

## **SIPRI SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING**

Solna, 18 June 2019

### **MINUTES**

#### Participants

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

Note-taker Elena Haapaniemi

#### 1. MoM approval

- Minutes of the previous SMT meeting on May 28 were approved.

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

- The SMT went through the action points following the May 28 meeting; all on track.

#### 3. Report back

- Steph informed the SMT on the following:
  - The Yearbook was launched online on June 17. As of the evening of June 17, the launch generated 700 articles. Even though it has been a stretch on many fronts, and with a few chapters still undergoing final polishing, we are doing a good launch and getting good credit for it.
  - Next week Steph and Harri will be in Mali to continue building media relations in the region.
  - Preparations for Almedalen are underway. Sweden's Development Minister as well as the WFP Country Director for Mali both confirmed their participation in the SIPRI/WFP discussion.
  - Steph, Harri and Gary will meet on June 19 to further discuss Gary's feedback on the GReVD film.
- Sibylle informed the SMT that she attended:
  - The EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Consortium (EUNPDC) consultative meeting, organized by the FRS. It was preceded by the EUNPDC Steering Board meeting (i.e. with EEAS and FPI) and Board meeting (i.e. just the 6 institutes).
  - A track 1.5 event for the NPT in Vienna entitled "The Promise and Perils of the 2020 NPT Review Conference".
  - The North Atlantic Council (NATO's principal political decision-making body, NAC) away day organized by the German Ambassador to NATO in Brussels. A lot of good contacts and interesting discussions.
- Sibylle also provided first positive feedback from the ongoing SIPRI-ICRC workshop on LAWS and human control, organized by Vincent.
- Gary informed the SMT that:
  - The graphic design firm for the GReVD launch has been identified.
  - Gary had meetings about GReVD at Brookings the day before. Jason Fritz will be our focal point there.

- Meetings with UNODC and DFID re GReVD have been scheduled later in the summer.
- Dan informed the SMT that he:
  - Attended the WFP Executive Board meeting in Rome on June 10.
  - Addressed the working lunch of senior officials at the ministerial meeting on non-proliferation in Stockholm on June 11. The main outcome of the meeting is that SIPRI got the mandate to move forward with two follow up meetings later in the year. A concept note has already been sent to the Swedish MFA.
- Dan also highlighted the credit SIPRI got for its mediation role from South Korea's President Moon Jae-in when the latter delivered his lecture at Riksdagen on June 13.

#### 4. Staffing & project issues

- Dan and Gary provided an update on the recruitment process for the two positions in the climate and security team.
- Luc provided an update on the recruitment process for the Sahel team.
- Luc informed the SMT that the recruitment for the position of a RA for Jair's team is underway. Furthermore, the Dutch confirmed funding of Jair's project, New Geopolitics for Peace.
- The contract for the civilian compact study has been signed by the Swedish MFA.
- Luc completed job descriptions for two more positions in his cluster (SR position for Asia/China and RA for the MENA programme) that are now with Helena.
- Luc informed the SMT about the AHRC-DFID research proposal that might be of interest for both his and Gary's clusters. Application deadline is September.
- There might be an opening for closer cooperation with the World Bank's West Africa Social Protection team. Dan, Gary and Luc have been in contact with them.
- Maria informed the SMT that the recruitment for the project controller position did not yield results. Another attempt to advertise the position, this time in Swedish, will be made shortly.
- Sibylle informed the SMT that the Swiss funding for Vincent's project has now been confirmed.
- Later this week Sibylle will have meetings at the German MFA to discuss, among other things, funding for the nuclear team.
- Dan flagged the need to discuss asap the status of the four country WFP/SIPRI reports. Gary, Suyoun, Steph, Joey and Dan will meet straight after the SMT to that end.
- Sibylle is going to designate a focal point to prepare the two events as a follow up of the Stockholm ministerial meeting on June 11.

#### SSC 2019

- Luc informed the SMT about the progress made by him and his team in preparations for the SSC, both in terms of agenda and in terms of the invitees. Almost confirmed partners include the CMI and the Mercy Corps. The SMT endorsed the good work. To be continued.

#### 5. Travel policy

- The SMT discussed the draft travel policy prepared by Frederic. It has a lot of good contents but the SMT agreed that it needs a more clear structure that should include the following four elements:
  - Safety;
  - Cost effectiveness;
  - All work-related travelling being environmentally responsible and
  - Properly accountable.

- A special appendix for those staff members who are not based in Stockholm and thus travel according to different patterns as per their individual contracts shall be considered.
- The relevant parts of the document should be in conformity with the already existing travel policy signed by SIPRI and our travel agency Tranås back in 2016. If need be, the latter must be adjusted.
- Some further issues still need further clarification. The working group comprising Sigrún, Luc, Helena, Fred and Elena will meet asap to discuss adjustments and Fred will continue working on the draft.

#### 6. Summer plans

- All SMT members need to submit the info on their summer plans to Elin who is putting together the draft mail to inform all staff accordingly. Dan will circulate it to all staff when it is ready.

#### 7. The visualization training

- Steph briefed the SMT about the data visualisation training scheduled for September 9-10. The training is designed for twenty participants. Each DOS shall come back to Steph with the names of candidates from their respective cluster.

#### 8. Yearbook 50 Campaign: “50 Years of Armaments, Disarmament and International Security”

- The Yearbook is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> birthday this year, and the outreach team has designed a social media campaign to commemorate that. The countdown will start on July 7 and the celebration will culminate on August 26 when the campaign materials will be released online. This is an opportunity to showcase the history of the YB and our research clusters, and to pair these stories with the chronology of world history.

#### 9. SMT schedule

- July 25 - summer break - August 13.

#### 9. AOB

- There will be a staff party on Thursday August 29.
- Wine and cheese in September will be hosted by Gary & team.
- Wine and cheese in October will be hosted by Luc & team.
- Gary will set up a WhatsApp group for the SMT to facilitate communication during the summer break.

#### **Action Points**

- Follow up on the Stockholm non-proliferation ministerial meeting – Sibylle to identify focal point -in her cluster
- Follow up on the AHRC-DFID research proposal – Luc, Gary and respective teams
- Explore cooperation with the cooperation with the World Bank's West Africa Social Protection team - Dan, Gary and Luc
- Circulating summer plans info – Dan
- Continue working on the draft travel policy – Fred and the internal working group

#### **Items carried forward**

- Strategic discussion on SIPRI publications: quality vs quantity, timing of publications, edited volumes, etc.

### **Future events at SIPRI**

- SIPRI-NHK-TV's co-host panel event: "A Farewell to Arms Treaties? The Future of the Nuclear Safety Net" – July 5