



## **SIPRI SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING**

Solna, 1 October 2019

### **DRAFT MINUTES**

#### Participants

Sibylle Bauer (by Skype, agenda items 4-7), Stephanie Blenckner, Luc van de Goor, Maria Kaemmerle, Gary Milante (by Skype), Dan Smith  
Note-taker Elena Haapaniemi

#### 1. MoM approval

- The minutes of the SMT meetings on Sept 17 and on Sept 24 were approved.

#### 2. Matters arising from the previous MoM

- NTR.

#### 3. Report back

- Steph reported back on her trip to Mali and on the successful outreach event in Bamako. Steph particularly noted great team work demonstrated by our SAHEL colleagues and an excellent presentation done by Mamadou. Some 200 participants attended the event that enjoyed good media coverage.
- Maria reported back that work on implementation of the new financial system is underway.
- Luc reported back about meeting he had at the Dutch embassy. There is strong interest from the embassy in learning more about SIPRI, particular areas of interest being climate and technology. A possible trip to the Hague has also been discussed.
- Luc reminded the SMT that on October 17 SIPRI will be hosting a workshop on EU-China Relations in an Era of Connectivity. Dan will do an opening address.
- Gary reported back that he has:
  - Set up the next GReVD workshop at Brookings in Washington DC.
  - Will conduct the next cluster meeting on October 8 and
  - Set up a meeting between the DFID leadership and Dan on October 10 in London.
- Dan and Sigrún met with the former UI Director Mats Karlsson who has received a new assignment from the Swedish MFA to do a review of how think tanks can help the government with analysing of possibilities and policies. Mats will be in touch since his study will obviously include SIPRI.
- On September 30, Dan and Sigrún met with the new head of the KH department at the Swedish MFA, Karl Skau. Karl suggested having regular contacts on a monthly basis so as to keep up-to-date on the issues of common interest and on the status of cooperation. After that, Dan and Sigrún had another meeting at the MFA with Peter Weiderud, advisor on mediation issues in the MENA region. The discussion focused on various dialogues, past and future.
- Dan informed the SMT about the two-day meeting he, Caroline and Suyoun had with the WFP team at SIPRI last week. The aim was to design and agree upon Phase II of the joint

SIPRI-WFP project. It has been agreed to conduct eight country and five thematic studies over the period of two years.

4. Staffing & project issues

- Luc informed the SMT that Jason Mosley has been identified as the candidate to implement the MFA project on the Horn of Africa.
- Luc shared the good news on the approval of Ian's four- year project proposal on CW weapons that was submitted to the Norwegian MFA earlier this year.
- Luc reported about agreeing on the terms of the contract with the UNEP.
- As for designing the shape of our partnership with the UNHCR, we still need to work out the details. This is work in progress.
- Luc will be interviewing two potential candidates for the MENA program during the coming week.

5. SSC19

- All on track when it comes to the Conference, with 200 registered participants for the conference and 56 for the dinner co-hosted with the MSC.

6. The GB meeting agenda

- Apart from the traditional reports from the Director and Deputy Director, budget and Institute's strategy that will be part of the GB meeting agenda, the SMT suggested tackling the following areas:
  - Address our rapid growth. Get advice from the Board members on their experience in running a bigger organisation; challenges and opportunities.
  - Continue the strategic discussion on partnerships; how to balance SIPRI's independent voice with the strong profile of some of our partners.
  - In the light of the Swedish study on the role of think tanks mentioned above, but not only – what should be the role of SIPRI? What should be our focus? Where is our added value? What are we missing? How do we remain relevant?
  - How can we have more interaction with the Board members in between the meetings? What are the appropriate channels for our researchers to get feedback and advice on their work?
- The topics for the lunch conversations will need to be defined, along with the topic(s) for the open session. Dan suggested addressing the new geopolitics as a possible theme.

7. The RSC.

- The next RSC will be held on November 4 at 14:00.

8. AOB

- The SMT briefly discussed two pending requests:
  - On the visit from Seoul National University, Institute for Peace and Unifications Studies on October 30; Suyoun and Fei are planning to receive the delegation.
  - An invitation to attend the Congress of the International Confucian Association in China in November this year. Since the dates coincide with the GB meeting, no one from SIPRI can participate. Elena will inform the Chinese embassy accordingly.

**Action Points**

- Further explore the cooperation with the Dutch embassy – Luc
- Discuss the set up for implementation of the four-year project approved by the Norwegian MFA – Dan, Luc and Sibylle meeting with Ian

**Items carried forward**

- NTR.