



Point of Discussion: UFS/SAIA Operational Plan 2021/2022

Background

As the Election Meeting of SAIA is drawing closer, so are the finalizations of all documents that need to be presented at the meeting. At the last national board meeting we voted to submit these documents to the meeting. This is nothing controversial, but when it came to the proposed Operational Plan of 2021/2022 there were some discussions regarding point 8.2, which reads:

*8.2 Formalise partnerships with two think tanks with different ideologies
SAIA should continue to formalise partnerships with actors active in the
foreign-policy oriented civil society. Think tanks are often leading voices in the
debate with great speakers and a high capacity to organise events, they have
however not been approached by SAIA before. It is important that we remain
a neutral voice and formalised partnerships should therefore be made with
think tanks from all parts of the political spectrum.*

What caused debate was whether this is 1) something the UFS really wants to do, and if 2) it goes against the by-laws stating that the association should be politically neutral. The UFS presidium argued that it is a natural progression since the UFS already works with Folk och Försvar, also a think tank (however ideologically neutral), and would gain possibilities to be invited to/invite experts to lectures. Multiple Member Associations argued that it is not per-se neutral to collaborate with two ideologically different think tanks as there are multiple ideologies, and that we can invite experts to lectures without collaborating with them.

In the end we decided to submit the document as is in order for the MA's to vote on it, propose counter proposals, etc., at the election meeting.

Question(s) for the board

- What do you think of the proposal?
 - Good? Bad? Why? Why not?



- Can you think of other benefits of working with think tanks?
 - Do you think they outweigh the possible negative sides (if you think there are any)?
- Can you think of negative sides to working with think tanks?
 - Do you think they outweigh the possible benefits (if you think there are any)?

I ask you as a board for UF Uppsala's opinion on the matter. Depending on what we decide, I/our delegate at the Election meeting will either start working on a possible counter proposal with other MA's, or help promote the current Operational Plan 2021/2022 as is.

Rapporteur

Per Risberg, UFS Representative