

SIPRI SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

Solna, 15 January 2019

MINUTES

Participants

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

Note-taker Elena Haapaniemi

1. MoM approval

- Minutes of the previous meetings on Dec 18 were approved.

2. Matters arising from the previous MoM

- Sigurd and Sibylle will take the conversation with NIS forward.
- Sigrún pointed out that Lars-Erik Lundin's report on the consequences of a Swedish accession to the Nuclear Weapon Ban Treaty might be released already on Friday Jan 18. Steph will ensure the necessary follow up in terms of outreach, also based on bullet points drafted earlier by Shannon.

3. Report back

- Steph reported that Neil Melvin is coming to Stockholm and would like to use this opportunity to launch his Horn of Africa report on Jan 24 or 25 at the Swedish MFA. Sigrún will contact the MFA to see whether this is possible at such a short notice.
- Steph will contact Suyoun for an update of the WFP related work.
- Sibylle reported that she attended:
 - o The conference in Wilton Park on non-proliferation and the 2020 NPT Review Conference;
 - o The Seventh EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Conference for which SIPRI got a lot of credit, even though the Institute did not organise it;
 - o A meeting on the NPT at NATO organised by BASIC and the Swedish Foreign Ministry.
- Talking about future events, Sibylle highlighted a high-profile conference on technology with focus on bio on the one hand and LAWS, cyber and hypersonics on the other. The conference will be organised by the German MFA on March 15. It will be a good opportunity for SIPRI to present the bio plus work. Sibylle is a part of the organising group and will in this capacity attend the working meeting in Berlin on Jan 17.
- Maria provided feedback from the latest cooperation meeting.
- Luc reported back on the Japanese MFA Annual Workshop on CBRN held at SIPRI on January 14. A successful meeting, according to both Luc and the Japanese Embassy. The Embassy expressed the wish to continue with this initiative, eventually expanding it in 2020. SIPRI stand on that shall be further discussed between Luc and Ian.
- Luc informed the SMT about the outcome of the internal meeting held on Jan 11 with a view to start planning for the SSC. The tentative title is "Future of Armed Conflicts" which Dan suggested to complete with a link to technology. Ideas were exchanged as to possible partners and partnership forms. The SMT agreed that the detailed planning and a draft budget should be prepared as soon as possible. The roles have been distributed as

follows: Dan will follow up with Per Taube about his contact with Petter Stordalen as to the location; Sibylle, Luc, Katia and Ulla will draft a budget. Dan and Sibylle will provide advice on concrete partners, where needed. Sibylle stressed the need to encourage initiatives aimed at using the SSC arena to launch or to conclude projects or else to present project results.

- Gary informed the SMT about the two scheduled GReVD workshops, one on Feb 5 and 6 in Washington DC and the second one on Feb 12 and 13 in Geneva.
- Sigrún reported back on the positive answers she received from all the SIPRI associates on their wish to continue cooperation with the Institute.
- Sigrún informed the SMT about a series of forthcoming meetings to which different Swedish authorities have invited SIPRI. Thus there will be a meeting at the FBA during the coming week and also a meeting on climate and security at the MFA on Jan 24.
- Sigrún informed the SMT that NIS's annual visit to SIPRI is scheduled on Jan 28 starting at 13:00. The SMT briefly discussed the best set-up for that day. The meeting could kick-off with sandwiches served in the library and, as to the substance, Dan could do the introductory remarks with Sibylle focussing on A&D. Aude, Mark, Shannon and Vincent should be speaking too. Sibylle will bring this up on the cluster meeting scheduled for Jan 16 while Steph will share with the SMT the set up for the same event held last year.
- Sigrún reminded the SMT about HRH Crown Princess's visit to SIPRI scheduled on Jan 31 between 09:30 and 11:30. The purpose is to inform the Crown Princess (who is an SDG Ambassador) about the whole of SIPRI including the research into arms control and newly emerged technologies, on SIPRI's work on the SDGs and on the climate change but also to introduce dialogue work and GReVD. Sigrún and Elena will draft a detailed programme.
- Sigrún informed the SMT that Oslo Nobel Peace Prize Center will organise a conference on climate on Sept 4-5. Potentially, of high interest for SIPRI.
- Dan mentioned in his report back the ongoing discussions on climate risk and security with various partners and expressed the hope to have a discussion on that with the MFA too.

4. Staffing & project issues

- Dan informed the SMT that:
 - o the Postcode Foundation came up with additional questions as to the GReVD pilot project. Dan and Gary to follow up.
 - o Vincent is working on the draft SIPRI strategy on newly emerged technologies. Dan sent his comments on the first draft back to Vincent. The ambition is to have an internal discussion with a few external experts, and Dan and Sibylle already came up with a list of six names. Such internal discussion can be scheduled alongside an event on arms control.
- Sigrún provided an update on the Sahel programme: she has been following up the financial aspects, together with Lena and Maria, and will submit the documentation to the MFA, together with the new application for funding.
- Luc informed the SMT that Aurélien will be travelling to Bamako during the coming week for a series of meetings.
- Maria reminded about the next round of audit controls that will take place in February. The SMT reiterated that all reporting shall be on time and in line with project requirements.
- Steph reminded all the DoS's that they need to approve all publications before they go to the editorial team.
- Steph suggested that she should participate in the next meeting of the HR group to brief the group members on specific aspects to take into account while recruiting communication staff.

- Sibylle will be sending to the SMT a request to grant the status of SIPRI Associate Senior Researcher to Sam Perlo-Freeman to discuss at the next SMT.
- The SMT agreed that it is important that the associates report back on the events they attend in their capacity as SIPRI associates.
- Maria informed the SMT that one of the IT consultants, Mikael Jonasson, is planning to retire. Magda is looking into finding a replacement.
- Gary informed the SMT about continuing contact with DFID on GReVD.

5. Peace and Development Forum update

- Gary provided a brief update on the preparatory work for the 2019 Forum. It is going well and all the partners - currently around 25 - are lined up. About 80 per cent of sessions' content has been agreed upon.

6. Partnerships

a. Accord – email from Vasu Gounden

The SMT discussed the follow up on the cooperation proposal received from Vasu Gounden. The founder of Accord suggests partnering on the research capacity building and on the intergenerational dialogues' initiative which is one of the recent initiatives of Accord. The SMT agreed in principle on the first partnership, with some reservations. The general impression is that it is a good proposal and that, when implemented, it could strengthen both Accord and SIPRI, not in the least allowing SIPRI to increase its network on the African continent. However, the practicalities need to be further studied; furthermore, SIPRI will suggest making it a three-year project rather than a year one. As for the intergenerational dialogues, SIPRI will not enter into partnership with Accord; however, Vasu Gounden could use the Forum as a platform for finding potential partners.

b. SIGHT – next steps

Sigrún briefed the SMT on the latest developments in SIGHT's project to run a Lancet Commission on health, gender and peace, focussing on SDGs 3, 5 and 16. She has been invited to be a member of the commission. It is a five year project that will be officially launched on May 9-10 in Stockholm. From SIPRI's side, Gulzhan has been already working on it.

7. AOB

- A&D Cluster is organising wine and cheese AW on Feb 6.
- Munich Security Conference cooperation: Steph confirmed that there will be a lunch meeting, the same as in 2018. The theme will be "The Crisis of Arms Control".
- Gary will be in Bamako next week and part of the week after.
- Sibylle will not be in Stockholm and will Skype in for the SMT.
- Sigrún will not be able to attend the SMT next week.

Action Points

- Press line on Lundin's report – Steph and Dan
- Launch of Horn of Africa report – Sigrún
- SSC prep work – Luc, Sibylle, Katia, Ulla and other staff members concerned
- HRH Crown Princess Victoria visit, draft programme – Sigrún and Elena
- Feedback to the Postcode Foundation on GReVD – Dan and Gary
- Application on GReVD to DFID – Gary
- Reply to Vasu Gounden - Dan

Items carried forward

- NTR.

Upcoming events at SIPRI

- NIS annual visit to SIPRI – Jan 28
- HRH Crown Princess – Jan 31
- Itay Fischendler talking on the Israel-Palestine water conflict, Dan moderating – Feb 1