

SIPRI SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

Solna, 12 February 2019

MINUTES

Participants

Sibylle Bauer, Stephanie Blenckner, Luc van de Goor, Sigrún Rawet, Dan Smith
Note-taker Elena Haapaniemi

1. MoM approval

- Minutes of the previous meetings on Feb 5 were approved.

2. Matters arising from the previous MoM

- Sigrún confirmed that she and Luc will be meeting the CMI in Helsinki on March 8. The trip to Finland will also be used for meetings at the Finnish MFA.
- Sibylle will plan an internal discussion with the AMEX team on Russian and Iranian military expenditure during the next cluster meeting.
- Luc is in touch with the German Marshall Fund.
- Dan, Sibylle, Steph, Ian, Petr, Tytti and Shannon are meeting on Feb 13 to brainstorm on issues raised by the Nuclear Ban Treaty.

3. Report back

- Sigrún thanked Sibylle and her team for engaging in a very good discussion with the MFA division for European security policy at the meeting held earlier that day.
- Sigrún informed the SMT that the Swedish Institute of International Affairs, UI, is planning a special session to discuss the Lundin report.
- Steph informed the SMT that:
 - o the preparations for SIPRI at Almedalen have started; the date of the joint WFP-SIPRI event is set to July 2.
 - o As of Feb 18, Steph will start working with the MFA on the comms aspects of the Forum.
- Luc informed the SMT that:
 - o He discussed research on civilian compact with the MFA; this is an area of research in high demand according to the interlocutors at the MFA. The SMT discussed practical implications of eventually increasing research capacity in this area.
 - o The SAHEL team would like to formalize cooperation with four partner institutes in the region. The question is whether there is a model MoU to be used. The SMT agreed that the MoU between SIPRI and MSC can be used as an example; Steph will forward it to Luc. Dan suggested that before proceeding with new MoUs, the internal exercise of revising all the existing partnerships needs to be carried out. Sigrún is supervising this process, with Carina's

assistance. DoSes will remind all those concerned to provide relevant updates to Sigrún via Carina at the cluster meetings.

- RESOLVE network asked Gregory to join one of their Boards on counterterrorism. Dan suggested that Luc consults Gary on this, since the network is among Gary's partner organizations.
- Sibylle shared with the SMT:
 - A key take-away from the discussion with the MFA's division for European security policy is that they have a strong interest in China and cyber.
 - The cluster away-day showed there is a good level of cooperation within the cluster and also an interest in increasing cross-cluster cooperation. Sibylle will follow up with Luc and Gary.
 - Sibylle will be part of a plenary panel discussion on "Nuclear arms control" at the MSC.
- Dan provided a brief overview of
 - last week's meetings in Rome at the WFP (cooperation is on track with two pilot studies done and two to go), and
 - events in Brussels speaking on climate-related security risks to PSC ambassadors and various groups of the EU Commission.

4. Staffing & project issues

- The SMT approved extending the associate agreement with Ivana Mićić.
- The SMT discussed the need to review the associate agreement with Paul Beijer, as per his request. Dan and/or Shannon will schedule a meeting with Paul.
- Shannon has been approached by the Free University of Brussels to collaborate on a project on North Korea. Shannon will be asked to find out more.
- The SMT discussed a request from FRS in Paris to remain in the consortium it has led with framework contract for responding to requests for research and advice from the European Parliament. The follow-on call has been issued, but bids are already due on 19 February. The SMT agreed that given the tight timeline, participating in this is not a priority. Sibylle will draft a reply.
- Luc informed the SMT that Johan Schaar's consultancy contract with SIPRI ended; his associate fellowship continues.
- Sigrún and Helena are going through the applications for the DD/HR assistant position.
- Christina will be on a sick leave for around 2 weeks as of Feb 15.
- Sigrún reiterated the need to maintain a coordinated internal approach when applying for MFA grants. She will have a follow-up meeting with the MFA on Feb 15.
- Both NIS and European Security policy divisions would like to get a more detailed briefing on China. The SMT agreed that Sibylle and Lora, if available, will do that.
- Following up on the earlier discussion to revitalize the *SIPRI Circle* corporate advisors' group, Sigrún had a meeting with Per Taube. A meeting with Magnus Schöltz will follow.

5. Next RSC

- The SMT asked Elena to suggest a date for the next RSC.

6. EU research calls: H2020 and COST

- The SMT studied the list of the forthcoming calls and decided that:
 - Luc will talk to Ian on the CBRN call, inviting him to take a lead on it;
 - Sibylle will suggest Vincent and Lora follow up on the cyber call.

- The SMT reiterated that submitting a Horizon 2020 application requires serious preparatory work.
- On the COST funding, the SMT agreed that Sibylle will check whether there is someone in her cluster who would like and has the capacity to take that forward.

7. IWEP proposal

- On the suggestion of a joint conference on nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, the SMT decided that the idea is interesting, that in principle SIPRI will be willing to help but the suggested timing is unfortunate. Luc will draft a reply.
- On the joint research on the Belt and Road Initiative, the SMT agreed that it is a suggestion worth exploring. Luc will discuss it with Fei.

8. City of Ypres peace prize invitation

Dan informed the SMT that a SIPRI representative has been invited to become a member of the selection committee of the Peace Prize of the city of Ypres 2020. The SMT agreed that it will be an honour to join. Dan will draft a reply.

9. Carnegie Middle East proposal

- The suggestion to enter into partnership with the Carnegie Middle East Centre and its program on “Civil Military Relations in Arab States” came up following the seminar in Beirut in January 2019. The SMT discussed it and agreed that, provided that there is an interest from SIPRI researchers concerned (Pieter, Alexandra, Marina to name a few), such cooperation may be worthwhile. Dan will reply positively and ask for more details, while DoSes will find out who will be interested to be part of such cooperation.

10. PAD review

- As announced during the previous SMT meeting, Dan shared his conclusions after having gone through all the 57 PADs. The general impression is that there is a net improvement compared to the 2017 PAD exercise. However, there is room for further improvement, especially in the way objectives are formulated (these should be concrete, achievable and assessable, and not ‘impossible to fail’). Also, line managers should put an additional effort into preparing for the PAD talk, especially with the junior level staff. Last but not least, there is a difference in how the final assessment is being formulated – it varies from being very detailed to too concise – and at times, it is not clear from the description why the performance was judged to be outstanding.

11. AOB

NTR.

Action Points

- Internal discussion with the AMEX team on RF and Iran military expenditure - Sibylle
- Revising the existing partnership agreements at SIPRI – DoSes to remind their respective clusters; Sigrún and Carina to systemize the info
- Follow up on RESOLVE’s request – Luc
- Discuss associate status with Paul Beijer – Shannon and Dan
- Proposal from the Free University of Brussels – Shannon and Luc
- Framework contracts – Sibylle to send the reply
- Ian Davis contract renewal – Steph and Helena
- Follow up with the members of the *SIPRI Circle* – Sigrún
- Arrange a meeting with Petter Stordalen – Dan and Sigrún to contact Espen
- Date for the next RSC - Elena
- Follow up on H2020 calls for projects – Luc and Sibylle

- Follow up on COST funding - Sibylle
- Follow up on IWEP cooperation proposals – Luc
- Reply to the invitation of the Peace Prize of the city of Ypres 2020 – Dan
- Carnegie Middle East proposal – Dan to reply, Luc and Gary to check the interest within their respective clusters

Upcoming events at SIPRI

- Japan's Ministry of Defence visit – Feb 18
- Workshop on the draft Hiroshima report – March 20