

## **SIPRI SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING**

2 February 2021

### **MINUTES**

#### Participants

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

Helena Berger (present for item 1)

Note-taker Elena Haapaniemi

The meeting was conducted via Zoom.

#### 1. Corona virus

- NTR.

#### 2. Minutes

- The minutes from the SMT meeting on January 19 were approved.

#### 3. Report back and matters arising

- The SMT acknowledged usefulness of a full-day strategic discussion held the previous week. It has been agreed to conduct away-days on a more regular basis, with the next one to be scheduled before Easter. Elena will suggest a date and update the 2021 Annual Plan.
- Jannie participated in the third meeting of the Lancet Commission. SIPRI's Lancet team is working hard to finalise its contribution to the final report of the Commission.
- On Jan 29, Joakim, Maria and Jan had an introductory meeting with the CEO of Torslanda Property Investment AB, our new landlord.
- The Financial team is preparing for the auditors' visit in the coming week.
- Dan continues to be actively involved in preparations for the Food Security Summit and in the EP project.
- On February 3, SIPRI will be holding a joint virtual webinar together with the Iranian Institute for Political and International Studies. The webinar will be organised under the Chatham House rule with a limited number of invited participants.

#### 4. Vacation Policy

- Some staff members have a large number of saved vacation days. This has an impact on well-being and on SIPRI finances. The SMT discussed the need to clarify policy.
- Maria and Joakim will draft elements for a policy proposal for further discussions.

#### 5. Funding of the Arabic translation of the Yearbook

- The SMT agreed to commission the Centre for Arab Unity Studies, Beirut, to translate the Yearbook into Arabic. The funding can be ensured through the strategic grant. Dan will write to CAUS Director to communicate this decision.

- Sibylle raised the issue of quality control, pointing out that SIPRI has several Arabic speakers in-house whose expertise might be very useful in proof-reading the translation.
- Sibylle also suggested to explore more systematically how this translation could be linked with other SIPRI efforts to further disarmament education and peace research capacity-building.

#### 6. Monday morning meetings

- The SMT discussed how to bring new life into virtual Monday morning meetings, which have been somewhat flattened in atmosphere by the online format.
- To create different dynamics and get to know each other better, it has been decided:
  - To introduce random rotation of speakers for updates from clusters and
  - To have a staff member briefly presenting her or his current work.
- Dan will announce these innovations at the next meeting (8 Feb) and the new arrangements will be effective from the meeting after that (15 Feb).

#### 7. SSC21

- Luc and Sibylle have drafted a concept note for the next SSC. The chosen theme is “Battlefield of the Future”. They envisage successive SSCs under the same heading to ensure better continuity. Luc will share the concept note with the rest of the SMT.
- A virtual format seems most reasonable, in which case it should not be back-to-back with the Governing Board meeting.
- At the next SMT, decision will be taken as to the theme, concept note and format.

#### 8. Staffing & project issues

- The Sahel West Africa program will start interviewing candidates for the programme director and researcher posts this week.
- The SMT discussed recruitment in the Food Security and Peace programme and in the Climate Change and Risk programme.
- The contract for the EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Consortium runs out in May. Sibylle and colleagues are working on an application for no-cost extension until May 2022.

#### 9. AOB

- Steph suggested having a separate discussion on management of data and databases at SIPRI; SMT agreed this is necessary.

#### **Action points**

- Date for the next SMT strategic away-day – Elena
- Note on vacation days – Maria and Joakim
- Write to CAUS director on the YB Arabic translation – Dan
- Circulate the SSC 2021 concept note to the SMT – Luc

#### **Items carried forward:**

- **SSC: theme, concept note and format**
- **Role of SIPRI at the MSC**
- **Arms industry data launch – lessons learnt (date TBD)**
- **SMT Away Day follow-up**
- **Management of data and databases**