

SIPRI SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

14 April 2020

MINUTES

Participants

Sibylle Bauer, Stephanie Blenckner (present for items 1-4), Luc van de Goor, Maria Kaemmerle, Sigrún Rawet, Dan Smith

Helena Berger (present for item 3)

Note-taker Elena Haapaniemi

The meeting was conducted via Zoom.

1. MoM approval

- The minutes from the SMT meeting on April 7 were approved.

2. Matters arising

- Dan sent a welcome-back-after-Easter message to all staff with a brief Covid-19 related update.
- Steph will make sure that the updated information about the SIPRI Lecture is on our website by April 15 CoB.
- Elena has done the second draft of a new Safeguarding policy; Luc will do the first review.

3. Corona virus

- All teams are doing fine, according to the feedback that is being received by the SMT members on a daily basis.
- Helena will keep joining the SMT for updates on the Corona situation every Tuesday.

4. Report back

- Sigrún informed the SMT that, after multiple delays, the government decision on the appointment of Ramtane Lamamra as SIPRI Governing Board member is expected to be taken on April 23.
- The SMT briefly discussed the existing procedures, and the way forward with nominations and the appointment of new Board members. Sigrún is following up on this with her counterparts at the MFA.
- Steph reminded the SMT that the embargo material in relation to the MILEX data launch will be released on April 20. Preparatory work for the launch is proceeding as planned. The AMEX team is preparing talking points for the interviews.
- Sibylle pointed out that the AMEX team has been meaning to focus on the relationship between military spending and social and health spending for quite some time. This could be the focus of a very interesting research project.
- Sibylle and Luc had a zoom call with Friends of Europe, Brussels-based think tank, to discuss possible cooperation on the Arctic and possibly more topics. The FoE suggested SIPRI should use them as a platform to launch some of SIPRI work in Brussels and vice versa. Formalising this partnership in an MoU is not necessary from SIPRI perspective. A

follow-up call is planned to get a better idea of the FoE's Arctic related research. Luc and Katia will be taking that discussion forward.

- On April 20, Sigrún will take part in an expert panel on SDG 16 organised as part of a "A Sustainable Start" seminar series by Able Foundation in cooperation with Sweco and Clarion Hotel Sign. The discussion, in Swedish, will be available later also in the form of a podcast.

5. Staffing & project issues

- Dan informed the SMT on the progress of cooperation with the MSB on organizing two roundtable discussions that will gather around 20 participants each. Dan welcomed suggestions from the SMT on potential participants.
- Recruitment processes of the DD, SR WFP and EP2022 team are all moving along.
- Maria is working on the budget revision, in close cooperation with project managers. She will reach out to respective SMT members as need be.
- Sigrún provided an update on the technical means we will use for the Forum. It includes possible use of a studio plus software that will be leased by SIPRI during May-June. After the Forum and until the end of June this software is available to other SIPRI teams, even though Zoom remains our main tool for all virtual meetings and events. Sigrún and Martina can provide more details to those interested. Dan, who is going to moderate two Forum sessions, will have a possibility to test the equipment during the coming week.
- Luc provided an update on the projects' status in his cluster:
 - All teams are staying in touch with the funders on how Covid-19 affects their projects; funders are showing a lot of flexibility.
 - The data launch for Jair's and Timo's work on peace operations is on track.
 - All the proposals that the cluster planned to submit have been already sent to the donors or will be sent by the end of the current week.
 - The joint SIPRI-Japanese Embassy workshop is being rescheduled to take place, tentatively, in the end of September.
- Luc and Sigrún discussed the best way to present the 1325-related work on peace operations. The idea is to have fact sheets that will be updated every year. Most probably, these fact sheets will include 6-7 infographics with supporting text. Luc will look further into this and discuss with Sigrún.
- Luc informed the SMT that Gregory has been approached by UNDP in Mali to include the impact of Covid-19 in the region as part of our perception survey. The Mali team is looking into the feasibility of this. In parallel, the Finnish MFA has approached Jair suggesting looking into the impact of Covid-19 on peacekeeping.
- Luc informed the SMT about the contact he had with the ICG office in Colombia on the Crisis Group interest in getting involved in parts of the work SIPRI does for the UNEP e.g. in analyzing political economy. Luc suggested adopting a pragmatic approach to such cooperation i.e. it is welcome but does not need to be formalized through a formal written agreement. The SMT endorsed such approach.

6. Stockholm Forum: progress

- Sigrún provided an update on the progress in organising the virtual Forum. Three high-level panels are scheduled to take place on May 11, 12 and 13 respectively. The process of identifying participants for the panels is underway. "Virtual coffee-breaks" have been added in conjunction with high-level panels. There will be one consultation with the World Bank and one with the UN as well as events organised by Forum partners. The UN Secretary-General is being invited to do a video message to address Forum participants. Quite a few partners approached SIPRI with interesting new proposals.

- Reporting requires special attention. Sigrún invited the SMT members to suggest SIPRI staff who could contribute to speedy reporting.
- All in all, the virtual Forum is shaping up nicely. Sigrún will continue discussing further details with her counterparts at the MFA on April 16.

7. SSC-2020: concept note

- Luc walked the SMT through the updated concept note. The SSC-2020 will provide a platform for discussions in an attempt to examine the future of international cooperation under the scrutiny of a new reality and new challenges caused by the pandemic, but not only. The ambition is to get a truly broad geographical perspective in the discussion. It will be a one-day event with an opening plenary, 6 breakout sessions and a closing plenary. There still is a flexibility so as to the topics.
- The SMT endorsed the concept. Next steps include additional feedback on the concept note from the SMT to Luc (ideally, by April 16 at the latest) and then feedback from the clusters and from potential partners. At the next SMT, first thoughts on possible speakers can be shared. Then, partners need to be identified, and budget to be looked at.

8. Building

- Dan pointed out the need to follow up on the renovation of the attic. Maria will liaise with Jonas Svensson of Gelba, our landlord. A necessary step early in the process is to approach Solna local municipality to inquire about building permission as an external fire escape will be needed. There was a discussion about costs and extending the lease on the building beyond its current expiry date in 2025.

9. Update on SIPRI strategy indicators & baseline

- Luc's cluster has done the homework; Sibylle will have further discussions with her cluster during the coming week; Fred and Nikos are expected to join Sigrún's and Dan's cluster for a discussion on strategy indicators and baseline shortly.

10. AOB

- NTR.

Action Points

- Review of the draft Safeguarding policy – Luc
- Feedback on the SSC-2020 concept note – SMT to Luc
- Follow up on the building renovation – Dan and Maria

Items carried forward

- Speakers for the SSC-2020
- Equal Opportunities, Diversity and Anti-discrimination Policy