

SIPRI SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

Solna, 19 February 2019

MINUTES

Participants

Stephanie Blenckner, Luc van de Goor, Maria Kaemmerle, Gary Milante, Sigrún Rawet
Note-taker Stephanie Blenckner

1. MoM approval

- Minutes of the previous meetings on Feb 12 were approved.

2. Matters arising from the previous MoM

- Luc had a meeting with the MFA about the civilian support to peace operations; the MFA would like to continue and make additional budget available; SIPRI needs to provide a proposal by the end of next week.

3. Report back

- Maria informed the SMT that the annual report has gone to the Board who will have it signed next week.
- Luc reminded the SMT that Gregory has been asked to join the board of the DC-based Resolve Network. SMT agreed that nothing speaks against it. Luc and Gregory will take this further.
- Luc informed the SMT that he is still awaiting feedback from IWEP on how they would like to continue with the Belt and Road Initiative and on their planning for the conference in September.
- Luc is planning a consultation meeting on the MENA program in early April.
- Luc provided the update from the Sahel team:
 - Fundraising – the team is working on a proposal for Chad; SIPRI would be the lead organization; it comprises a total budget of 4 Million Euros over three years. SIPRI would need to bring in extra capacity for such a project. The climate team will be involved as well.
 - Sida III proposal is worked on, to be submitted very soon. Even here, the climate team will be involved in the planning.
- Luc informed the SMT that Sida offers an anti-corruption course. It was discussed who from SIPRI could join such a course. It is to be held on 8-10 April in Härnösand.
- Luc and Steph had initial planning discussions with Timo regarding a potential upcoming peace operations data launch at the end of May.
- Steph informed the SMT that:
 - SIPRI was prominently featured at the Munich Security Conference. Dan did various media interviews, the SIPRI event on the next steps in arms control convened a very engaging discussion with broad participation and Sibylle featured prominently in the subsequent public panel.

- that today SIPRI is part of the launch of the Planetary Security Initiative report in the Hague. The report is this time mainly drafted by SIPRI authors. Dan, Malin and Florian are onsite.
- Steph and Alex have met with the Ambassador of Kuwait to take the planning further ahead of the joint event on 8 May.
- Sigrún informed the SMT that the dates of the Stockholm Security Conference are not confirmed yet. The Parliament still needs considerably more time for a decision, so the SMT agreed to nail down the dates now anyway to move ahead with the planning and hope to keep the option open for the Parliament to host the pre-evening event.
- The Foreign Policy Declaration of the MFA points out the need to look at new initiatives for disarmament. We have been in contact with the MFA whether it would be helpful to convene an expert meeting on the topic.
- Sigrún reported that she met with a delegation from Somalia. There is great interest that the EU now has a climate and security envoy and there might be options for follow up for a similar initiative with the African Union.

4. Staffing & project issues

- Luc informed the SMT that Mamadou Bodian, the new researcher in the Sahel team, will start on March 1.
- SIPRI received an application for a guest researcher from China for one year. The focus would be on energy security and relations with the MENA region. A potential starting date would be towards the end of the year. Luc is taking that discussion forward with the candidate.
- The Sahel team would benefit from Associates based in the region. Luc will share some proposals forthcoming.
- Gary informed the SMT that:
 - the FORMAS project has found a new principal investigator.
 - We now have consensus with the GReVD consortium for both the GAPS report and the Methods and Estimates report, both coming out in July. Steph and Gary will have a more detailed discussion about the implications for communication and outreach.
 - We now have a session list for the Forum.
 - Two of the World Food Program case studies are being reconsidered right now. We might do Iraq instead of Afghanistan. Colombia might be reconsidered due to the current situation in Venezuela. Gary is in close contact with the WFP teams.

5. AOB

- A team (4 in total) from GRIP will be visiting SIPRI this week. Together with the Sahel team, they will be working on a proposal for a possible future project under the Africa Observatory.

Action Points

- Consultation meeting on the MENA program - Luc
- Ask for more details regarding the anti-corruption course – Luc
- Proposal to the MFA on civilian support to peace operations - Luc

Upcoming events at SIPRI

- Workshop on the draft Hiroshima report – March 20