

SIPRI SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

Solna, 18 December 2018

MINUTESParticipants

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 November 27 and Dec 4 were approved.

2. Matters arising from the previous MoM

- Dan and Maria have studied the draft IT user guide and the memo comparing new mail systems. Both documents with comments were sent back to Magda who will do the necessary adjustments and follow up.
- Dan sent an email to Per Taube about the possibility of securing a regular venue for the Stockholm Security Conference.
- Dan and Gary are talking to Robert Muggah about possible cooperation on research on migration.
- Sigrún, in cooperation with all the concerned SIPRI staff, will start updating the info on the existing partnerships after the Christmas break.
- The SMT agreed that the next RSC will be held on Jan 11 starting at 10:30.
- Elena informed the SMT that Peter Maurer's participation in the Forum was confirmed.
- Sibylle will continue to follow up on the Norwegian MFA's call for projects.
- Luc is going to find out more on the Swedish Research Council call.
- Dan invited those SMT members who haven't done so yet, to submit to him their feedback on the draft Institute strategy.
- Dan will get in touch with his contact person to explore the possibility of organising an internal training session in presentation skills.
- Elena will continue working on the draft project management guidelines after the Christmas break.

3. Report back

- Luc reported back about his discussion with Johan Schaar in view of the meeting on the new SIPRI MENA programme to be held on Jan 8, 2019.
- Sigrún informed the SMT that:
 - o The NIS department at the Swedish MFA would like to get the same kind of briefing Steph and Vitaly organised in Washington the previous week;
 - o The MFA also wishes that SIPRI presents various reports on its current work, including the climate related work;
 - o The Crown Princess will visit SIPRI on Jan 31 to get a briefing on various research programmes and other SIPRI activities;
 - o SIPRI will host participants of a diplomatic training programme on Jan 10, between 15:00 and 17:00. The intention is to invite a couple of young SIPRI researchers to briefly present their work in the course of that briefing.

- Steph reported back about the successful trip to Washington to launch the new SIPRI report on nuclear security in the Black Sea region. Two well-attended events were organised: a public discussion in cooperation with George Washington University and a closed briefing for US Senate working staff in cooperation with the Fissile Material Working Group.
- Steph informed the SMT that:
 - o She will take over the follow up with Per Taube in order to establish a contact with Petter Stordalen;
 - o The preparations for SIPRI's participation in the MSC are underway.
- Gary informed the SMT that:
 - o The work on Forum's sessions is underway; Gary thanked all those who submitted sessions proposals;
 - o He met with the representatives of the MFA, SIDA, FBA, the Armed Forces and NORDEFCO to discuss the Forum;
 - o He will have a meeting with Bruce Jones, vice-president of the Brookings Institution to discuss both GReVD and Brookings' participation in the Forum.
- Gary suggested that SIPRI revisits proposals submitted to Wallenberg Foundations.
- Dan reported back about:
 - o A very good bilateral meeting with the WFP on Dec 17 on the margins of the successful panel debate on hunger and conflict, co-organised by SIPRI, Swedish MFA and the WFP;
 - o A strategic round table in honour of Dr Mukwege he moderated on Dec 13. The event was co-organised by SIPRI, the MFA and Karolinska Institute. A fantastic experience that might lead to further cooperation with the Mukwege Foundation. Dr Mukwege was invited to the Forum.
- Dan informed the SMT that on Dec 19 he will head to NY to participate in the UN SG's Executive Committee retreat with focus on climate and security.

4. Staffing & project issues

- Gary informed the SMT that:
 - o DFID agreed to finance the first phase of GReVD (January through April);
 - o The Formas project has been officially restructured. Malin has two candidates for the position of a principal investigator.

4.1. Secure travel policy

- Dan drew SMT's attention to the fact that since quite a few among SIPRI staff members travel to potentially unsafe areas, SIPRI needs a better approach to security management. The SMT discussed the matter, agreeing with Dan that it is important to fill in this gap. Sigrún suggested turning to Folke Bernadotte Academy, FBA, that has a long experience in this field and does both research, policy development and practical training courses; Luc offered his experience acquired through many years of working with Clingendael, both in the headquarters and in the field. The SMT decided to ask the FBA for guidance in the matter, as a first step. Sigrún will liaise with them.

4.2. Research assistants' policy

- Dan introduced the issue of whether SIPRI needs an overall policy on research assistants. SMT's attention discussed the pros and cons. On the one hand, it might allow a consistent approach in terms of promoting a research assistant to a researcher; on the other hand, it might limit the flexibility that can benefit both the research assistant and the Institute. SMT opted against having a written policy and stressed the

need for all line managers to address career development in a more structured and persistent manner than has hitherto been the norm, not least through PADs.

5. Partnerships

- A Memorandum of Understanding was signed on Dec 17 between SIPRI and Kazakhstan Institute of World Economics and Politics (IWEP). The agreement to establish closer relations and to facilitate cooperation between the two institutes was reached during Dan's visit to Astana in Nov 2018. While the Memorandum itself has been drafted in rather general terms, the Kazakh side came up with four concrete cooperation proposals, including IWEP's participation in the SSC 2019. The SMT went through all four proposals, agreeing that the only one that requires immediate follow up is deciding upon the best way to accommodate IWEP's wish to participate in the SSC. Luc will follow up on that with the IWEP. The SMT further agreed that there is a potential for cooperation in terms of research too, and that such cooperation can be carried out in various forms with diverse products, such as films as well as reports. Research areas of common interest could include disarmament and non-proliferation. IWEP would also welcome SIPRI's involvement in commemorating the UN International Day against Nuclear Tests, which was introduced upon Kazakhstan's initiative and which is celebrated on August 29 since 2009. Gary suggested connecting with the IWEP on the Belt and Road initiative for the Forum. All these possibilities will be further explored.

Action Points

- Norwegian MFA call – Sibylle
- Swedish Research Council call – Luc
- Way forward with project proposals rejected by Wallenberg Foundations – the SMT and all concerned SIPRI staff
- Contact the FBA re. security management in the field – Sigrún
- IWEP's participation in the SSC – Luc
- Other forms of cooperation with the IWEP – the SMT
- News item on signing the MoU between SIPRI and IWEP – Elena

Items carried forward

- Partnership with SIGHT.

Upcoming events – the RSC, January 11