

SIPRI SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

19 May 2020

MINUTES

Participants

Sibylle Bauer, Stephanie Blenckner, Luc van de Goor, Maria Kaemmerle, Sigrún Rawet, Dan Smith

Helena Berger (present for item 3)

Note-taker Elena Haapaniemi

The meeting was conducted via Zoom.

1. MoM approval

- The minutes of the SMT meeting on May 14 were approved.

2. Matters arising

- NTR.

3. Corona virus

- SIPRI continues to follow the guidance from Sweden's competent authorities. While it is still impossible to say when we will be able to go back to "normal" office work, the SMT is looking into possible procedures that should be in place once that happens.

4. Report back

- Sigrún informed the SMT that all is ready for the Governing Board meeting that will take place on May 25-26.
- Maria informed the SMT that the finance team is planning online training for the new financial system.
- Luc provided an update on Gregory's discussions with the French government (fragility department at the French general directorate of globalization, DGM). The first round has been positive and will result in a short-term project cooperation. After the summer, there will be a conversation about a longer-term partnership and funding. Geographically, it is to cover not only the Sahel but also the Magreb.
- Another good news from Luc's cluster, in terms of diversifying the funding, consists in the preparatory work for a joint project with Niras focussing on Mali and Burkina Faso. It will be submitted to the French development cooperation agency. The geographical scope of the project goes beyond Mali to other countries of the region.
- Dan reported back on two requests for medium-level partnerships from the European Institute of Peace and the School of Transnational Governance at the European University Institute (EUI). The SMT agreed that in both cases the key is to decide if there are activities that can usefully be carried out together and, if so, then to ask whether a formal agreement is required to make it possible.

5. Staffing & project issues

- Luc will have a discussion with his counterparts at the UNEP on May 20 to explore further cooperation, and funding.

- While looking at the pool of the candidates who applied for Mark's position, Luc and Sibylle noticed one researcher who might be eligible for joining our China-Asia work. Luc will contact the person in question, with SMT's endorsement.

6. Funding prospects beyond 2020

- As an entry point for this preliminary discussion, Dan stressed that, for the moment, SIPRI's overall financial situation is good. Recent recruitments were done mostly on the basis of project funding. We are hiring within our resources.
- Sigrún stressed that in Sweden, SIPRI's reputation with the MFA is very high. We have a strong relationship with several units such as NIS, UN/Conflict humanitarian, Africa etc. We need to continue liaising and meeting the different divisions since they are our strategic partners. We will also have to follow the fact that there will be decrease in Swedish ODA funding next year since it is linked to 1 % of the Gross National Income. A challenge to many organisations is that the decreased ODA spending will happen in many countries at the same time. Diversifying whom we are approaching for funding is also important. And we need to continue delivering on what we promised.
- Dan will make notes from this brief discussion and then convene another, more strategic one on the same subject matter.

7. AOB

- Next SMT will be held on May 27 between 13:00 and 15:00.

Action Points

- Dan will write notes from the SMT discussion on funding prospects beyond 2020
- Elena will arrange for Martina and/or Johanna to brief the SMT on technical options for a virtual SSC on June 2

Items carried forward

- Equal Opportunities, Diversity and Anti-discrimination Policy