

SIPRI SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

Solna, 21 January 2020

MINUTES

Participants

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

Note-taker Elena Haapaniemi

1. MoM approval

- The minutes from the SMT meeting on Jan 9 were approved.

2. Matters arising from the previous MoM

- The action points that came out from the previous regular meeting on Jan 9 have all been followed up.

3. Report back

- Luc provided an update on the UNEP project. The draft paper done by Jason Mosley is being finalized on our end; Luc will also send the draft to the MFA for feedback.
- Sigrún informed the SMT that the dates for the forthcoming Governing Board meetings have been set. These dates are:
 - **25-26 May 2020;**
 - **16-17 November 2020;**
 - **24-25 May 2021 and**
 - **15-16 November 2021.**

- Sigrún invited Sibylle and Luc to look at the tentative dates for the SSC, and also do a paragraph on the theme/concept of the conference.
- Sigrún informed the SMT that Margot Wallström has been appointed member of the UNSG's Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters.
- Sigrún will circulate the latest version of SIPRI Annual report among the SMT for final comments on the substance.
- Sigrún flagged the joint event that SIPRI is organizing together with the Swedish Red Cross on Jan 28 to talk about humanitarian challenges in today's global landscape. Alex has circulated the invitation among all staff members who are welcome to participate.
- Steph reported back that the first SIPRI launch of our report with new data on Chinese arms industry is scheduled for Jan 27.
- The Annual visit of the MFA's NIS (non-proliferation and disarmament) department to SIPRI went well. In connection with that, Dan reiterated the need for SIPRI to accompany its presentations of figures for Russian military spending with an explanation for what many people see as the anomaly of how low the budget is. Steph will circulate the link to the coverage of this question that is currently on SIPRI's website and Dan, Sibylle, Sigrún, Steph and Luc will respond.

4. Staffing & project issues

- Luc updated the SMT on the status of our project with the Chinese embassy.

- Recruitment of two RAs for the MENA program has been finalised.
- Luc flagged the need of having a statistician as part of the SAHEL team.
- Interviews with three short-listed candidates for the events assistant position are scheduled for the current week.
- Interviews with three short-listed candidates for the RA emerging technologies position are scheduled for the coming week.
- Sigrún expressed her gratitude to the SMT colleagues for their input to SIPRI summary on challenges and opportunities for multilateralism requested by the MFA. Sigrún will now put it together and send it to the MFA.
- Dan informed the SMT about the first working meeting to develop synopsis for the EoP 2022 report held on Jan 17 at SIPRI. We now need to proceed with recruitments of the project team including a project leader, a project coordinator and a senior writer.
- The information on the contents of the MSC 2020 is still a bit scarce. Steph will call Jan to give him all relevant information that we have at the moment.
- Sibylle reiterated the importance for SIPRI to be able to host research fellows, something that is currently being challenged by the limited work space. Maria suggested that she and Sibylle meet and discuss this issue bilaterally to see if they can find a solution.

5. Proposed lunch with Ambassadors: themes

- Sigrún asked SMT colleagues to suggest themes and participants for the lunch with Ambassadors that Per Taube kindly agreed to host. Tentative date – Feb 17. The SMT agreed that the theme should focus on either the crisis of arms control or on multilateralism. A long list of potential invitees was generated.

6. Proposed series of multilateralism seminars

- Jan has been approached by two former Swedish Ambassadors who proposed that SIPRI could hold an event – or a series of events – on multilateralism, partly in view of the forthcoming Swedish Chairmanship in the OSCE (2021). Sigrún and Steph had met them and brought forward a proposal, on which the SMT concluded:
 - This is, in principle, feasible, for example as a series of expert roundtables at SIPRI. These could be under the Chatham House Rule.
 - Since the SSC this year will focus on multilateralism, this series of events would naturally feed in the reflection and exchanges on our way towards the Conference and be a connecting thread throughout the year.
 - Meeting topics could include the OSCE, the JCPOA, and climate change and security.
- The SMT agreed to do a proper planning exercise as soon as possible; Steph will circulate a rough calendar of events among the SMT to facilitate the process.

7. WFP: next steps

- The ToRs for Phase 2 of our joint project with the WFP are finalised and ready to be signed. This means that the project implementation can begin.

8. AOB

- The SMT on Jan 28 will start at 12:00.

Action Points

- Tentative dates for and one paragraph on the SSC – Sibylle and Luc
- Comments on the substance of the Annual Report – SMT to Sigrún
- Comments on the current explanation of figures for Russian military spending that is available on SIPRI's website – Dan, Sigrún, Steph, Luc and Sibylle

Items carried forward

- 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.