

## SIPRI SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

Solna, 17 September 2019

### MINUTES

#### Participants

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

#### 1. MoM approval

- Minutes of the previous SMT meeting on 10 Sept were approved.

#### 2. Matters arising from the previous MoM

- Dan, Elena and Luc are working on defining the areas of cooperation between SIPRI and UNHCR. Initial suggestions from the UNHCR are rather ambitious and include:
  - analysis with focus on root causes of forced displacement and conditions of return with the aim of having predictable and high-level research capacity available;
  - analysis aimed at bridging the gap between HDP nexus actors in practice and
  - support enhanced emergency response by better mapping of conflict and information data.

Phone discussion with the UNHCR focal point is scheduled for Sept 18 where we expect our counterparts to comment on their expectations on the above. The SMT agreed to discuss the substance of our cooperation with the UNHCR more into detail at the next SMT meeting. In this regard, hearing lessons learned from the WFP partnership would be most useful.

- The SMT away day is booked for October 15 at Bergendal conference center. Sigrún invited the other SMT members to get back to her if they have suggestions for the agenda.

#### 3. Report back

- Sigrún informed the SMT that the Swedish Parliament agreed to host a SIPRI lecture on October 23, between 10:00 and 12:00. The topic is still to be defined, it might be either on the emerging technologies or on climate change and risks.
- Sweden's budget will be presented to the parliament on September 18. Sigrún will keep the SMT and the rest of SIPRI staff updated. The amount of SIPRI core grant is expected to remain unchanged.
- Sigrún participated as one of the speakers alongside with Annika Söder (who remains the State Secretary for FA) at the UN Talks event on the implementation of SDGs 10, 13 and 16 organised by the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation and UNDP on Sept 17 at Medelhavsmuseet. It was a conversation on conclusions from the global review of the 2030 Agenda at the HLPF in July and expectations of the upcoming SDG Summit in September.
- Sigrún had a first meeting with the MFA on the Forum 2020. Jago Salmon who was at SIPRI for a couple of days, joined the meeting. Our internal objective now is to finalise the draft concept note. Sigrún invited Gary to provide his feedback on the draft.

- On Sept 15, Sigrún sent, informally, the application for the MFA grant to her counterpart at the KH department. She now expects the first unofficial feedback that will allow us to adjust the draft where and if need be.
- Sigrún had a lunch with Lars-Erik Lundin. Now that his report on the consequences of the possible Swedish accession to the treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons has been handed over to the Swedish parliament, Lars-Erik would like to resume his collaboration with SIPRI. Sigrún invited Sibylle, Steph and the rest of the SMT to suggest the areas where Lars-Erik's contribution to our work would bring an added value.
- Gary is organising a cluster meeting remotely on September 19.
- Gary informed the SMT that Florian will travel to the US to attend the UN Climate Action Summit scheduled for September 21-23.
- Steph informed that the latest publication by Malin, Florian and Camilla will be finalized shortly; the aim is to launch it to our networks on September 20.
- Steph informed the SMT that she will join the SAHEL team – Fred, Mamadou and Virginie – for a major launch of the findings of the first phase of the EU funded project in Mali.

#### 4. Staffing & project issues

- Luc will be interviewing short-listed candidates for the RA MENA position on Sept 26 and 27.
- Luc is still looking for the solutions on taking the Horn of Africa projects forward following Neil's resignation.
- Sibylle and Dan will be interviewing the short-listed candidates for the AMEX PD position, tentatively in the beginning of October.
- The SMT discussed upcoming visits of delegations from Korean universities.
- Gary will take part in the consultations on the second phase of our collaboration with the WFP scheduled for next week (dates TBC), along with Dan, Caroline and Suyoun.
- Recruitments for the comms department (Harri's replacement and a communications editor) are underway. Additionally, a new intern Johanna Eliasson, will be joining the comms team as of next week.
- The SMT briefly discussed the position of a Partnerships Director. The discussion will be resumed next week.

#### 5. PADs

- The SMT had an initial discussion about the PAD process this year, with a focus on the "objectives" part of the assessment. Objectives continue to vary considerably within the institute, from high to low and from concrete to vague, thus making an objective and consistent performance assessment challenging. Important to have a discussion with line managers on this.

#### 6. SSC19

- Luc provided the latest update on the SSC; we still need to strengthen some of the panels with additional speakers. The SMT briefly discussed who else could be invited. Sigrún confirmed participation of Annika Söder at either the dinner on the eve of the SSC or at some point during the conference itself.

#### 7. AOB

- Elena asked for guidance as to how best to follow up on the ICRC's request to get to know better our work on dialogues, following Jan's meeting with Peter Maurer on the margins of the Forum. The SMT suggested the ICRC contacts Shannon. Elena will follow up with Shannon.

- Elena flagged the request received from Somalia regarding a visit to Stockholm of Abdirahman Abdishakur Warsame, founder and leader of the Wadajir Party. The dates of the visit have been changed from September to October. Please contact Elena if there is interest in-house in meeting Mr Warsame.

### **Action Points**

- Follow up with the UNHCR on the terms of the MoU – Elena and Luc
- Suggestions for the agenda of the SMT away-day on Oct 15 – the SMT
- Save-the-date for SIPRI lecture at the Swedish Parliament on Oct 23 – the SMT
- Feed-back on the draft Forum 2020 concept note – Gary to Sigrún
- Follow up on Lars-Erik Lundin resuming his collaboration with SIPRI – SMT to Sigrún
- Put the ICRC in contact with Shannon re. SIPRI work on dialogues - Elena

### **Items carried forward**

- Partnership with the UNHCR
- Position of a Partnerships Director