

SIPRI SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

Solna, 10 March 2020

MINUTES

Participants

Sibylle Bauer (via Skype), Stephanie Blenckner, Luc van de Goor, Maria Kaemmerle, Sigrún Rawet, Dan Smith
Note-taker Elena Haapaniemi

1. MoM approval

- Approval of the minutes from the SMT meeting on March 3 was deferred until all SMT members have read and commented on them.

2. Matters arising from the 3 March SMT

- Maria has reached out to everyone whose projects have been approved to be part of the MFA strategic grant to say that they are good to go. Last adjustments relating to Marina's project are still underway. Maria said adjustments in the internal grant budget are possible if need be.

3. Corona virus

- The SMT discussed the situation in relation to the corona virus and its rapid evolution.
- The SMT agreed to adjust SIPRI policy as follows:
 - The approach to staff travel abroad is to be as restrictive as possible.
 - Staff members are encouraged to consider alternatives to travel such as Skype, Zoom and postponement, and to talk to their director of studies in case of doubt. Staff should assess the impact of changing travel plans on project implementation.
 - There is no pressure and there will be no penalty for those who will abstain from travel.
- SIPRI's management decision is made on the basis of the uncertainty of the situation on the day the decision is being made.
- Sigrún informed the SMT that Sweden's MFA has now established a special corona virus emergency group.
- Steph and Dan will update the policy and Dan will then send it to all staff.

4. Report back

- Sigrún informed the SMT about some organizational changes at Sweden's MF, namely that the KH and the UN divisions are going to be merged. It will be important for SIPRI, when the changes are being made, to ensure that all key interlocutors in the new department are well aware of SIPRI, our activities and our areas of cooperation with the MFA.
- Sigrún reported that the meeting at the MFA on March 9, discussing the forthcoming Sweden's chairmanship of the OSCE, was both positive and timely. A very good brainstorming on the priorities for the Swedish chairmanship took place. Sigrún will ensure the necessary follow up with all those concerned.

- On April 15, SIPRI plans to host a round table meeting on the OSCE. Sigrún is coordinating it. It remains to be seen whether SIPRI will proceed with the meeting considering the quickly changing corona virus situation.
- Steph informed the SMT that the media coverage of our arms transfers data has been very good, even despite other breaking news, with more than 1000 press articles and still ongoing interviews as of midday March 10.
- The SMT agreed to adjust the tentative title of the SSC 2020 to “International cooperation: navigating the way ahead”.
- Maria informed the SMT that the finance team continues to test the new financial system. The next step is to have additional persons to test it among the staff. Ulla will inform the SMT on who will do that.
- Maria informed the SMT that Lilian will shortly be sending a proposal on a new round of training for the clusters.

5. Staffing & project issues

- Luc reported that work on the JD and ad for the statistician with the Sahel team is in hand.
- Luc also reported there is still no arrival date for the two new MENA RAs who are awaiting their visas and work permits.

6. Building

- Dan shared with the SMT his intention to transform the attic into additional office space. SMT endorsed the initiative. Dan and Sigrún will take this further to Jan and to Per Taube.

7. AOB

NTR.

Action Points

- An updated corona virus SIPRI policy – Steph and Dan
- Follow up on the OSCE file – Sigrún
- Follow up on the building file – Dan and Sigrún

Items carried forward

- Indicators and benchmarks for the strategy
- INSS Korea: possible cooperation
- Series of events on multilateralism - planning
- Stockholm Forum 2020 – names of high-level key-note speakers and panelists
- Candidates to deliver SIPRI Lecture 2021