



## **SIPRI SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING**

Solna, 19 February 2020

### **MINUTES**

#### Participants

Sibylle Bauer, Stephanie Blenckner (via Skype), Luc van de Goor, Maria Kaemmerle, Sigrún Rawet, Dan Smith (via Skype pp. 2-3).

Note-taker Elena Haapaniemi

#### 1. MoM approval

- The minutes from the SMT meeting on Feb 11 were approved.

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

- Luc provided an update on the status of the Arctic workshop. A formal reply from the Japanese embassy is pending. The absolute deadline to contact the participants about postponement of the event is Feb 20.
- Luc informed the SMT about a very good workshop held the previous week with the Finnish MFA in Helsinki on the SAHEL region. SIPRI contributed considerably in terms of contents with very good presentations done by Gregory and Mamadou. Worth noting good representation on behalf of the CMI at the event. This opportunity was further used to better inform the Finnish MFA on the Forum. Luc asked Martina to prepare a Forum file to be forwarded to the Finnish MFA.
- Steph and her team are going to draft a special announcement that would go public once Dan will start briefing the UNSC on the Somalia report on Feb 24. Steph will share the draft with both Dan and Sigrún.
- Dan provided a brief feedback from the Ambassador's lunch on Feb 17. It was a good initiative and a good discussion on the state of the world. 15 Ambassadors were present.
- Discussion on the new GB member(s) will continue. Dan will write to the Board about the two viable candidates from the list suggested at the previous GB meeting.

#### 3. MFA Grant 2020 updated report

- Maria briefed the SMT on the status of the MFA grant for 2020. Many interesting proposals but at the same time there still is a need to slightly shrink the budget. Working meetings between the finance team, Luc and Sibylle continue. Sigrún expressed her gratitude to everyone who contributed to formulating and framing the proposals.

#### 4. Report back

- Maria informed the SMT that the Annual Report has been sent to the GB members with the request to sign it.
- Luc informed the SMT that the project "Humanitarian Protection in the Liptako-Gourma region" has gone through the first stage of approval by AHRC-DFID Collaborative Humanitarian Protection Research Programme. This functional partnership would require entering a separate MoU with the Danish Refugee Council.
- Sibylle provided a feedback from the MSC which is a bit of a mixture:
  - MSC remains our strategic partner with whom we have a cooperation agreement.

- Strategically, it is important for SIPRI to be present at the MSC.
- However, other formats of participation than lunch discussion need to be explored, because of the elevated costs, high competition and because of the shifting format of the conference itself.
- On the MSC, Steph added that despite some serious logistical challenges, several good meetings happened (Ban Ki-Moon, ICRC...) and Dan spent the maximum time possible doing various media interviews with among others Al Jazeera, Financial Times, Economist and more.
- SMT agreed that future SIPRI involvement in the MSC conference needs to be duly discussed.
- Sigrún informed the SMT that there will be an internal brainstorming session on the OSCE on March 5 at 14:30 where Dan, Sigrún, Sibylle, Luc and Steph will be joined by Ian, Malin, Marina and Mark. A formal meeting on the OSCE and the forthcoming Sweden's chairmanship has been scheduled with the MFA's Europe division on March 9.
- Steph reported back about the two Addis events:
  - The Horn of Africa climate security working group hosted in cooperation with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation went very well. The working group has crafted key regional and global messages to be presented to the key country representatives and the UN member states. Vane will represent the group and will go to New York in late April to present the key messages at an event hosted by FES NY office.
  - The informal discussion roundtable about Vane's forthcoming paper on Mapping the Responses to Climate-Related Security Risks in Africa with a Focus on the African Union, hosted by the Swedish Embassy and SIPRI, attracted a really impressive group of representatives of the African Union key departments of both Rural Economy and Agriculture and peace and security as well as UNEP, UNDP, WFP and further diplomatic community representatives. Vane and Florian did an impressive job, the event was also very appreciated by the Swedish embassy. Additional good side meetings with UNDP, the German representation and the AU PSD were held.
- Steph and Gregory met Jo Scheuer, UNDP RR in Mali. Sigrún asked Steph to write a brief memo on the subjects discussed so as to keep Dan up-to-date on the eve of his meetings with Ulrika Modéer and Achim Steiner during the coming week.

#### 5. Staffing & project issues

- Sigrún is putting together the report on the previous MFA grant on the basis of the input received from the rest of the SMT. The report will then go to editorial. Sigrún thanked everyone for their valuable contributions.

#### 6. MoU with Seoul Metropolitan Government (SMG)

- The SMG has once again approached SIPRI suggesting signing a MoU for secondment program of a SMG official. The SMT agreed not to go ahead with this, due to limited office space.

#### 7. Korean Women's Development Institute (KWDI)

- SIPRI (Marina and Yeonju) is already collaborating with the KWDI on a side-event at the CSW on gender and 1325. Due to the nature and the mandate of this particular partner, and considering our ongoing cooperation, the SMT endorsed entering a partnership with KWDI provided that the MoU is being formulated in very general terms. Luc will share the model framework MoU used with SAHEL partners.

8. INSS Korea: possible cooperation

- Discussion on this issue has been deferred to next SMT.

9. AOB

- Next SMT will take place on March 3, usual time.

**Action Points**

- Draft announcement on Dan briefing the UNSC – Steph to Dan and Sigrún
- Write to the Board – Dan
- Brief MoM with Jo Scheuer, UNDP RR in Mali – Steph to Dan and Sigrún
- Model MoU – Luc to Sigrún

**Items carried forward**

- INSS Korea: possible cooperation
- Series of events on multilateralism - planning
- Stockholm Forum 2020 – names of high-level key-note speakers and panelists
- Candidates to deliver SIPRI Lecture 2021 – at some point.