

SIPRI SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

1 September 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.

Dan began by welcoming Joakim to his first SMT meeting.

1. Corona virus including use of office, August-December 2020

- Helena has sent out Covid-19 related guidance for incoming staff members based on the recommendations issued by Swedish authorities.
- SMT went through and agreed for circulation the draft memo on the use of the office. Dan will circulate it asap.

2. Minutes

- The minutes from the SMT meeting on August 25 were approved.

3. Matters arising

- Joakim will follow up with the MFA on SIPRI suggestions for Sweden's chairmanship in the OSCE, submitted to MFA colleagues earlier this year, and the way forward.

4. Report back

- Sibylle reported back about the webinar "*The Tenth NPT Review Conference: Effective Measures for Nuclear Disarmament*" co-hosted by SIPRI and UNODA on August 27. Dan and Izumi Nakamitsu opened the discussion while Lora Saalman provided an overview of our research on the impact of artificial intelligence on strategic stability and nuclear risks. Both Dan and Sibylle agreed that it was a worthwhile event.
- The SMT discussed the institutional partnership with the ICRC. Current discussion is aimed at finding a topic for the joint expert round table meeting tentatively scheduled to take place in December. Another line of cooperation is a joint humanitarian fellowship. The SMT agreed that it would be useful for Sepideh to join cluster meetings to brief the colleagues on the latest developments around this and other partnerships.
- The SMT agreed to ask Sepideh to provide an update on the status of various partnerships SIPRI currently has.
- Steph reported back about the conversation between Dan and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees that took place on Aug 31.
- Steph also reported on the technology package that has been identified, which be installed at the office so as to allow SIPRI to host hybrid events. The SMT endorsed the option suggested by Steph.

- The Dutch Foreign Minister is planning to visit SIPRI on Sept 9. Luc and Steph will agree on who is going to take the lead in contacts with the Dutch embassy in Stockholm to prepare the visit.
- Steph informed the SMT about the renewed agreement with Berghof Foundation on sponsoring the translation of the YB summary in German.
- On August 27, Jannie, Martina and Dan met with Kalle Skau, the new head of the conflict, humanitarian and UN division of the Swedish MFA. It has been agreed to have a continuous informal dialogue on issues of common interest, including the Stockholm Forum.
- On Sept 4, Jannie will attend her first meeting with the SIGH-Lancet commission, together with Marina and Sigrún.
- On Sept 10, Dan and Joakim will meet the new Ambassador of France in Sweden at SIPRI.
- Joakim thanked the SMT colleagues for the warm welcome to his first SMT meeting. In the coming weeks, Joakim will be meeting key external interlocutors and also SIPRI colleagues. Meetings at the MFA with Anders Jato, NIS division, and Kalle Skau have been scheduled for Sept 7.

5. Staffing & project issues

- Anniek Barnhoorn and Kheira Tarif, RAs with the Climate Change and Risk Program, have been able to move to Stockholm.
- The RA position of the RA with the food security programme is going to be advertised.
- The EP2022 team continues the conversation with the GIZ regarding their participation in the project, and with the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs regarding secondment of a researcher.
- Florian has been our main contact point for the work to support Norwegian membership in the UNSC. Joakim will be in touch with Florian on how to develop this line of work.
- The SMT endorsed appointing Professor Jingdong Yuan as a Senior Associate status with the China programme.

6. Outreach calendar Sept-Dec

- Steph presented to the SMT the outreach calendar for the period from September to December 2020 where slots have been allocated to promoting publications and to hosting events.
- This is the first detailed SMT discussion of this subject. It was agreed to have a similar one for the comms schedule for Jan-June 2021, if possible, already in October this year so as to be able to accommodate as many individual requests as possible and to make some adjustments if or where need be.

7. Virtual Internships

- Based on the limited but successful previous experience with virtual internships in Sibylle's cluster, and in order to enhance diversity, the SMT agreed that, henceforth, SIPRI is willing to host virtual interns. This will be possible after the pandemic as well as during it.
- Virtual internships will be subject to the same conditions as standard internships; i.e., the intern will work with a designated supervisor on an aspect of SIPRI's continuing work and will be able to provide a substantial contribution to it.
- The established application and selection procedures would still apply.
- The SMT also agreed that SIPRI will now resume considering applications for "physical" internships e.g. from students or young researchers who are based in Sweden.

8. Some dates:

- The SMT will have its strategic planning meeting on Sept 22.
- Elena will look for a date for the next RSC.

9. AOB

- Nothing to report.

Action Points

- Sweden's Chairmanship in the OSCE, liaise with the MFA – Joakim
- Invite Sepideh to update clusters on various partnerships – DoSes and cluster coordinators
- Ask Sepideh to update the current list of “active” partnerships SIPRI has – Dan
- Visit of the Dutch Minister of FA – Luc/Steph
- Joakim will get in touch with Florian to be updated on the work to support Norwegian membership in the UNSC
- Date for the next RSC - Elena

Items carried forward

- KPIs finalisation
- Schedule of publications and events, Jan-June 2021 – to discuss in October 2020