

SIPRI SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

19 January 2021

MINUTES

Participants

Sibylle Bauer, Stephanie Blenckner, Luc van de Goor, Maria Kaemmerle, Jannie Lilja, Dan Smith, Joakim Vaverka

Helena Berger (present for items 1 and 5)

Note-taker Elena Haapaniemi

The meeting was conducted via Zoom.

1. Corona virus

NTR.

2. Minutes

The minutes from the SMT meetings on January 12 were approved.

3. Report back and matters arising

- Luc reported back that the EU mission in Mali is interested not only in supporting the new project of our Sahel team but would also like us to continue implementation of the old one. This is very good news which also means additional workload for the team in the first half of the year.
- Joakim had a phone conversation with Per Taube to follow up on the change of ownership over SIPRI office building. Joakim will organize a virtual meeting with the new owners of the office building.
- Steph is looking into the options on how to proceed with YB translations.
- As a member of the Action Track 5 leadership team, Dan is going to be actively engaged in preparations for the UN Food Security Summit. The AT5 focus is on building resilience. First meeting of the AT5 leadership team is scheduled to take place on Jan 21.

4. MFA Strategic grant

- Maria shared with the SMT an updated list of all the projects that have been approved by the SMT to go under the strategic grant, with more accurate budgets. The SMT endorsed the list with the revised budgets. Maria will write a formal e-mail to the DoSes who, in turn, will inform project leads that their proposals have been accepted and that they have the green light to go on with project implementation.

5. &frankly survey

- Joakim reminded the SMT about the background and substance of the package that SIPRI has chosen for a working environment survey.

- Joakim and Helena walked the SMT through all the steps needed to launch the survey and to analyse its results. The intention is to launch the first survey in February. Our HR consultant Lilian Ekelin will be assisting the SMT along the way.
- Some questions that will be part of the survey will be adjusted so as to better fit into our working context. Joakim and Helena will look into that.
- Joakim and Helena will inform the Cooperation group on the progress in implementation of the survey at the next scheduled meeting of the group on Jan 21.

6. Away Day preparations: agenda (draft attached)

- Joakim circulated a draft agenda for the away-day which the SMT endorsed. The agenda includes the following five items:
 - o The world in 2021 and implications for SIPRI strategy. Global trends and SIPRI responses (tour de table).
 - o SIPRI publications: quality control process and responsibilities.
 - o Project Management Guidelines.
 - o Staffing overview, including diversity.
 - o Post-pandemic staff policies and employment practices.

7. Staffing & project issues

- Jannie announced several departures in her cluster: Gulzhan, Vane and Rickard.
- Deadline for applying for Gulzhan's position has expired the previous week. There are quite a few applications for this position.
- Deadline for applying for a R/SR peacebuilding position is Jan 28.
- Caroline's JD will be adjusted so as to better reflect her position as SIPRI's food and security program director.
- Lisa Alm will be working part-time as an accountant to help manage an increased workload.
- The SMT endorsed Alexandra Kuimova taking a course in strengthening research skills.
- Mark Bromley is back from parental leave, currently working 75 per cent. Andrea will remain acting DUAT program director until June.
- On Jan 14, Dan and Caroline had a discussion with the WFP colleagues about the budget and planning until the end of 2022.
- On Jan 15, Dan had a virtual meeting with Charlotte Flindt Pedersen, Executive Director of the Danish Foreign Policy Society. FPS would like to include SIPRI in some of its outreach activities. Dan agreed to that in principle; however, no concrete commitment has been done at this stage.

8. AOB

- There will be no regular SMT meeting during the coming week. The SMT will have its virtual away day on Jan 26.

Action points

- Communicate with the project leads whose projects have been approved under the MFA strategic grant - respective DoSes
- Continue preparations for the launch of the &Frankly – Joakim and Helena

Items carried forward:

- **Role of SIPRI at the MSC**
- **Arms industry data launch – lessons learnt (*date TBD*)**