

## **SIPRI SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING**

Solna, 12 March 2019

### **MINUTES**

#### Participants

Stephanie Blenckner, Luc van de Goor, Maria Kaemmerle, Sigrún Rawet, Dan Smith (via Skype)

Note-taker Elena Haapaniemi

**NB:** Upon Dan's suggestion, the SMT agreed to postpone discussion of items 7 and 8 of the agenda (Model MoU on partnerships and agreement between SIPRI and SciencesPo on internships) until the next SMT meeting.

#### 1. MoM approval

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

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

- During his meeting with the speaker of the parliament, Jan discussed holding a joint opening session of the SSC on Oct 2 according to the model used last year. A formal reply from Riksdagen should follow.
- The venue for the SSC (Norra Latin) has been booked for Oct 3.
- Luc will meet the Chinese embassy on March 15 to discuss the grant for the project. Hopefully, as a result, the team will be able to move forward with the project. Luc will do a brief bullet-point type outline of the project so as to keep the rest of the SMT up-to-date.

#### 3. Report back

- Sigrún informed the SMT on the following:

- During the MFA roundtable discussion on dialogue and peace processes that Sigrún attended earlier that day, SIPRI had been asked to share its latest knowledge on Venezuela. The request is timely since Diego and Nan have been working on a piece on military expenditure in Venezuela. Sigrún will book a time for a meeting at the MFA within the coming couple of weeks so that SIPRI can present its latest research. Dan, Sigrún, Nan and Diego (if possible, via Skype) will participate.
- The Royal Court requested information on the SSC; Luc will help with that.
- Ann Dismorr, head of the MFA MENA division, has asked whether SIPRI could provide updates on the developments in the MENA region. SIPRI does have some material; Steph can help put together a package of relevant documents.
- Both the MFA and the FBA would be interested in SIPRI providing training on climate and security to their senior field staff. Sigrún to further follow up on that.
- Following Sigrún's discussion with Inger Buxton, new dates for the joint SIPRI-MFA climate and security meeting at SIPRI need to be identified. Sigrún, Malin and Karolina will meet Inger on March 14 to discuss further strategy.

- Steph informed the SMT that:
  - The AMEX data launch is going very well. Since the launch on March 11, global media coverage includes over 1600 articles, a record.
- Dan mentioned to the SMT that:
  - He met Annika Söder; one of the take-aways is that SIPRI should be involved more in disarmament issues.
  - Dan, Jan and Sigrún paid a courtesy visit to the new development minister Peter Eriksson. The minister has been invited and is planning to attend the Forum.
- Luc reported back on his and Sigrún's trip to Helsinki. A very interesting meeting was held with the Crisis Management Initiative (CMI), where the discussion focused upon possible areas of cooperation in terms of research on the MENA region, Korean peninsula, Red Sea and the Horn of Africa. There was also a lot of interest in SIPRI's work on climate change. Dan and Malin to follow up to determine whether and where SIPRI and CMI can join forces. Furthermore, CMI's participation in one of the panels during the Forum was discussed.
- Sigrún added that the visit to Helsinki also provided an opportunity to meet with the head of the multilateral and development policy division of Finland's MFA as well as the team in charge of the Finnish presidency of the EU Council that starts on July 1, 2019. Worth highlighting that climate change and security issues are among the priorities of the presidency. The official programme will be made public in June.

#### 4. Staffing & project issues

- Dan shared with the SMT the following:
  - SIPRI seems to have a good chance of receiving a 3 million SEK grant from the Postcode Foundation for the GReVD project, for one year starting in April 2019.
  - Dan will propose to the MFA that SIPRI lead the preparation of a major report on climate, security and peace to be published at the time of the 50th anniversary of the Stockholm conference in 2022. Considering that the latest similar report was published back in 2015, an updated one would be more than timely.
- The SMT discussed Malin's proposal to recruit another Researcher and Research Assistant for the Climate Risk team. While agreeing that the point of departure for such a request is a clear internal strategy and a vision on how to further develop the program so as to, in turn, enable a clear fundraising strategy, the SMT agreed that the team in its current state is under considerable pressure and lacks resources to develop such a strategy and a vision. Dan, Sigrún and Maria will look into budget possibilities for these two recruitments.
- Luc informed the SMT on an interesting discussion he had with Fei about a possible project on looking at the developments in South Asia including from a climate perspective. Petr is looking at it upon request from an organisation in Sri Lanka. The SMT agreed that this could indeed be a very interesting project.
- Luc also informed the SMT that:
  - The no-cost extension proposal on Chad should be ready later that day and so should be the Sida III proposal.
  - Neil's proposal on the Horn of Africa will have to be downscaled, and the idea of having a conference in Nairobi should be inserted.
  - The aim is to submit the proposal from the Peace Support Operations team on the civilian compact to the MFA by the end of this week.
  - On a potential visit to Brussels, Luc will remind Gregory to follow up and will inform Sigrún accordingly.
- Sigrún informed the SMT that Ian has finalized a joint SIPRI-UI application on "Chemical Weapon Use: Assessing the Implication of June 2018 C-SS-4 Decisions" that will be forwarded to the MFA on March 12.

5. Stockholm Forum

- The SMT reviewed the draft Forum programme. The SMT agreed that the draft should be further circulated within the clusters so as to get as much feedback as possible.

6. SIPRI lecture: panellists

- Dan suggested Jan and Michelle Bachelet as the panelists for the Lecture. Jan has welcomed the idea. The SMT agreed.

7. AOB

- Maria suggested that the Operations team organize the next Cheese and Wine evening. She will look for an appropriate date.
- Sigrún updated the SMT on the status of the request from Seoul Metropolitan Government. Dan will update Jakob accordingly. Sigrún warned against taking a hasty decision.
- Jan has declined the invitation received via Kazakhstan's embassy to join the committee to nominate candidates for Nazarbayev peace prize. Elena will draft a reply.
- Dan will greet the UAE delegation coming to SIPRI on March 18.

**Action Points**

- Bullet points on the project with the China embassy - Luc
- Book time for a briefing on Venezuela for the MFA – Sigrún
- Brief info on the SSC for the Royal Court – Luc
- Climate training for the MFA and FBA senior staff – dates and further details - Sigrún
- Follow up with the CMI on possible cooperation on climate change – Dan and Malin
- Budget discussion re. new employees for the climate team – Dan, Sigrún and Maria
- Draft reply to the embassy of Kazakhstan - Elena

**Upcoming events at SIPRI**

- Visit from the UAE National Defence College – March 18
- RSC – March 19
- Workshop on the draft Hiroshima report – March 20