

SIPRI SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

Solna, 15 November 2018

MINUTES

Participants

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

1. MoM approval

- Minutes of the previous meeting on Nov 6 were approved.

2. Matters arising from the previous MoM

- Luc reported on the outcome of the meeting with Johan Schaar. It was agreed to broaden the scope of the current programme proposal so as to include governance related issues along with the climate change ones, this along the lines of different scenarios. Next steps and directions will be discussed at the upcoming internal meeting on Dec 20.
- Sigrún confirmed that all the preparatory documents for the upcoming meeting of SIPRI Governing Board have been forwarded to the Board members.

3. Report back

- Steph reported that the SIPRI report on transparency in military spending in sub-Saharan Africa will be released on Nov 19.
- Gary reported back on a meeting at the Swedish MFA he, Sigrún and Martina had earlier that day to proceed with the preparations for 2019 Forum.
- The Paris Peace Forum that Gary attended last week was useful mostly for the contacts and side meetings and not for the contents. Gary had an interesting side meeting with a representative from Google that could be useful in implementing the GReVD project.
- Gary has further meetings scheduled for the coming days as to move forward on GReVD, with Magnus Öberg, director of the Uppsala Conflict Data Programme, and with the University of Maryland.
- Sibylle, who also attended the Paris Peace Forum, reported back on an interesting session moderated by Wolfgang Ischinger and also on a number of fruitful side meetings, mostly centred on the subject of emerging technologies.
- Sibylle has been invited by the German MFA to speak at a workshop on arms control on Nov 22 in Berlin. This is very positive indeed and can be considered as one of the direct impacts of the recent meeting between SIPRI and Susanne Baumann, German Federal Government Commissioner for Disarmament and Arms Control.
- Sibylle informed the SMT about a meeting with Ann-Sofie Nilsson, the Swedish Disarmament Ambassador, that she and Sigrún had on Nov 7. A very good starting point for cooperation.

4. Staffing & project issues

- Maria reminded the SMT that it is imperative to continue with the bi-monthly HR meetings even though, at times, it might be challenging to fit them in the agendas of all those concerned.
- The SMT approved the promotion of Shannon Kile to Programme Director of the Nuclear Disarmament, Arms Control and Non-proliferation programme and congratulated him.
- The SMT discussed the profile for the new hire after Emma ends her current contract of employment. Sigrún and Maria will draft the job description.
- Steph underlined the good job with the visuals and not only, that is being done by Shannen Young, the comms intern.
- Sigrún informed the SMT on the MFA's approval of SIPRI's Horn of Africa proposal. NB: This being a one year project, the MFA financing is to last until the end of December 2018.

5. Budget 2019

- Maria presented the draft working budget. The SMT agreed to forward it to the Governing Board for discussion at the Board meeting on Nov 26-27. It will also be presented in outline at the next RSC meeting scheduled for Nov 16. In the meantime, Maria will proceed with bilateral discussions with the DoS's to clarify some points and check various planning assumptions.
- The clear strength of the present draft budget is that 75 per cent of it is based upon secured income. The vulnerability consists in the fact that 83 per cent of SIPRI income is provided by sources in Sweden. A further challenge is that most of our grants cover a one-year period or less. One of the key objectives is to achieve a larger diversity of our sources of income.

6. Yearbook 2019: chapter outlines

- The SMT agreed on signing off the chapters on MILEX (04), on Arms Transfers and Arms Production (05) and on Conventional Arms Control (09).
- Luc will give additional feedback on the Peace and Conflict chapter (02) and on the Peacekeeping chapter (03) directly to the communications and editorial team.

7. SSC19

- Stressing the fact that it is essential to continue differentiating between the two flagship SIPRI yearly events, the Forum and the Security Conference, the SMT discussed the topic, possible external partnerships, tentative dates and, most importantly, the question of which cluster should take the lead in the process of organising the next the SSC 2019. The SMT agreed that the Conflict and Peace cluster will assume the leading role this time. Important to keep in mind though that the SSC is an all-institute joint effort and does not only reflect competence and issues within that cluster. Three main conclusions, so far, as to the format:
 - o There needs to be continuity;
 - o There needs to be evolution too and
 - o There needs to be a high-level partnership.

8. AOB

NTR.

Action Points

- Job description – Sigrún and Maria
- Bilaterals on the draft 2019 budget – Maria and DoSes
- YB Chapters 02 and 03 outlines – Luc and the comms and editorial teams
- Ideas and concepts on the SSC19 – Luc and Dan

Items carried forward

- Data visualisation proposal
- Draft IT user guide.
- Memo comparing new mail systems.
- Associate Fellows: systematising our approach

Cross-cluster upcoming dates

Meeting of the SIPRI Governing Board – Nov 26-27

Christmas lunch – December 7