

## SIPRI SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

16 June 2020

### MINUTES

#### Participants

Sibylle Bauer, Stephanie Blenckner, Luc van de Goor, Maria Kaemmerle, Sigrún Rawet, Dan Smith (not present for item 2 and 3)

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 June 9 were approved.

#### 2. Matters arising

- NTR.

#### 3. Corona virus

- Helena has received six requests for working from the office during the month of July. Sigrún and the other DoSes will forward additional names to Helena. Helena will follow up with staff members concerned.
- The SMT will decide at its next meeting how to adjust the morning check-in system during the vacation period e.g. by introducing a weekly rotating DoS on stand-by.
- Helena will send a reminder about the Midsummer day-off on Friday June 19 to all staff.

#### 4. Report back

- Sibylle provided an update from the AMEX team on expanding the existing set of databases to include domestic arms procurement data and data on arms import. This is a project funded by the Finnish MFA. A first internal scoping report will go to the Finnish MFA on June 18. It will be followed by an insight paper in the fall in which the team is going to suggest that Finland should convene a donor conference in Helsinki to pitch the database idea to different countries. Sibylle suggested that the SMT should discuss the conference after the summer break.
- Sibylle informed the SMT about the virtual workshop “*Strengthening Non-proliferation and Disarmament Education in Europe*” organised by the EU Non-Proliferation Consortium on June 23-24. Some 30 to 40 universities across Europe are expected to participate and to share their experiences on how to strengthen non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament education. Participants will also discuss online teaching, distance learning and ways forward.
- Sibylle reminded the SMT that in the end of August, SIPRI will host a summer school on disarmament education together with Odessa University. There are ongoing discussions so as to the format (hybrid, most probably).
- Luc informed the SMT that the SAHEL team’s work funded by the DFID grant has been launched. The SIPRI team is also in contact with the EU Delegation in Bamako about the new phase of the project.

- Steph shared the first results following the nuclear data launch which has received very good coverage - more than 1400 articles.
- Sigrún reported back on a meeting she, Dan and Martina had with Carl Skau, Christian Fogelström and Anna Hällerman from the Swedish MFA to discuss the strategic partnership between SIPRI and the new UD-FN division at the Ministry that will cover UN, conflict and humanitarian issues. The meeting was held in a very positive atmosphere and the discussion was centered around relevant SIPRI initiatives for the coming fall.
- Sigrún reiterated the need for all SIPRI teams who in one way or the other collaborate with the MFA, to stay in touch with their counterparts and to inform through a friendly e-mail on all new initiatives, publications, successes etc. Maintaining contacts with our strategic partners and keeping them up-to-date on our work is very important.
- Sigrún also provided an update from the Swedish police that has now closed the case on the alleged threats to our staff linked to the recent nomination of the new Board member. The police examined all the evidence very carefully. However, there were not enough elements that would allow pressing charges or giving any further concrete follow up to the case. Should there be a need for it, we can always contact the officer who was in charge of the file. The management will continue monitoring this situation closely.
- Dan informed the SMT that he has agreed with Claire that she will brief the SMT on the EoP2022 project at the last SMT meeting before the summer break on June 30.
- On June 24, Dan has been invited to discuss leadership with a focus on peacebuilding and security on the international level together with Robert Egnell, Vice Chancellor of the Swedish Defence University. This will be the first one in their webinar series on the topic of leadership. It will be recorded and should be made available on the University website.

#### 5. Staffing & project issues

- Recruitment of the statistician for the Sahel team is in its final stage, and the one of the *ad hoc* DUAT program director is going ahead smoothly.
- Grégory has been working on the draft grant agreement between SIPRI and the French MFA. Luc will check with Gregory on the required next steps and will also, if possible, circulate a copy of the draft agreement among the SMT before the next meeting.
- Luc is waiting for the feedback on the draft Safeguarding policy from Siemon (in his capacity as SIPRI safety officer).
- Dan and Luc met with a candidate for the China/Asia program director position that still is to be filled. Luc will follow up to explore the possibilities further.
- On June 15, Claire and Maria met with the GIZ to discuss potential funding for the EoP2022. Claire and Lena will now take this forward.
- Considering that SIPRI does disarmament education, Sibylle suggested that it would be good to have a professor among SIPRI staff. One of the lines of work would include looking at how SIPRI publications can be made more accessible to students as teaching materials. There is a lot of unexplored potential there.
- Sibylle reported back about her discussion with Lora on her thoughts on the role of China in arms control. Sibylle suggested organising a strategic discussion at SIPRI on this issue at some point.

#### 6. SSC

- Luc walked the SMT through the SSC concept note. It had already been agreed that the Conference entitled "*International Cooperation: Navigating the Way Ahead*" will take place online. The SMT then discussed substance, format and logistics.
- On substance, the SMT approved the concept note and asked Luc, Sibylle and their respective teams to take the work forward. Some details on the order of the meetings need

to be fleshed out further, depending on the setup. The narrative was approved, but some attention needs to be paid to the South-south/North-South dimension.

- On format:
  - a. The SMT agreed with the proposition of a four-day meeting in the afternoon, Stockholm time, with two sessions each day;
  - b. The dates were agreed as 17-20 November;
  - c. Noting that 17 November is the second day of the Governing Board meeting, and that the safe planning assumption is that the Board will again meet virtually, it was agreed to do without an opening day as such;
  - d. The role of a High Level day, including potential studio facilities is to be discussed as part of the 4-day setup. Lessons from the Forum (order of meetings not sequential in the traditional way) will be applied.
  - e. The High Level day, which would involve some Board members will be 18 November;
  - f. There was a discussion of asking Jan to kick off the even on Tuesday 17 with a pre-recorded keynote of 12-15 minutes, and further discussion of starting each day in this way;
  - g. The SMT stressed the importance of choosing and briefing panelists carefully.
- On logistics, the SMT approved the arrangement outlined in the concept note.

#### **7. Follow-up from RSC discussion on finances**

- To follow up on the discussion on financial situation at the RSC based on the background paper drafted by Dan, the SMT discussed ways to improve and/or support project application processes at SIPRI. The conclusion is that we are looking at very different needs that might be impossible to match by one person or one position. Furthermore, we cannot afford to have a fully funded additional capacity on our core staff at the moment.
- The SMT suggested including mutual help with review project applications in all research staff job descriptions. This should also become a standing item at all cluster meetings.
- In addition, special *ad hoc* editorial help for major proposals – not for every single proposal – could also be beneficial. SMT and/or HR group will discuss this further.
- The SMT also emphasized the vital importance of reporting. SIPRI is not good at reporting; this is something that we need to get better at.

#### **8. AOB**

- NTR.

#### **Action Points**

- Tentative comms calendar for the second half of the year – Steph to the SMT
- Circulate a copy of the draft agreement between SIPRI and the French MFA, once available – Luc
- Include reviewing each other's project proposals as a responsibility in researchers' JDs – TBC after further discussion

#### **Items carried forward**

- Equal Opportunities, Diversity and Anti-discrimination Policy