



SIPRI SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

15 December 2020

MINUTES

Participants

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

Helena Berger (present for item 1)

Note-taker Elena Haapaniemi

The meeting was conducted via Zoom.

1. Corona virus

- There are no further changes to the existing guidelines at this point.
- The SMT expressed gratitude to Helena for all the help and valuable advice in dealing with the pandemic that she has been providing throughout the year.

2. Minutes

- The minutes from the SMT meetings on December 1 and December 8 were approved.

3. Matters arising

- The SMT strategic away-day will take place on January 21, 2021. Depending on the corona situation in Belgium and in Sweden, Sibylle will participate either in person or digitally. Elena will book the conference facility.
- Joakim has gathered project ideas from the colleagues at SIPRI to discuss with NIS. First feedback is to be expected after the Christmas break.

4. SSC 2021 – themes and thoughts

- The SMT discussed a possible theme, format and financing of the SSC 2021 as well as its branding as compared to the Forum. SMT agreed on the theme of **urban warfare** for SSC 2021: understanding recent developments and their implications for the civilian population, for humanitarian actors and for international humanitarian law. Among other reasons in favour, the ICRC expressed strong interest in the issue of urban warfare at the joint SIPRI-ICRC roundtable on 4 December.
- Focusing on urban warfare could be a starting point in a series of future conferences on the development of modern means and methods of warfare.
- Apart from the ICRC, potential partners could include the UNHCR and Mercy Corps and/or other partners in the humanitarian and security sectors.
- Luc and Sibylle will jointly develop the concept and present it to the SMT.

5. MFA strategic grant allocations: 3rd step in the discussion

- Dan stressed the importance of not committing the whole of the strategic grant at this time so as to retain some flexibility for later in 2021.
- The SMT went through the list of project proposals on the basis of the provisional categorisations made the previous week.
- The main criteria applied was whether the project is strategic for the Institute, whether it is DACable and whether there could be alternative funding sources.
- Ten projects were provisionally approved; for all those projects, the budgets need to be set out in detail and trimmed down.
- Responsible DoSes will inform project initiators accordingly who will adapt the drafts and submit them to Maria.
- Sibylle questioned how Forum financing is used to cover staff time for preparing sessions.
- Joakim will call for a separate meeting on the OSCE related work.

6. Report back

- Steph reported back on the successful arms industry data launch. Alex is compiling an in-depth media report that she will share with the staff as soon as completed. Steph suggested having a discussion on lessons learnt from this launch at some point in the future.
- Florian and Vitaly have been nominated as members of a group to discuss access to scientific journals. Sibylle confirmed that the A&D cluster has access to all sources of information it needs and sees no need for a cluster representative on the task force.
- Dan reported back about being invited to join Action Track 5 on resilience as part of the preparatory work for the UN Food Systems Summit. WFP is the supporting UN institution for that track and will be Dan's partner in this line of work, also providing required research capacity.

7. Staffing & project issues

- Jannie presented two job descriptions to the SMT: one to hire a RA to replace Gulzhan and one to hire an additional researcher/senior researcher (depending on the profile of the candidate) on peacebuilding. The SMT gave a green light to proceed with the recruitment of a RA. As for the researcher position, the SMT greenlighted going ahead with advertising but will arrive at a final decision on recruitment in the context of a fuller discussion of staffing. Jannie will be in touch with Helena to follow up on both decisions.

8. AOB

- Dan asked the SMT to share with Elena details on their planned Christmas leaves.

Action Points

- Jannie will contact Helena directly for the job ads
- First concept of the SSC 2021 – Luc and Sibylle
- Continue working on the project proposals under the grant – project leads, DoSes to pass information, Maria to compile
- OSCE related work, follow up; NIS financing – Joakim

Items carried forward

Project management guidelines
& frankly survey – next steps
SIPRI publications: quality control process and responsibilities
Arms industry data launch – lessons learnt
Staffing overview