

## **SIPRI SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING**

14 May 2020

### **MINUTES**

#### Participants

Sibylle Bauer, Stephanie Blenckner, 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 of the SMT meeting on May 5 were approved.

#### 2. Matters arising

- The SMT agreed on the set-up during the virtual all-staff meeting with the State Secretary Per Olsson Fridh on May 15. All staff members will be informed accordingly.

#### 3. Corona virus

- The SMT reiterated that SIPRI continues to follow official Sweden's guidelines.
- Helena will draft the text of an email with the latest updates from the Swedish government that Dan will send out to the staff.

#### 4. Report back

- The SMT is beginning to gather information on how the current situation affects funding prospects beyond 2020 and will have an in-depth discussion on these issues in the near future. SIPRI financial situation and funding will also be discussed at the GB meeting.
- Steph informed the SMT that preparations for the peacekeeping data launch (embargo May 20, live May 27) are proceeding as planned.
- Steph provided the SMT with an update on visualisations of Forum sessions on SIPRI platform. The numbers continue to increase. The opening session has had, as of 10 am on May 15, 4400 viewers from 80 countries which shows that livestreams on our YouTube channel are extremely popular.
- Sigrún summarised the results of the virtual Forum, expressing her sincere gratitude to all those who contributed - and continue to do so - to the successful conduct of the Forum. SIPRI should be proud of what has been achieved in such a short time and under such exceptional circumstances. It is remarkable how many important messages have been launched in the past three days from Forum's virtual platform. There has also been tremendous feedback and comments from the participants.

#### 5. Staffing & project issues

- SMT endorsed Kolja's project to look into the humanitarian impact of sanctions to be financed under the MFA grant.

- Sigrún informed the SMT that on June 4, the EP 2022 team including the head of the project panel Margot Wallström will have a chance to brief the State Secretaries Eva Svedling and Per Olsson Fridh on the project.
- Luc informed the SMT that Gregory is working on formalising cooperation with the French government (fragility department at the French general directorate of globalization, DGM). Gregory is also in touch with the UNDP exploring opportunities for further cooperation.
- David Michael has signed up as SR and senior writer on the EP 2022. With Karolina transiting to the position of the Project Coordinator, the EP2022 team is almost complete.

#### 6. Budget forecast

- The SMT briefly discussed the budget forecast prepared and circulated by Maria. SMT endorsed the forecast. Some presentational adjustments will be made to the documents being presented to the forthcoming Board meeting.

#### 7. Board meeting

- Sigrún informed the SMT that most of the documents for the Board meeting on 25-26 May have been sent out. The rest will shortly be sent. Jan, Dan and Sigrún will meet early next week to prepare for the Board meeting. In terms of practicalities, Jan, Dan and Sigrún will be in the SIPRI conference room during the Board meeting. It would be good to have IT support on the spot. Maria will check whether that would be feasible.

#### 8. MSB

- Luc informed the SMT that the issue of our engagement with the MSB came up during his meeting with program directors. The status of cooperation is as follows: Malin has worked with the MSB in the past, and Vincent is still working on a joint project with the agency. Steph confirmed that discussions with the MSB on the launch of Vincent's report are underway. This will most probably happen during the third week of August but the dates are still to be confirmed. Dan and Luc will confer about how to approach MSB to discuss future cooperation.

#### 9. SSC-2020

- The SMT decided to plan for a virtual SSC. Sharing lessons from the virtual Forum will be essential throughout the whole planning phase. Sigrún shared two first ones:
  - organising a virtual event requires considerably more effort and time than a physical meeting and
  - the online audience has a much shorter attention span.
- The SMT agreed to explore different technical options to convene the SSC virtually. It will be beneficial to have a presentation for the SMT by Martina and/or Johanna who have looked hard at the available options.

#### **Action Points**

- Adjust the budget forecast – Maria
- Check whether IT support at the office is possible on May 25 and 26 - Maria
- Discuss how to approach the MSB – Dan and Luc
- Briefing of the SMT by Martina and/or Johanna – tentatively May 27

#### **Items carried forward**

- Equal Opportunities, Diversity and Anti-discrimination Policy
- Funding prospects beyond 2020