

SIPRI SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

13 October 2020

MINUTES

Participants

Sibylle Bauer, Stephanie Blenckner, Luc van de Goor, Maria Kaemmerle, Jannie Lilja, Dan Smith, Joakim Vaverka

Helena Berger (present for items 1-4)

Note-taker Elena Haapaniemi

The meeting was conducted via Zoom.

1. Corona virus

- For the sake of consistency and simplicity on the one hand, and in the light of the evolved knowledge on the corona virus on the other hand, the SMT agreed to impose a **7 days self-quarantine rule before coming to the office for all staff members arriving to Sweden from abroad (all countries)**. The new rule has immediate effect. Dan will inform all staff accordingly.

2. Minutes

- The minutes from the SMT meeting on October 6 were approved.

3. Matters arising

- The SMT remains positive to introducing the *& frankly* app that Lilian presented at the SMT meeting the previous week. Dan suggested discussing the matter at the HR group meeting scheduled to take place on Oct 16.

4. Report back

- Luc reported back on a very productive meeting with the UNHCR held on Oct 9. The parties discussed an ambition to have a joint project focussing on the Sahel region in the near future, building on SIPRI methodology. This initial cooperation can lead to another project in the future. Following the meeting, the UNHCR colleagues will proceed with internal discussions and come back with their proposal to Luc asap.
- Luc informed the SMT that the SSC-related work is moving forward.
- Luc reported back on the meeting held earlier that day with Charlotta Sparre, director of the Swedish Dialogue Institute for MENA (SDI) and Luna Abuswaireh, director general of the Center for Arab Unity Studies (CAUS). A possible joint virtual event was discussed, to be held in the second half of January 2021; CAUS will provide a concept note. The SDI will no longer fund the Arabic translation of the Yearbook. There was a discussion on the continuing demand for the Arabic edition and the challenge of finding alternative funders.
- Sibylle reported that the Flemish Peace Institute is interested in strengthening cooperation with SIPRI, including by co-hosting events with SIPRI in their premises in Brussels.

- Joakim has had further meetings with key interlocutors at the Swedish MFA and in Riksdagen.
- Steph reported that there is good progress on the technical side of hosting the SSC in our conference room.
- Steph informed the SMT that Ukrainian embassy requested a meeting between the Minister of Defense of Ukraine, who will be coming to Sweden on Nov 17-18, and SIPRI. Timing is a challenge, but Steph will look into possibilities.
- Dan shared with the SMT an update on the establishment of Sweden's knowledge center on nuclear disarmament. Swedish Research Council (Vetenskapsrådet) has been entrusted by the Government of Sweden to nominate an institute or a university that will host the knowledge center. Decision will be communicated latest on December 2, 2020.
- The deadline for submitting inputs for updating the Institute strategy is Oct 21 COB.

5. Staffing & project issues

- Maria suggested that clusters start coming up with project ideas under the MFA strategic grant and draft "high-level" broad concept notes with a very rough sense of the budget, to begin with. Maria will circulate an e-mail on this to the DoSes who will take it forward within their clusters.

6. IT at SIPRI

- Our software, particularly Zimbra mail system, remain a source of continued frustration. There are two sides of the problem: user-(un)friendliness and IT security. The SMT agreed to ask Magda to look for other options of Microsoft Outlook standard that would be compatible with Mac.
- Furthermore, the SMT agreed to ask Magda to organise a briefing for the SMT on IT safety and security.

7. AOB

- Elena will look into a date for the RSC prior to the November GB meeting.

Action Points

- Feedback from the HR group on the &frankly app – Helena / Dan
- Liaise with Ukrainian embassy re. MinDef visit – Steph
- Inputs for the Institute Strategy updates – SMT to Dan, latest by Oct 21 COB
- IT safety and security briefing for the SMT – Magda
- Date for the RSC - Elena

Items carried forward

- Outreach calendar Q1 2020 (to discuss in October)