



SIPRI SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

1 December 2020

MINUTES

Participants

Sibylle Bauer, Stephanie Blenckner, Luc van de Goor, Maria Kaemmerle, Jannie Lilja, Dan Smith, Joakim Vaverka

Helena Berger (present for item 1)

Note-taker Elena Haapaniemi

The meeting was conducted via Zoom.

1. Corona virus

- Helena informed the SMT about one of the recent decisions of the Swedish government: small children should stay at home if one of the parents has been tested positive for Covid-19.

2. Minutes

- The minutes from the SMT meeting on November 24 were approved.

3. Matters arising

- Joakim has responded to the letter from our new landlord, suggesting an initial meeting – physical or virtual – at the earliest mutual convenience.
- Helena and Joakim are working on a revised “Introduction to SIPRI” welcome package for new staff. Some staff members will be consulted in the process. Joakim will update the SMT as soon as the package is ready, prior to bringing the matter to the Cooperation group.

4. Report back

- Joakim reported that the formal decision on the MFA strategic grant is expected in the coming weeks.
- Steph informed the SMT that:
 - Preparations for the arms industry data launch are proceeding smoothly.
 - A complete technical solution for cyber meetings is now in place at SIPRI. Steph will coordinate special training for staff including the comms team, cluster coordinators, Karolina, Andrea, Elin and Elena. Steph invited DoSes to make further suggestions on training.
- Sibylle reported back from the Next Generation Arms Control workshop organised by the EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Consortium. She assessed it as a successful initiative that should inspire SIPRI. Sibylle suggested discussing practical steps in this direction at one of the future SMT meetings as a separate topic.
- Jannie reported back that the call for proposals for the 2021 Forum was sent out the previous week.

5. Staffing & project issues

- Recruitment of the RA for the food security program is being finalised.
- The SMT acknowledged the election of Alexandra Marksteiner on the Board of European Horizons, a global, student-led policy incubator whose mission is to give young people a voice in shaping the future of Europe and of transatlantic relations.
- Job descriptions for new recruitments for the Sahel team are being finalised.
- Dan proposes that in January 2021, Joakim, will take over the management of the SMT. This will include convening the meetings, drafting the agenda, ensuring follow-up. Dan invited SMT members to comment at the meeting or thereafter, privately.

6. Next RSC: date and time

- The next RSC will take place on December 16, at 14:30.

7. SIPRI Associate: proposed appointment

- The SMT endorsed Jannie's suggestion to grant a two-year associate status to Dr. Mazeda Hossain – an epidemiological sociologist and a gender expert who is involved in our Lancet-Sight project as a consultant.

8. NIS funding

- Joakim outlined the procedure for project grants from NIS. Outline ideas should be submitted in mid-December, with first responses expected after the holidays, full proposals to follow, and decisions in March 2021. The funds will need to be spent in 2021 and the final report can be submitted in 2022 but if follow-on funding is requested, the project report must be submitted first. These projects are not limited to DAC guidelines.
- The SMT went through the list of project ideas.
- The SMT agreed that Joakim and Sibylle will trim down the project list so as to increase the chances of receiving funding for those projects that are clearly eligible. Joakim will then submit one consolidated document to NIS.

9. RAs at SIPRI: trajectory and development

- The SMT discussed career development for the staff category of research assistants at SIPRI.
- The reason for this discussion is a shared feeling among management that there is a need for more clarity and a more structured approach to what is required from a research assistant and what their future prospects consist of.
- In order to continue this discussion in more concrete terms, the SMT asked Joakim to gather information on the current numbers of staff in research assistant, researcher and senior researcher positions at SIPRI.
- This should allow SMT to develop a coherent institute-wide approach.

10. AOB

- NTR.

Action Points

- “Welcome to SIPRI” package – Joakim and Helena
- Follow up on NIS funding – Sibylle and Joakim
- Statistics on staff distribution between research assistant-researcher-senior researcher categories – Joakim

Items carried forward

First thoughts for SSC 2021 – to put on the agenda for Dec 8

Project management guidelines

Ways of involving the next generation into arms control conversation

RAs at SIPRI: trajectory and development