

SIPRI SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

Solna, 19 March 2019

MINUTES

Participants

Sibylle Bauer, Stephanie Blenckner, Luc van de Goor, Maria Kaemmerle, Sigrún Rawet, (via Skype) Dan Smith

Note-taker Elena Haapaniemi

1. MoM approval

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

2. Matters arising from the previous MoM

- Luc informed the SMT that the contract with the Chinese embassy is being finalized as is the proposal for the “SIDA III” Mali project.
- Sibylle will take forward the publication of Nan’s piece on Venezuela.
- Sigrún is in contact with the Speaker’s office regarding the proposed SSC opening seminar at the Riksdagen.
- Luc will prepare a suggestion specifying in what form SIPRI envisages the Royal Court’s participation in the SSC.
- Having checked the budget with Maria, Dan had given the green light for two new recruitments to reinforce the climate risk team as of September 2019.

3. Report back

- Sibylle informed the SMT that she:
 - Attended the Carnegie Nuclear Policy Conference in Washington, DC the previous week.
 - Participated in the “2019. Capturing technology. Rethinking Arms Control” conference organised by German Federal Foreign Office with SIPRI as one of four thematic partners. SIPRI’s report on “Bio Plus X: Governing the Convergence of Biology and Emerging Technologies” written by Kolja, Sibylle and Vincent was launched on this occasion, receiving unprecedented media coverage. Dutch, German and Swedish Foreign Ministers attended the conference.
 - Met with the Deputy Head of NIS at the informal NPT yearly meeting; he reminded about SIPRI’s promise to do a briefing on Iran and DPRK for the NIS staff. Sigrún and Sibylle will find a suitable time, preferably before Easter.
- Maria informed the SMT that planning for the implementation of the new financial system has started. If everything goes according to plan, the system will be up and running by November 2019.
- Luc informed the SMT that there had been a C&P Cluster discussion on the first draft of the SSC concept note. Luc will circulate the draft among the SMT to get additional feedback during the week.
- Steph provided an update on the preparations for a joint SIPRI-WFP event in Almedalen. It has been preliminarily agreed to use the Mali case as an entry point.

Dan will moderate a panel discussion. The SMT agreed to invite the new State Secretary for Development, Per Olsson Fridh as a panellist. Sigrún suggested keeping the KoHo up to date on the proposal. Steph will do a short paragraph to that end.

- Dan informed the SMT about his dinner meeting with the directors of SEI and SIWI. Two issues were discussed:
 - An idea by SEI Director Måns Nilsson to establish a policy platform for Swedish think-tanks to support policy making; to be discussed in more details by the SMT at the next meeting.
 - The future of the Stockholm Climate and Security Hub.
- Dan pointed out that Maria made available the budget of the MFA strategic grant on the OwnCloud. Dan encouraged the rest of the SMT to check it on a regular basis.
- Dan reported that he had been approached by Nathalie Tocci, Director of the Italian Institute of International Affairs (IAI), inviting SIPRI to work on joint statement about the JCPOA for release on May 8. Having consulted with Jan, Sigrún and Shannon, Dan has replied to Nathalie setting out what kind of statement SIPRI can sign on to. Dan is now awaiting the IAI's reply.

4. Staffing & project issues

- The SMT endorsed the extension of the assignment of Alfredo Malaret as an associate research assistant until the end of July 2019.
- The new management assistant Elin Elmgren will start in two weeks.
- The concept note for SIPRI's side event at the HLPF in July 2019 is ready. Sigrún thanked everyone involved in its drafting and said that she will forward it to the MFA.
- Luc flagged the need to strengthen the Asia program team so as to be able to implement all that has been planned.

5. Stockholm Forum

- The "*Stockholm Forum – five years on*" brochure has been sent to the MFA for comments.
- Sigrún reported that the MFA wants an external Swedish moderator for the morning opening session. Steph has identified a list of four possible candidates and will forward it to Sigrún.

6. Ypres Peace Prize candidates

- The RSC held earlier that day came up with a few good suggestions including Jacinda Ardern, Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms, Campaign against Killer Robots and the Arctic Council. From its side, the SMT unanimously endorsed Rolf Ekeús as an ideal candidate. Steph emphasized the importance of linking any particular candidate to a topic agenda. Sibylle confirmed that SIPRI can suggest maximum five candidates and the deadline for submitting the candidates is the end of April. Dan asked each SMT member to come up with one additional name at the next SMT.

6. Draft needing comment

- Elena presented the draft agreement on Internships between SIPRI and the Paris School of International Affairs at SciencesPo (PSIA) highlighting the parts that needed adjustment. The SMT discussed the draft and endorsed the proposed amendments; Elena will finalize the document and liaise with PSIA so as to agree on the final text. Discussion revealed the need to update SIPRI's Internship Policy; Elena will outline necessary changes and submit to the HR group for consideration.

7. Climate and security 2022

- Dan updated the SMT on the outcome of his discussion with Margot Wallström on his proposal to mark the 50th anniversary of the Stockholm conference in 2022 by issuing a major report on climate, security and peace. The suggestion was positively received by the Swedish Foreign Minister who agreed to chair the expert panel that will produce the report, should the project idea be endorsed. Dan will then become the vice-chair. The conversation in terms of the objectives, content, resources, both human and financial, target groups etc. will continue both internally at SIPRI and externally with the MFA.

8. AOB

- Steph circulated a proposal on data visualization training for SIPRI staff, tentatively planned for August.

Action Points

- Ensure publication of Nan's piece on Venezuela – Sibylle
- Prepare note on Court's participation at SSC – Luc
- Schedule a time for a briefing on Iran and DPRK for NIS – Sigrún and Sibylle
- Circulate SSC concept note to whole SMT – Luc
- Prepare briefing note for KH department on Almedalen event – Steph
- Provide names of possible Swedish moderators for Stockholm Forum morning session – Steph
- Each member of the SMT to submit one name as a potential candidate for the Ypres peace prize
- Finalize the draft agreement with SciencesPo – Elena
- Updates to the “Internship Policy” document – Elena

Items carried forward

- “Stockholm's platform”, proposal by Måns Nilsson