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I have informed the board of the Finnish Institute of International Affairs of my intention to retire at the beginning of 2010. The current board will serve until the end of this year and the planning of new program structure of the institute will start at the beginning of next year. This is a natural juncture for me to retire at, after a career of over 40 years.

It has been agreed with the board that we will try to make the change of directors as seamless as possible. I am prepared to support the board as well as the new director during the transition period so that the necessary changes at the institute can proceed as efficiently as possible.

The institute has undergone a process of transformation from a research community based on a private foundation into a research institute under the auspices of the Parliament. The structures, processes and the strategy of the new institute as a public agency have gradually taken shape. This process lays a foundation for the further development of the institute.

After retirement I intend to concentrate on my own research, which I have not been able to conduct as much as I would have wanted. In addition to that I will continue my international activities in science policy, in which I have been very active in recent years and find personally very important.

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