to provide financial and capacity-building support to displaced Ukrainian scientists with dual-use expertise who are in vulnerable financial circumstances. These vehicles address some of the needs that have been discussed today and may act as a starting point for ways to support our Ukrainian partners in or outside of Ukraine.

Ms. Denlinger thanked all for the constructive discussion and expressed her gratitude to the Ukrainian Party for outlining their priorities. She then went on to outline what initiatives the US Party was considering to help the Ukrainian scientific community. She emphasized that the first order of business was to understand more about where the Ukrainian scientists are, who are in need, and what it is that they need. She mentioned that the US Party recognized that the STCU was not in a position to undertake an extensive research project on this question, so a project was initiated with a US Department of Energy National Laboratory to conduct a needs assessment

which is intended to identify at a big picture the clusters of scientists, their location, and what support they need. Ms. Denlinger emphasized that the early work has focused on open-source information. She explained that using this information, the National Lab has determined that the Ukrainian scientific population is around 40,000 scientists, and the U.S. Party would like to help all of them, but with limited resources, the community of most interest are those that have dual use knowledge or relevant expertise.

Ms. Denlinger offered a counterpoint to the Chairman's earlier remarks that proliferator states no longer represent a brain drain threat and noted that we should not discount the interest of proliferator States who want to gain access to these scientists. She mentioned that the US Party already has anecdotal information that proliferator states are reaching out to these scientists to offer them opportunities. She emphasized that bad actors remain a problem, the proliferation problem continues to exist, and the Parties and science centers need to address these issues. Ms. Denlinger informed the Governing Board that the U.S. Party hopes that the initial assessment will shortly be completed, and when completed, the information can be shared with all interested parties. Ms. Denlinger concluded this topic by informing the Governing Board that this is completely unclassified information that can be shared with anyone who wants to help with this problem.

Ms. Denlinger continued by mentioning that the US Party will send additional funding to the STCU within the framework of the Ukraine FIRST project (approved at the 53rd STCU GB in November '21) which will add components to that project to provide virtual short-term fellowships for Ukrainian nuclear scientists and engineers. Ms. Denlinger informed the Governing Board that these fellowships are an opportunity for any Ukrainian nuclear expert, no matter where they are in Ukraine or outside Ukraine, to apply for a three-to-six-month virtual fellowship where they can work remotely on projects. Ms. Denlinger added that the US Party will also fund a new project via the STCU to provide capacity building support for individual scientists in the form of individual cybersecurity best practices for Ukrainian researchers, as well as knowledge security and research vetting. Ms. Denlinger added that the US Party is also funding a nongovernmental organization called CRDF Global to provide a technology match-making function and database that will gather information on legitimate scientific opportunities available for Ukrainian researchers around the world and make that information available to any Ukrainian researcher who's looking for such an opportunity. She continued by highlighting that this mechanism will provide a vehicle for organizations in the West to find Ukrainian researchers interested in potential research opportunities. For example, a university might advertise that they have vacancies for five Ukrainian biologists. Ms. Denlinger concluded by stating that these are the initiatives that the US Party has been starting to help the Ukrainian scientific community and that the US Party would welcome ideas or feedback from the Ukrainian Party about them.

The Executive Director thanked Ms. Denlinger for her updated and pointed out that the US Party was very generous in that they offered the STCU to spearhead the initial data gathering project, but at the time the deadline (end of May) and the STCU's situation (Kyiv was still under threat) meant that the STCU was not confident that it could implement the project. The Executive Director concluded that it was in the best interest of all Parties to have an outside entity undertake this endeavor, but the STCU is providing needed information to assist.

- Should the STCU and its Parties consider restarting regular projects? What are the ramifications of such a decision?

In relation to this point, the Executive Director highlighted for all that in his opening remarks the Deputy Minister requested that the STCU consider restarting the regular project process. The ED continued by stating that the regular projects were stopped back in 2012 and that this was a very difficult decision that institute directors and the Ministry of Education and Science still to this day dislike. The ED pointed out that there are mechanisms in place for funding scientific projects, such as the Horizon Europe program which has a budget of €95.5 billion. Having said that, the ED asked the EU and US Parties whether they would reconsider funding regular projects given the economic dislocation brought about by the Russian invasion. The ED asked the Parties for comment.

Ms. Pauwels deferred to her colleagues as this program occurred many years before her arrival to the science centers. Mr. Maier jumped in and pointed out that the projects funded under this mechanism were "bottom-up"

projects with very small amounts of funding (€200K or less), focused only on 1 or 2 institutes, and did not have a national or regional focus. In the current EU CBRN CoE program, these projects will not fit in. Mr. Maier continued by stating that we shouldn't be so rigid in our thinking and that we should also take into consideration what our Ukrainian partners are requesting, thus we should look at scientific projects that are more impactful at a national and regional level.

Mr. Popa added that we need to avoid the mistakes that were made in the past with the "bottom-up" projects as a large percentage (80%-90%) of the proposals that were submitted were not funded. Mr. Popa suggested that the STCU should take a similar approach to the water project which is implemented by the ISTC where all of the parties (i.e., experts, institutes, government organizations, donors, etc.) are brought together to develop a national/regional project so that the final result has a much larger chance of receiving funding. Mr. Popa concluded that this would reduce the chances of having proposals that are not funded, as well as develop much stronger proposals.

Mr. Maier added that this approach would help to build trust within the scientific community as 80%-90% proposal rejection rates eliminate trust amongst the scientific community. Mr. Popa added that it was not only the rejection rate, but also the fact that some projects were scored highly from a scientific point of view, but in the end, they were still rejected. Ms. Pauwels agreed with her colleagues that this approach (modeled on the water project at the ISTC) would be the preferred approach for the EU going forward.

Mr. Taugher added that the US Party wanted to be explicit and state that the US hasn't funded regular projects for quite a few years, and we don't anticipate resuming that. He continued by stating that there are several initiatives in process, as described by Ms. Denlinger, as well as others that the US is considering implementing, to support our Ukrainian partners and to support the STCU going forward. Mr. Taugher concluded by stating that for the reasons that the Chairman noted, among the challenges that Sorin also noted, the US Party does not anticipate resuming the regular project model, but instead developing new tools to engage stakeholders in and outside of Ukraine.

The Executive Director summarized the results of the discussion as follows:

- Restarting regular projects as done in the past is not an option for the US and EU.
 - In the case of the EU, the desired approach is for all stakeholders (i.e., institutes, experts, donors, etc.) to develop proposals in a collaborative manner that tackled issues at a national or regional level, similar to the Central Asian water project at the ISTC.
 - In the case of the US, the approach is to provide 3–6-month fellowships via the FIRST program for virtual projects to assist Ukrainian scientists to stay in Ukraine.
- STCU will continue to focus on CBRN Infrastructure/Capacity-Building Projects as a decent appetite for such projects

The Executive Director informed the Governing Board that infrastructure and capacity building projects would more than likely figure prominently over the short to medium term in future STCU turnover. The ED mentioned that there are already two capacity-building projects coming online with DGINTPA and DGFPI to provide expedited equipment and materials to Ukraine to replace damaged or stolen items due to the Russian invasion. The ED continued and informed the Governing Board that in addition to the two capacity projects mentioned, at a meeting on Monday with DGINTPA, the STCU was informed that there might be a few capacity-building projects coming online (€2M-€3M each) via the STCU to assist with outfitting NPPs (i.e., Chernobyl, Zaporizhzhia, etc.) to remediate issues caused by the Russian invasion (i.e. damage to the sensors around ChNPP, etc.). The ED concluded by calling the Governing Board's attention to the fact that if we shift from R&D projects to more infrastructure projects, the changes might impact the composition of the STCU team.

The Executive Director reminded the Governing Board that at this Board (before the invasion) the meeting was to have a strategic discussion:

- What impact does the Russian invasion have on the long-term strategy of the STCU?

The Executive Director pointed out that this point was added as a placeholder, as we won't know our long-term strategy until the war is ended.

- Financing of the STCU's AOB and ED contract going forward still to be discussed

The Executive Director pointed out that we still need to resolve this issue as well. Mr. Taugher interjected with news which he hoped would provide some short to medium-term certainty in this matter. He continued by stating that the United States will continue to meet its financial commitments to the STCU. He went on to say that this was a topic of discussion not just at the previous GB meeting but has been a subject of discussion within the US government and US Party as well. Mr. Taugher wanted to provide an update on the US Party's position in this matter, which he felt would be well received. He went on to inform the Governing Board that the US Party has identified additional funding to ensure that the US party will be able to fund the Executive Director's contract to June 30, 2024, and the US Party's AOB commitment through the end of 2023. Mr. Taugher concluded by stating that the US party hopes that this will provide stability and remove this as a near term issue of concern and not only demonstrate the US Party's commitment to the STCU but will enable us to focus on these near-term issues which deserve our collective attention, effort, and discussion whilst we continue to work together on identifying potential medium to long-term solutions for this issue.

The Executive Director thanked the US Party for their generosity and confirmed that this indeed would be a big relief to the STCU team.

Ms. Pauwels echoed the comments of the ED and thanked the US Party for this commitment as it provides the STCU time to tackle the larger issues facing the Center. She continued by commenting on the first bullet point (impact of the Russian invasion) and said that it is still early days but there are several challenges that will come out of this war including: increase in firearms, human trafficking, and also CBRN related threats. She drew the Governing Board's attention to the fact that CBRN threats (both for Ukraine and the rest of the world) will be a high priority and that the Governing Board needs to ensure that the STCU is included in any discussion involved with these threats.

3.6 Russian Disinformation (Discussion)

The Executive Director opened the discussion about Russian disinformation by stating that there was a long discussion at the ISTC CEC meeting yesterday about this topic, and for the benefit of our Ukrainian colleagues (who did not attend the ISTC CEC), he wanted to summarize the outcome of the discussion so that we could hear the reaction of the Ukrainian Party. The ED summarized the points as follows:

- The US Party highlighted that up until now, the two science centers have been reactive to Russian disinformation as opposed to proactive. For example, the Russian MoD holds a press conference where it makes false allegations against the STCU (or ISTC), and the Center reacts with a press release and fact sheet.
- The ISTC and STCU would work together to come up with proactive approaches such as developing a fact sheet about the bio work performed by the ISTC in the Russian Federation (including the fact that the RF was a board member when bio projects in Central Asia were approved) and working to pool the two Centers' resources to work with a professional public relations professional to develop proactive responses.

Ms. Denlinger added that the US Party included in the additional funding for the Ukraine project a small increase that would be focused on a virtual fellowship program on countering nuclear energy disinformation coming from the Russian Federation. She went on to say that this funding was added because in the opinion of the US Party, Ukraine has a lot of recent experience with Russian disinformation in relation to nuclear safety, nuclear security, as well as Russia's irresponsible conduct at the Chernobyl nuclear site and occupation of the Zaporizhzhia NPP. Ms. Denlinger went on

to highlight that the Ukrainian nuclear scientists are well positioned to speak to their peers in the region and worldwide about why people should reconsider any collaboration with Rosatom and Russia on any nuclear activities, as it is clear by now that the Russian Federation does not prioritize and does not meet international standards for nuclear security, nuclear safety, and non-proliferation.

Mr. Taugher added that he thought yesterday's discussion was very good and called attention to the teamwork done on the STCU press release in response to the Russian MoD press conference and that he looks forward to building on this collaboration going forward, both in future messaging as well as in other languages to ensure that message is received in multiple communities. He went on to underscore that the US Party takes offense at this disinformation at large, but especially to personal accusations made against individuals associated with the STCU, including the Executive Director, as well as multiple people sitting around this table. He went on to say that the US Party continues to monitor these accusations very carefully, including tracking this disinformation as its reported in the press, and taking appropriate measures. He concluded that these measures include proactively communicating the positive, important work of the STCU, so that we can ensure that those who are on the fence about what the STCU is about or who are receiving this information, get clear, accurate, compelling information rather than lies promulgated by the Russian Federation.

The ED thanked Mr. Taugher for his comments and added that the STCU is continually monitoring both the Russian and English-speaking internet for mentions of the STCU and anyone associated with the organization. The ED went on to add that the English-speaking internet is currently quiet on this topic, and it appears that the disinformation is not getting amplified. He went on to mention that the Russian-speaking Internet tends to have spikes which occur in and around events such as the Russian MoD press conference on April 14th. He concluded by stating that even though the mentions of STCU and its associates tend to spike based on events, the disinformation about Ukrainian biolabs in general is constant.

Mr. Lubiv added that recently the Russian Duma (parliament) has created a parliamentary committee to investigate the establishment of offensive bio-weapons laboratories on the territory of Ukraine. He concluded by stating that it is his understanding that such a committee was established but as of today there has been no public record of the work of this committee.

Ms. Pauwels informed the Governing Board that a European Parliament committee will hold a special session on the use of chemical, biological, nuclear, or radiological materials or agents in the context of the Russian war against Ukraine, which will take place the week of May 9th. She went on to emphasize that the EU provides its full support for anything the Center can do to set the record straight and make sure that the correct messages get relayed using whatever channels are appropriate. In connection with this point, she continued by saying that the STCU and ISTC should look at bringing their websites up to modern standards and ensure that all the information presented on the website is absolutely accurate and up to date. Ms. Pauwels went on to emphasize that if on the one hand we're saying that there's disinformation, then we need to make sure that the information we provide on the Centers' websites is correct and we can't be faulted or accused of misrepresenting activities undertaken. Ms. Pauwels returned to the point suggested in the ISTC CEC where the Centers hire a professional communication person to not only assist with Russian disinformation, but also with the entire communication plan (including websites, social media, etc.) for the two Centers.

3.7 Discuss/Approve 55th Governing Board Schedule

The Governing Board expressed its desire to conduct the 55th STCU Governing Board meeting in person at the end of the year, but lending consideration to the avoidance of the Thanksgiving and year-end holidays. The Executive Director suggested that the meeting occur in the first two weeks of November (thus avoiding the holidays mentioned). The ED went on to express his desire to minimize the travel of the GB members by trying to coordinate the STCU GB meeting with the ISTC end of year Governing Board. The thought was to make the STCU GB meeting at a time and place that was "on the way" to the ISTC year-end meeting. All agreed that the two Centers would drive toward this as a final goal and the decision about date and location would be taken later in the year.

3.8 Finalize 54th GB Record of Decisions and Funding Sheets

The Governing Board approved the 54th Governing Board Record of Decisions and Funding Sheets as presented and instructed the Executive Director to start the signature process. The Governing Board also suggested that the press release be circulated for final approval via email over the course of the next days.

3.9 Any Other Business (AOB)

There was no other business raised by the meeting participants.

4.1 Closing Remarks (where possible, and for accuracy, most remarks are transcribed in their entirety)

Mr. Maier welcomed closing remarks suggesting that the GB proceed in reverse order of opening remarks.

The Executive Director's closing remarks were as follows: "I would like to thank all in attendance. This is a very important meeting that brings back a sense of normalcy to the situation that was very abnormal. And again, I repeat the thanks that I gave to all the parties that are at the table: our ISTC colleagues, the Governing Board, the STCU team that's here, as well as the team that's not here. The last two and a half months would have been insufferable without your support. I think we were able to push through that two and a half months and were able to get back to some sort of percentage of our capability. This return to normalcy is all due in support to the fact that we had so much support from the outside. Thus, I want to say thank you again. Thank you to the EU, as Brussels is a welcoming place for all of us to come and it feels like home. Thanks to all in attendance for the productive meeting today. I look forward to the follow up that we will do in the coming months to prepare for the next governing board in November."

Mr. Maier welcomed closing remarks from the Ukrainian Party.

On behalf of Ukraine, Mr. Taranov's closing remarks were as follows: "Thank you very much. First, I would like to thank everyone for today's event, for the great opportunity to participate and to hear from your side, and what you are going to do for Ukraine. Thank you for supporting Ukraine during this very difficult time. Thank you for your constant support which is felt every day as we work to save our country, to support Ukrainian scientists, and to support all researchers in Ukraine. Ukraine's main goal is to do everything to return Ukraine researchers from other countries because we are waiting for them to recover our country after the war. Thank you once more for this opportunity and we look forward to sending the final Record of Decisions for signature to Deputy Minister, Mr. Oleksii Shkuratov. Thank you very much.

Mr. Maier welcomed closing remarks from the EU Party.

On behalf of the EU Party, Ms. Pauwels's closing remarks were as follows: "The EU was happy to be able to host this meeting. It is important that we finally get a chance to meet in person, yet I'm really hoping that the next time the circumstances will be very different, much more positive. Hopefully, Ukraine continues to feel that it is receiving the support that it needs, which will allow us to think further about what we want to do together. But in the meantime, I think that we discussed several important topics here in this meeting, as well as on the margins about what we want to do together to support Ukraine and the science centers. I look forward to the next weeks and months as we move forward on our plans discussed today.

Mr. Maier welcomed closing remarks from the US Party.

On behalf of the US Party, Mr. Taugher's closing remarks were as follows: "I'll just start by saying that this is my first trip since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, and I can't think of a more important trip or occasion for us to get together. I think going back to January and February, BJ, Anthony, and all our STCU and Ukrainian colleagues were in our thoughts, and it is a relief to see some of our Ukrainian friends and STCU friends here today. But of course, the work continues every day, and every day our Ukrainian partners remain in our thoughts. I think it is a testament to our collective concern and desire to put that concern into action that we're all here today, and that we've come up with tangible, meaningful, specific actions that we can take to support our Ukrainian partners in the near term, as well as thinking about what the long-term future of the STCU looks like. I think it is so important as we all confront the Russian

government's unjust aggression against the people of Ukraine that we stand together to provide support to the Ukrainian scientific community, as well as to the STCU leadership and staff who have been through, as BJ described, a trauma. This trauma is truly what our hearts break for and for which not only you have our gratitude for, but our continued support knowing that every day is difficult, but every day we will be here with you.”

Mr. Maier thanked all for their warm closing words and active participation in the day's meeting.

There being no further business to discuss, the hybrid meeting was concluded.

Executive Director Report
(Reporting Period: May 5, 2022 – Nov. 11, 2022)

Party Issues

Impacts of the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation

Personnel (Current Location)

Kyiv or Kyiv Region	Outside of UA*	Total**
16	7	23

*Canada, UK, Belgium, Spain, Montenegro, Germany, and France

**Not including Three Regional Officers in (GE, MO, and AZ)

Physical Resources (Office, Servers, etc.)

As of the writing of this report, the STCU office located at 7a Metalistiv Street is undamaged but like the rest of Kyiv (and most of Ukraine) is working in accordance with scheduled blackouts (usually twice/day, but sometimes three times/day). Despite these power outages, the STCU team continues to work at 100% capacity by scheduling their workdays to maximize when the lights are on, versus when the power is off (by use of laptops with batteries, solar lights, etc.) However, if the STCU offices are damaged or the power is blacked out even more (3 or 4 times/day), then the team in Kyiv’s ability to work would be severely limited (no access to the Navision financial system, etc.). Data is safe, backed up to the cloud, but for the team located in Kyiv, clearly it will be difficult for them to access this data without power. For the team outside of Kyiv, the only issue is the availability of STCU systems on the cloud. The email system is already on the cloud (Google mail administers STCU’s email accounts); however, STCU is currently working with its Microsoft consultants to move Navision to the cloud, as well as the web page and file servers. In the worst-case scenario, the STCU is looking at the possibility of using generators to power its office or physically moving its servers to a location that has power (i.e. Poland or Slovakia).

The goal of the STCU Secretariat is for there not to be any disruption in STCU services (as of the date of this report, we are still operating at 100%, with only difficulties in travel from UA as described below). However, the Secretariat does have contingency plans in case of additional drastic cuts to power. Over this past weekend (Nov. 6th), Vitaliy Klitschko, Mayor of Kyiv, warned Kyiv residents that in the case of a complete loss of power to the city, the administration would organize the evacuation of residents. Obviously, this is the worst-case scenario, but the STCU needs to be prepared. In the case of drastic power cuts, the STCU Secretariat would look at a “triage” process for prioritizing STCU project throughput as follows:



- 1). All non-Ukraine work would continue uninterrupted (i.e. Project P088, Nuclear Forensics, etc.).
- 2). Ukraine projects that can continue to work would continue to be serviced. Given that roughly 1/3 of STCU's projects are in Kyiv, if the STCU is unable to work because of power cuts in Kyiv, it is also likely that the STCU's projects in Kyiv would have difficult times working as well. STCU would work on a case-by-case basis with Kyiv-based projects to determine if they can still work. Furthermore, about 1/3 of STCU's projects are in Kharkiv as well. It is probably safe to assume that if the Russian Federation targets Kyiv power infrastructure, they will also target Kharkiv's (2nd largest city in UA after Kyiv) power infrastructure. The same process described above would thus be implemented for Kharkiv-based STCU projects.
- 3). Ukraine projects that cannot continue to work would be suspended indefinitely. On a case-by-case basis, the STCU would work with those projects that cannot continue to work in order to suspend them in an orderly manner. Once working conditions improve, the STCU would rapidly recommence suspended projects.

What STCU Operations currently difficult to be perform

All project operations in general can be performed with the following exception:

- The provision of travel services for Ukrainians inside Ukraine to travel internationally (no airports, etc.) is very difficult, and several Ukrainians are choosing not to travel. Men under 60 years old cannot leave Ukraine (without special permission) as per the conditions of martial law currently in place in Ukraine. Women can leave Ukraine; however, travel from Kyiv for example, is very difficult. A woman traveling from Kyiv would need to train from Kyiv to Lviv, bus from Lviv to Warsaw, to fly out of Warsaw airport to their desired destination. As mentioned above, we do have some staff already located outside of Ukraine, so if we need STCU staff to support an event outside of Ukraine, then we can consider sending a staff member already located outside of Ukraine.

All other STCU operations with some delays and exceptions can be performed currently.

Status of Projects

Overall

Overwhelmingly, most partners (both GP and NGP) do not want to suspend/terminate their projects. However, having said that, the STCU was required to suspend eight (8) projects (including 3 Horizon projects), all located in Kharkiv (representing 1/3 of all projects in Kharkiv), because the difficult situation facing that city and its inhabitants. Also, in late October '22, STCU terminated its first project (also in Kharkiv). Most partners have expressed to the STCU their desire to continue their projects (where possible) as they understand the financing helps the scientific teams (thus helps Ukraine) during this very difficult time. STCU continues to be concerned about projects located in Kharkiv (as

of today it continues to suffer missile and suicide drone strikes from the Russian Federation) and non-government funded partner projects (private companies are much more risk averse to the security situation than GP projects). An analysis of these areas of concern are shown below. At the time of the Russian invasion, the STCU had seventy active projects:

Breakdown of Active and Suspended (shown in brackets) Projects by Location

Kyiv	Kharkiv*	Other UA**	GE, AZ, MO	Regional	Total
21	16 (8)	10	8	7	70

* At the time of the invasion, Kharkiv had 24 active projects. As a result of invasion, 8 projects were suspended, one was terminated, one was added, leaving 16 active projects

**Dnipro (3), Lviv (2), Chernobyl (3), Kamianske (1), Yuzhnoukrainsk (1)

Breakdown of Active Projects and Suspended (shown in brackets) by Type of Partner

Government	Non-Government*	Total
51 (6)	11 (2)	70

*Kyiv (4), Kharkiv (5), Dnipro (3), Tbilisi (1)

Newly signed projects

Since the invasion (24/2/2022), the STCU has signed two large projects: a). €3.6M for upgrading communication networks and other monitoring infrastructure in the Chornobyl zone with the EC's DG-INTPA (nuclear safety) and, b). a \$1.5M USDOS/ISN/WMDT project in Georgia to strengthen chemical security. All other projects were much smaller, and most were extensions of currently ongoing government partner projects.

As reported at the 54th STCU Governing Board on May 4, 2022, the STCU doubted that non-government partner money would flow to Ukraine, and as of today that has turned out to be correct. Since the invasion, the STCU has only signed one amendment with a US NGP for a project ongoing in Georgia. There is funding that wants to come to Ukraine, mostly in the form of Government Partner purchases of CBRN equipment and materials. However, the STCU still expects the number of newly signed projects to decrease in comparison with prior years.

Finally, another indication that the invasion will have an impact on future turnover is that there were only three (3) new partners approved for this 55th Governing Board (and zero at the previous 54th GBM) – all are Government partners. It appears the invasion has slowed the flow of new partners wanting to join the STCU, with new NGP partners drying up completely.

Projects suspended/terminated

Since the invasion the STCU has suspended eight (8) projects (all in Kharkiv). The STCU has only terminated one project, also in Kharkiv.



Events Postponed/Delayed because of Invasion - Update

- Ukraine FIRST Project – 2nd workshop which was scheduled to be conducted in-person in Kyiv was shifted to an online workshop and conducted in Aug. '22. STCU working with DOS/ISN/NDF to assess the next steps for this effort (i.e. conduct another virtual workshop, etc.).
- European Commission's Evaluation of STCU – Completed and final report issued to the European Commission in late Summer 2022.
- P088 - Regional Technical Working Group meeting in Belgrade, Serbia (scheduled for April '22) - conducted instead in June '22 in Istanbul.
- Biological Field Exercise – Moved from Ukraine to Montenegro and with expected implementation date of Fall 2023.
- Annual Financial Statement Audit (likely completed at end of Nov. '22 and will be presented to GB in Spring '23).
- 2021 Annual Report Production – After significant delay, draft submitted to the Governing Board with GB docs.
- Reconciliation of Contribution Agreement IFS 2020 420-370 – Completed and submitted in mid-July '22.
- ICEC Access to Radiotherapy Technologies Study funded by DOE (ISTC graciously offered to step in on STCU's behalf to work with colleagues from Moldova and Azerbaijan) – Completed with final workshop conducted in September 2022 in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

Update on SMR Projects – USTDA and USDOS/ISN/NDF's FIRST Program

USTDA

On December 15, 2021, STCU signed an agreement with USTDA to act as a facilitator for a project with NuScale Power (USA) and the State Scientific and Technical Center for Nuclear and Radiation Safety of the State Nuclear Regulatory Committee of Ukraine to perform a gap analysis of Ukrainian regulatory requirements for nuclear reactor technology and NuScale's Small Modular Reactor technology.

The STCU is acting on behalf of the State Nuclear Regulatory Inspectorate of Ukraine to facilitate their input into the NuScale/SSTC project. As of the writing of this report, the project is on schedule and the STCU is active on bi-weekly NuScale conference calls, as well as a 6-month USTDA review of the project. The project is scheduled to complete on time in mid-2023.

USDOS/ISN/NDF FIRST Program

The 53rd STCU Governing Board approved the initial \$400K contribution of U.S. Department of State's Bureau of International Security and Non-proliferation's Office of Non-proliferation and Disarmament's Fund to implement the FIRST program in Ukraine. The STCU acted quickly with its State Department



colleagues to conduct the initial introductory webinar on January 27, 2022 and then with some delay due to the war, conducted the 2nd webinar virtually (originally was scheduled for in-person in Kyiv in April '22) on August 10-11, 2022. As of the writing of this report, follow-on activities are still under consideration (i.e. an additional webinar, etc.).

In addition to the \$400K contribution mentioned above, the STCU signed an amendment to provide an additional \$500K of funding for for the Virtual Advanced Nuclear Reactor Technology Fellowship Program (\$400,000) and Countering Nuclear Energy Disinformation Fellowship Program (\$100,000). As of the writing of this report, five projects (#s 7106 to 7110 are included in the 55th GB project funding sheet) under the Countering Nuclear Energy Disinformation Fellowship Program were started on September 1st and fifteen fellowships under the Virtual Advanced Nuclear Reactor Technology Fellowship Program were started on November 1st.

More Fellowships for Ukrainian scientists coming online in 2023

At the end of Sept. '21, the STCU signed a letter grant with DOS/ISN/CTR to initiate the \$750K Virtual Scientist Engagement Fellowship Program for Vulnerable Ukrainian Scientists. These funds will be used to finance a number (minimum 35) fellowships to assist qualified scientists that are particularly vulnerable because of the Russian invasion. As of the printing of this report, the STCU issued the public announcement of this program at the end of Oct. '22, with a deadline date for submissions of applications of Dec. 15, '22.

Furthermore, as is often the case, the Ukrainian scientific community (in this case the National Academy of Sciences) is bringing other potential donors to the STCU that are looking to fund fellowships for the Ukrainian scientific community. In mid-October '22, the STCU was contacted by EURIZON (European network for developing new horizons for Research Infrastructures) which is a Horizon 2020 project (Funded by DG-RTD), led by an organization called DESY (Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron - A Research Centre of the Helmholtz Association).

DESY is the implementing partner for a Horizon 2020 project entitled, "CREMLINplus", which originally was an initiative intended to enhance collaborate//on between European and Russian research organizations. In short, because of Russia's invasion of Ukraine in Feb. '22, the project decided to terminate its relationships with Russia and redirect the Russian funding to the Ukrainian partners of the consortium. At the time of publishing this report, the project was looking at working with the STCU to launch a fellowship program for research grants dedicated to Ukrainian scientists working remotely from Ukraine (in all scientific domains).

Two new initiatives to improve cybersecurity in Ukraine from USDOS/ISN/CTR and EU's DG-FPI

DOS/ISN/CTR funded a letter grant via the ISTC a ~\$184K (STCU will assist with the implementation) project to develop and deliver a virtual three-day training course (scheduled for April '23) in a modular format for at least 50 Ukrainian scientists, technicians, engineers (STEs) and managerial staff with dual-use relevant expertise from research institutes and universities in Ukraine to strengthen these individuals' ability to counter proliferator state-based cybersecurity threats. The



training is intended to strengthen these individuals' security in cyberspace, expand knowledge security at the individual and institutional levels, enhance Ukrainian vetting of potential research collaborations, and guard against proliferator state access and exploitation of participants' sensitive dual-use knowledge for illicit weapons of mass destruction programs.

With funding from EU FPI, the STCU will conduct a cybersecurity project in the amount of ~€200K entitled, "Cybersecurity Awareness Training for IT and OT environments program to raise cyber awareness and hands-on skills for Ukrainian engineers and researchers". The project envisions three focused (with approximately 15 participants) workshops for CBRN professionals responsible for cybersecurity at Ukrainian Nuclear Power Plants, Research Institutes, and UA government agencies with oversight roles over important CBRN infrastructure (Min. of Energy, Min. of Infrastructure, etc.). The project is expected to be signed by the end of Nov. '22 and will start in earnest in the first part of 2023.

EU Project to Strengthen CBRN Medical Preparedness and Response Capabilities in SEE Countries in full-swing

On May 17, 2021, the STCU signed a contribution agreement (Agreement # IFS/2021/424-037) with the EU which provides ~€5.4M of funding to enhance the capacity of selected CBRN Emergency Medical Training Centers through the provision of CBRN equipment in the South East and Eastern Europe (SEEE) region of the EU CBRN Centres of Excellence initiative.

Over the course of the last year, the STCU has conducted the following actions in relation to this project:

- In-person fact finding visits to Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, and Ukraine conducted in the last quarter of '21 and first half of '22.
- Selected two (2) local experts from visited countries that will form a Regional Technical Working Group which will hold regular meetings during the project, with the first meeting conducted in Istanbul in mid-June '22 (originally scheduled for Serbia in April '22).
- Developed a CBRN Emergency Medicine (EM) equipment list.
- In early October '22, conducted a week of classroom and one week of practical "Train the Trainer" courses in Tbilisi, Georgia, using essential CBRN EM equipment that will be provided to all SEEE countries as part of the project.

EU to Finance two SB activities to facilitate the demining of Ukraine

STCU to Train and Deploy Mine Sniffing Dogs

In mid-June 2022, the EU contacted the STCU to start a supplemental budget activity in the amount of ~€200K to purchase and train dogs that can detect mines with their sense of smell. The effort is a combined effort of DG FPI and experts from DG HOME. As of the publishing this report, the STCU



had signed contracts for the purchase of nine dogs. The dogs will undergo training and eventually be introduced to their Ukrainian handlers who will be trained on how to work with the dogs, at which time the dog and his Ukrainian handler will be transferred to Ukraine to begin their important work.

STCU to Purchase Drones that Detect Metal

In mid-September 2022, the EU contacted the STCU to request it to work with colleagues from DG Home to purchase ~€100K drones that could facilitate the mine sniffing dogs above in detecting mines (with the use of metal sensors) in large areas (i.e. agricultural fields). During laboratory testing the drones have shown promise, and now DG HOME is looking to implement the drones in Ukraine in the hopes that the drones could speed up the clearing of large land areas of mines and unexploded ordinance. As of the publishing this report, the STCU is still in the beginning stages of procuring the first set of drones.

USDOS/ISN/WMDT launches \$1.5M project via the STCU to fund a project to strengthen chemical security in Georgia

WMDT and STCU will partner with the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia (MEPA) to implement a project to strengthen chemical management standards and chemical security issues in Georgia by improving and harmonizing the legal framework on chemicals with current EU regulations, as well as increasing capacities at the national stakeholder institutions to ensure sound management of chemicals and developed capacities for the effective monitoring and control of chemical systems.

The project is a very good example of the European Union and United States working together to resolve CBRN issues by leveraging the work that both Parties are doing in the region. The project is a direct result of a gap analysis performed by the Government of Georgia when looking at its National Action Plan on CBRN (the NAP was generated as part of the EU's CBRN Centers of Excellence Initiative), as well the responsibilities it undertook under the EU-Georgia Association Agreement on Chemical Safety and Security issues. The project was developed with the goal of filling identified gaps and was submitted to the Global Partnership as part of their grant review process and selected for funding by WMDT.

Current Secretariat Activities

Trends in Projects

The 55th GB is scheduled to approve via written procedure in December '22, three (3) new partner projects totaling roughly \$1.7M, eleven (11) new partner project extensions totaling roughly \$550K (\$493,164 and €51,800), as well as eight regular projects and extensions totaling roughly \$684K (\$500,000 and €173,430). The total for all new partner projects, partner project extensions, and regular funded projects and extensions scheduled for approval at the 55th GB would thus equal roughly \$2.9M. This is on the low side of Governing Board funding totals, but given the circumstances, understandable.



The 54th Governing Board in May '22 approved a total five (5) new partner projects totaling roughly \$587K (\$587,300), as well as eight (8) new partner project extensions totaling roughly \$833K (\$269,595 and €531,500) as well as one new EU-funded project totaling roughly \$3.8M (€3.6M). The total for all new partner projects, partner project extensions, and the one EU-funded project approved at the 54th GB equals roughly \$5.2M.

Couple the two 2022 Governing Board Funding Sheets together (\$2.9M plus \$5.2M) and the funding for 2022 will total roughly \$8.1M. This amount of funding in a year is on the low end of our management's expectations (\$8M - \$12M), but two important issues need to be highlighted:

- Of the \$8.1M in new funding for 2022, two (2) large projects accounted for almost two thirds of total funding: a). an EU project (in the Chernobyl region) accounted for \$3.8M of the funding (almost 47% of the year's funding), and b). a \$1.5M USDOS/ISN/WMDT project in Georgia to strengthen chemical security (almost 19% of the year's funding).
- The funding from Non-Government Partners has completely stopped since the Russian invasion, with only an amended amount of funding to an NGP project in Georgia.

As the table below indicates, the STCU has seen the number of active projects drop considerably over the last few years (from an average of 120 active projects in 2015 to 70 active projects in Nov. 2022). The STCU expects to see the number of active projects settle at approximately 60-70 where it should stabilize going forward.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Nov. 2022
Avg # of Active Projects	120	110	135	135	110	80	75	70
Board Approved Project Funding (USD)	\$4.72M	\$11.2M	\$15.6M	\$13.5M	\$12.2M	\$4.8M	\$24.5M	\$8.1M*

* \$8.1M is the amount of funding approved for the period of Jan. 2022 – November 11, 2022.

Potential Projects (Proposals) will provide a solid base for 2023

Given the exceptional amount of funding received in 2021 (\$24.5M), and then the drop back down in funding in 2022 (\$8.1M), it appears that we will continue our roller coaster ride of funding the STCU has experienced over the last four years (2019 ↓ 2020 ↑ 2021 ↓ 2022 ↑ 2023).

A quick look at the larger projects in the STCU's pipeline shows that there is a good base (~\$11M) for 2023:

- 1). **€1.2M** from DG-FPI for an Addendum to Project 088: "Strengthening of CBRN Medical Preparedness and Response Capabilities in SEEE countries"



- 2). **€1.7M** from DG-INTPA for an Addendum to the PChP project to increase funding for Stage 3 of the project.
- 3). **€3.4M and €1.9M (total €5.3M)** from DG-INTPA for two projects to remediate the effects of the Russian invasion of the Chornobyl area.
- 4). **~\$2.6M** from Norway and USDOS/ISN/WMDT to join the new project with DG – International Partnerships (formerly DG DEVCO) entitled, “*Modernisation of the “Dosimetric Control System in the Exclusion Zone and Environmental (Radiation) Monitoring at the “Vektor” Complex and the “Buriakivka” Disposal Facility”*. This collaboration came as a result of meetings at the IAEA meetings in Vienna in September and GP meetings Berlin in October.

Important Visitors/Meetings/Events

ED attends of EU CBRN Centers of Excellence (CoE) Eighth Meeting of the National Focal Points (17-19 May, Brussels). The STCU ED traveled to Brussels to attend this meeting and work with the National Focal Points to bring them up to speed on the capabilities of the STCU, as well as inform the attendees situation facing STCU and Ukraine as a result of the Russian Federation’s invasion.

ED sits on a panel related to funding R&D in Ukraine for a Workshop entitled “Rebuilding Research, Education, and Innovation in Ukraine”, Sep. 23rd, 2022 via WebEx). The STCU ED contributed to a panel discussion about funding R&D in Ukraine of a workshop conducted by the National Academy of Sciences of the United States.

Attendance of Global Partnership Working Group Meetings (October 5th, 6th, and 7th, 2022, Berlin, Germany). The STCU ED traveled to Berlin and met with representatives of global partnership programs (i.e. EU, Germany, U.S., Norway, etc.) to discuss ways the STCU may act as an implementing organization for their activities in the GUAM region. On the sidelines of these meetings, the STCU and ISTC EDs were afforded the chance to meet with ADAS Insley and her team to discuss issues facing the Centers.

Attendance of ISTC CEC Meetings (October 13th and 14th, 2022, Noordwijk, Netherlands). The STCU ED and CFO traveled to Noordwijk and met with US and EU representatives to discuss issues concerning the STCU, as well as issues facing both Centers.

ED attends the Third Dialogue on Export Control Governance Workshop, (October 25-26, 2022, Brussels, Belgium). The ED attended this workshop in order to get up to speed on the EU’s Export Control initiatives and how the STCU’s Export Control TI fits in to this framework now and in the future.

ED attends DOS/ISN/CTR Implementers Workshop, (November 1-3, 2022, via WebEx). The ED attended this workshop which provides more information on CTR’s program lines of effort, its goals and objectives for FY2023, and provides up to date information for its projects.



ED attends Information Sharing Initiative for Nuclear Safety & Security in Ukraine, (November 8th & 9th, 2022, via WebEx). The ED attended the seventh forum which provides a venue for the exchange of information on technical assistance to Ukraine in the areas of concern to the Global Partnership Nuclear Security Sub-Working Group.

Curtis "B.J." Bjelajac
Executive Director

STCU 2023 CFO Presentations



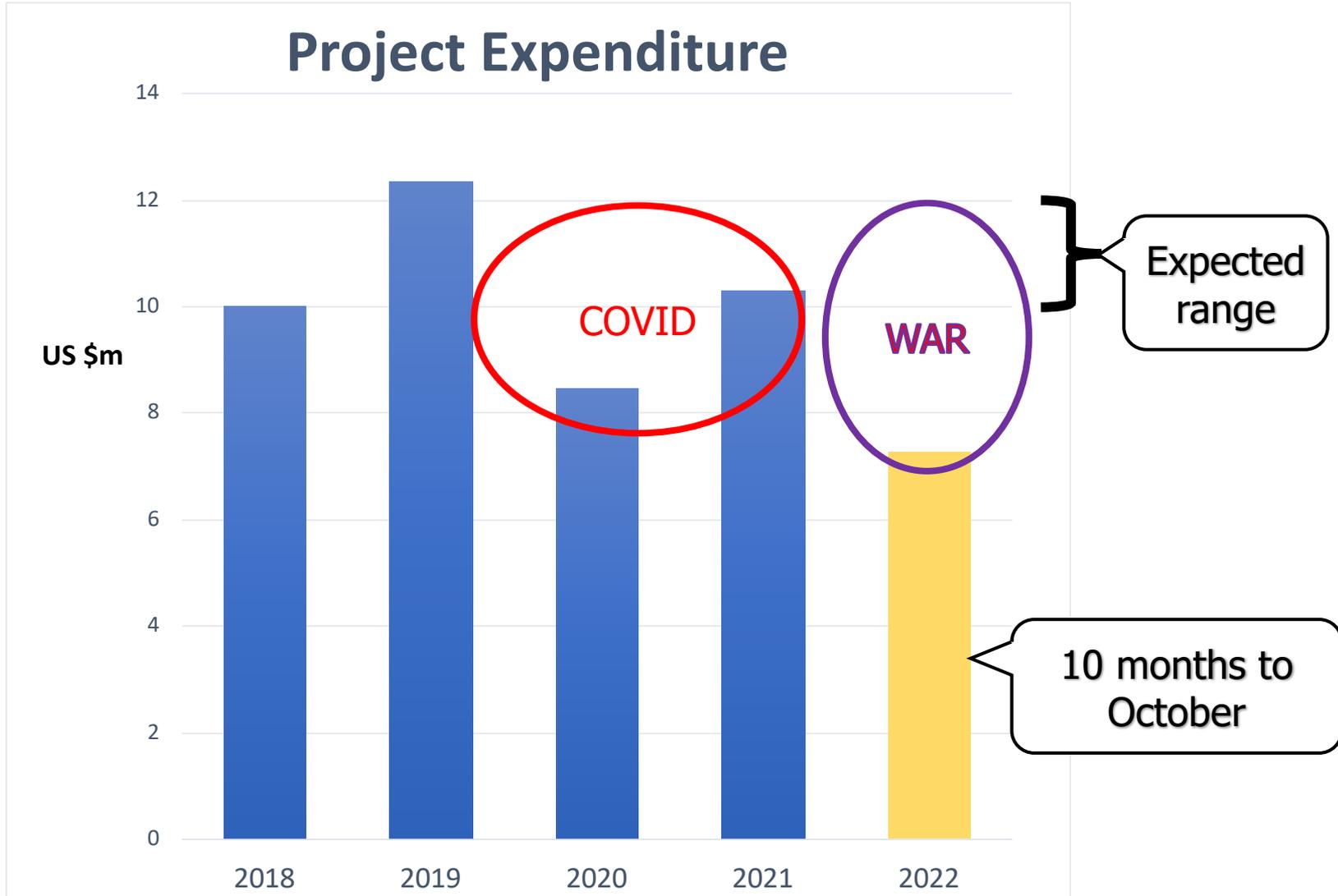
2021 Audited
Financial Statements
& Management Letter

Approval

- Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2021
 - To be presented at 56th Governing Board Meeting
 - Board to approve Financial Statements and Management letter
- Highlight that will be returned to at GB 56
 - Project activity over recent years



Trend in project activity



STCU 2023 CFO Presentations



Actual v Budget
2022

Actual to Budget 2022

- Budgeted AOB for 2022
 - \$ 766,500
- Actual expenditure
 - To date and estimated to end of December 2022
 - \$ 671,300 (88%)
- Forecast surplus after partner fees, interest and exchange losses, to return to Parties
 - \$ 141,000

Budget Overspend

■ Contingency

- Budget \$ 10,000
- Forecast actual \$ 15,000

■ Reason

■ Invasion of Ukraine

- IT and communications equipment
- Moving servers to the cloud
- Relocation of staff

■ Board approval required

- As over 10%



STCU 2023 CFO Presentations

Budget Request
AOB & SB



Anticipated Workload

	US \$ m
DCC projects 1 Jan 2022	27.97
Projects implemented	(7.26)
New projects signed	8.10
DCC projects 31 Dec 2022	<u>28.81</u>

DCC of \$ 29 million forecasts projects to be implemented between:

- \$ 15 m pa over 2 years and \$ 10 m pa over 3 years;
- However, 2022 results suggest this could be as low as \$ 7 m.

2023 AOB Request

	2023	2022	Increase
	\$' 000	\$' 000	\$' 000
Recurring	791	727	64
Non-recurring	36	39	(3)
Total	827	766	61

Significant changes

- **Public affairs**  **\$ 36,000**
 - Reintroduced this budget line;
 - Funding party requests;
 - Improvement to STCU website;
 - Repudiating disinformation.
- **Outsourced IT services**  **\$ 18,000**
 - New budget line;
 - Servers to be moved to the cloud
 - Power and internet supply issues at STCU office
- **Contingency**  **\$ 20,000**
 - In view of the continuing unstable situation considered prudent to raise this budget line.

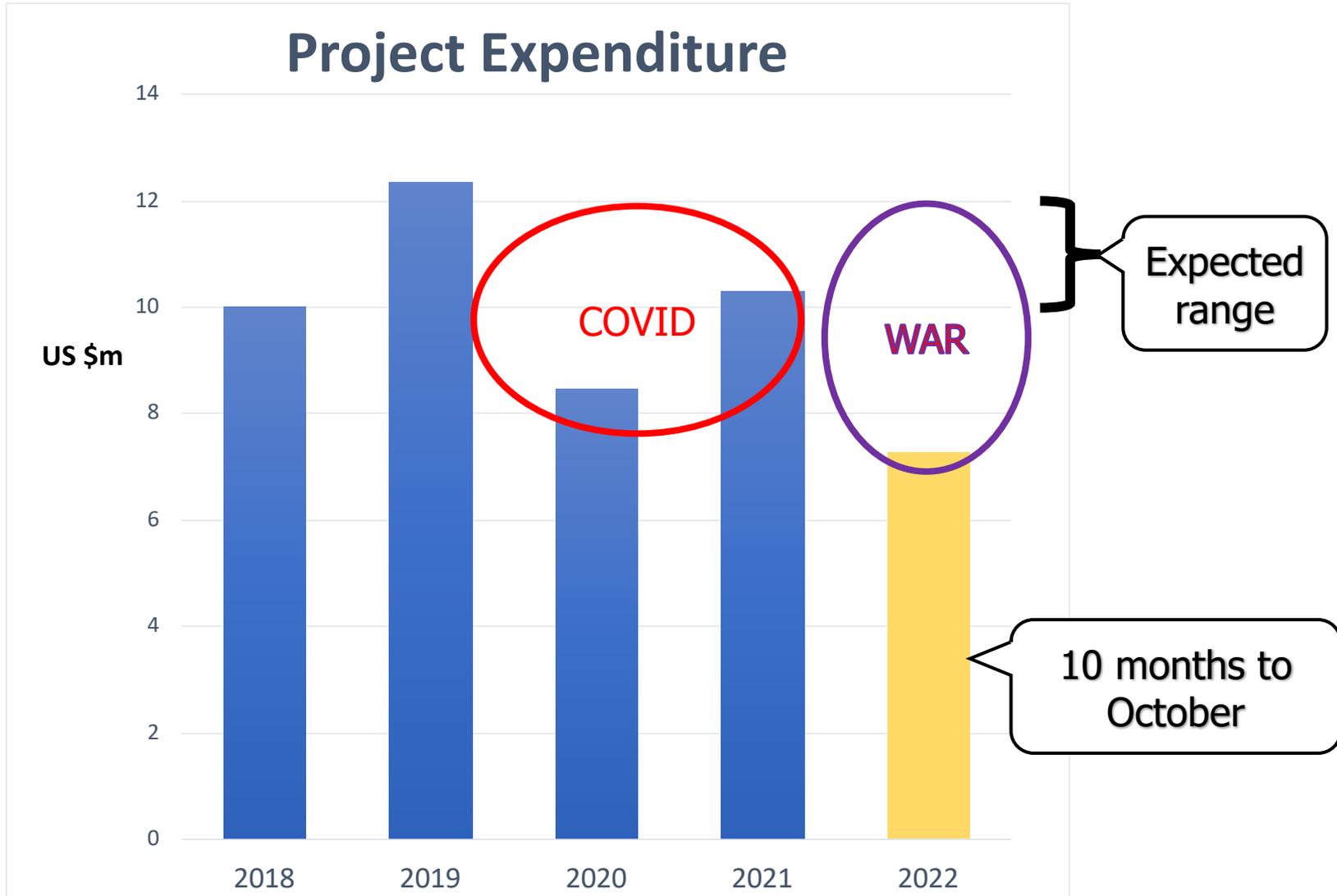
AOB Shares

	US	EU	Total
	%	%	%
Share of Project & SB expenditure	1.20	98.80	100
Distribution of variable portion	0.96	79.04	80
Distribution of fixed portion	10.00	10.00	20
Calculated sharing ratio	10.96	89.04	100
	\$	\$	\$
Share of AOB	90,698	736,802	827,500
		€	
EU share in Euros		739,456	

Supplementary Budget 2023

	US	EU
	\$	€
Service contract to 31 December 2023	230,000	155,000
Export control	-	260,000
Scientists' fellowships	1,150,000	-
Training Research Vetting, Individual Cybersecurity & Knowledge Security	250,000	-
Border Guards training travel	-	50,000
Cybersecurity training	-	200,000
Total SB for 2023	1,630,000	665,000

STCU in 2022



STCU in 2022

Projects implemented ~ 80% of usual ❖ 3 Regional workshops organized ❖ Ongoing projects continued to be implemented ❖ 8 million new projects signed ❖ €1m emergency equipment supplied to Public Health Centres ❖ €1m emergency equipment supplied to Chernobyl zone ❖ Audited financial statements ❖ Completed implementation of new accounting software ❖ Equipped staff for remote working ❖ Supported staff as refugees ❖ Regional CBRN training conducted ❖ Explosive detection dogs in training ❖ Fellowships for scientists ❖ Repairs to damaged laboratory in Kharkiv ❖ Transport purchased for scientists in Kharkiv ❖ New communications networks set up ❖ Electricity supply problems coped with

Public Relations (Countering Russian Disinformation)

Competition to Select a Public Relations Firm for the Science Centers (STCU & ISTC)

At the request of the Governing Board of the STCU (54th GB in May '22) and ISTC (74th GB in July '22), the two Centers worked together to competitively select a Public Relations (PR) firm to assist the Centers to not only better counter ongoing Russian disinformation, but also to professionally craft a consistent message on social media, update both Center's websites, and assist with modernizing the Centers' annual reports. As a result of the search, the Centers narrowed the field down to two potential providers, with the analysis of their strengths and weaknesses, and the Centers' recommendation shown in the table below:

Firm	Hemington Consulting	Wooden Horse Strategies LLC
Principal	Justin Doherty	Brian Mefford
Headquarters	London and Dubai	Kyiv
Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Website creation and maintenance -Social media account(s) creation, maintenance (including scheduled posts), and monitoring. -Monitoring of other media (social and print) for relevant content. -Pursue both paid and unpaid media (i.e. earned media) opportunities. -Develop strategy for handling disinformation. -Execute strategy to address disinformation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Website creation and maintenance -Social media account(s) creation, maintenance (including scheduled posts), and monitoring. -Monitoring of other media (social and print) for relevant content. -Pursue both paid and unpaid media (i.e. earned media) opportunities. -Develop strategy for handling disinformation. -Execute strategy to address disinformation.
Languages (in-house)	English	English, Ukrainian, Russian, and German
Experience with disinformation?	Yes	Yes
Clients	Ugandan Prime Minister, the President of South Sudan, and the President of Sri Lanka	Citibank Ukraine and Kazakhstan and former GOU Minister of Health (Dr. Suprun)
Cost	£53,000 one off fee* £22,800/month* *There is a menu of options attached so the price can be lower if fewer services are requested.	Monthly Social Media Retainer: \$1000/mo. Western media in Ukraine: \$1000 per article Western media outside Ukraine: up to \$5000 per article

<p>Recommendation/Next Steps</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The science centers recommend selecting Wood Horse Strategies LLC given their regional experience, language expertise, menu of services, and affordable rate. • Currently, the Centers are working with Wooden Horse to develop individual PR strategies for both Centers. • Once the PR strategy is confirmed, the Centers will identify a member of the current teams to hold the communications portfolio and be the working-level contact with this firm. • STCU and ISTC will eventually work with Wooden Horse Strategies to update both Centers' websites, establish 2-3 social media accounts (LinkedIn, Facebook, and Twitter), and determine a schedule for how many posts they will generate on these accounts a month. The Centers will provide Wooden Horse with content on a scheduled basis (e.g. events and other updates) so the firm is able to generate substantive and timely social media posts. • Finally, the Centers will work with Wooden Horse to develop an SOP (that includes roles and responsibilities) for handling and responding to disinformation campaigns. This could include working with print media on a limited, and curated, basis (with GB approval).
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