

SIPRI SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

9 June 2020

MINUTES

Participants

Sibylle Bauer, Stephanie Blenckner, Luc van de Goor, Maria Kaemmerle, Sigrún Rawet, Dan Smith

Helena Berger (present for item 3)

Note-taker Elena Haapaniemi

The meeting was conducted via Zoom.

1. MoM approval

- The minutes of the SMT meeting on June 2 were approved.

2. Matters arising

- NTR.

3. Corona virus

- Helena has prepared a travel advice note that Dan will send later to all staff.
- SMT discussed a partial return to the office in August, allowing limited numbers to go in each day. This will be further discussed at a later meeting. In the meantime, SMT members will check with their teams whether those who will be working in July are interested in coming to the office. For them, a schedule will be suggested by the management so as to avoid overcrowding at the office. Dan will also mention this at the RSC.

4. Report back

- The SMT discussed modernizing the 2020 top 100 arms producers' data launch. Based on a proposal from the AMEX programme, the SMT decided on a more restricted approach to the data than normal, supported by more emphasis on analysis. Following the launch, SMT will review media pick-up and decide on how to proceed in 2021 and beyond.
- Luc and Sibylle had a conversation with Friends of Europe, sending the message that SIPRI is looking for ways to work together without a formal partnership agreement. Concretely, one of FoE's experts can be involved in some of our work on the Arctic. Furthermore, we are looking at whether FoE can become one of the partners for the SSC.
- Luc provided an update on two projects:
 - o There are good chances that Vitaly's and Ian's project proposal to USIP (United States Institute of Peace) is going to be accepted.
 - o The project with Niras and French General Directorate of Globalization (DGM) will be launched on June 10. Sigrún suggested that Luc and Gregory should contact the head of the MFA Africa division to keep the Swedish MFA colleagues up to date with these developments.
- Sigrún shared with the SMT very positive feedback from State Secretary Eva Svedling following the meeting to present the EoP2022 project. The Ministry is very interested in this line of SIPRI work.

- Sigrún reminded the SMT that she is waiting for feedback on SIPRI projects and plans for autumn 2020 so as to share them with Carl Skau before the meeting scheduled on June 12.
- Sigrún also informed the SMT that she was following up on SIPRI suggestions for Sweden's forthcoming chairmanship in the OSCE. Feedback from the MFA is expected after agreement on Chairmanship priorities has been reached.
- Maria has been in contact with Gelba company about the renovation of the attic.
- Maria updated the SMT on the status of the KPI document: both Luc's and Sibylle's cluster as well as the outreach team have gone through it one more time and have green-lighted it; the P&D cluster will discuss it at a meeting next week; after that, Maria and Nikos will proof-read the whole document; the SMT should be able to approve the KPIs straight after the summer break.

5. Staffing & project issues

- NTR.

6. Funding beyond 2020

- The SMT endorsed Dan's paper on funding beyond 2020. It will be circulated among all staff and discussed at the RSC on June 12, along with the financial forecast prepared by Maria which was submitted to the Board in May.

7. MFA strategic grant: Planning events/activities

- Maria initiated this discussion in order to catch up with the DoSes on the status of various projects under implementation.
- Dan and Sigrún reiterated the need to use the money allocated under the MFA strategic grant for 2020.
- The challenges that we face due to restrictions on travel and personal meetings which, in turn, caused increased publishing output are twofold: there is only that much of internal editorial capacity on the one hand, and there is a limit to how much information SIPRI can feed to its audiences on the other hand.
- What we need are new innovative research ideas where implementation does not require travelling; the only pre-condition is that they should fit into the format of the MFA grant.

8. Communications strategy

- The SMT discussed the draft communications strategy drafted by Steph. The paper should be seen as an integral part of the overall SIPRI strategy for 2019-2024. The issue has already been discussed at the cooperation group and the paper will now, after a few tweaks from the SMT, be submitted to the RSC. One item of feedback from the SMT was that the document should better reflect the diversity that characterizes SIPRI in so many ways –diversity both of research and of people.

9. AOB

- The SMT will continue to meet as usual until and including Tuesday June 30. The meetings will resume after the summer break on August 11.
- Steph suggested inviting Joey to the SMT meeting on June 23 for discussion on the communications calendar.
- Luc and Sibylle have been working on the SSC 2020 concept note. The SMT will discuss it at the next meeting.
- A briefing on the EP2022 by Claire should be scheduled for June 23 or 30.
- KPIs will be finalized after the summer break.

Action Points

- List of those who would like to work from the office in July – all SMT members

Items carried forward

- Equal Opportunities, Diversity and Anti-discrimination Policy
- SSC20 – concept, speakers & budget