

SIPRI SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

Solna, 21 May 2019

MINUTES

Participants

Luc van de Goor, Sigrún Rawet, Dan Smith

Note-taker Elena Haapaniemi

1. MoM approval

- Minutes of the previous SMT meeting on May 7 were approved by those present; feedback from Gary, Maria and Sibylle pending. Elena will follow up and finalize the document.

2. Matters arising from the previous MoM

- Luc is working on the cluster input to the application for the strategic MFA grant, looking at possible projects and possible countries to be covered but also at proposals that could become of a cross-cluster nature, relevant for the Institute as a whole.

3. Report back

- In the aftermath of the Forum Dan, Sigrún and Luc discussed their impressions and main take-aways.
- Dan shared the positive feedback he received from both WFP and the WB; the latter showed interest in supporting both the EP 2022 and our work in the Sahel region. Dan further informed the SMT about him and Elena meeting with the Minister of Peace of Ethiopia held on the margins of the Forum. The Ministry of Peace is a six-months old institution that turned to SIPRI for advice and guidance. Nothing concrete as yet. Dan had a very good conversation with Peter Maurer. There is a potential for cooperation with the ICRC when it comes to IHL but also in other fields. Finally, Dan mentioned an informal invitation received from the Cairo peacekeeping center to their conference in December; SIPRI will have to look closer at the invitation when we know more.
- Sigrún highlighted the great effort that the whole of SIPRI had done to make the Forum so successful. Important with the high level attendance but as important with the relevant participation at all levels. The feedback from the MFA was very positive.
- Luc highlighted the work of his cluster at the Forum, with very well visited sessions moderated by Jair but also those hosted by the Sahel team. Luc too underlined the interest showed by the WB with regards to our work in the Sahel. Last but not least, Luc informed Dan and Sigrún about the National Defense University and the USIP (US Institute of Peace) approaching him on possible collaboration with SIPRI, e.g. on the Red Sea but also on other topics (SSR).
- Dan has received an invitation from the Toda Institute and the National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Otago to participate in a meeting of the heads of peace and conflict research institutes to be held in Tokyo on December 6-8, 2019. Dan has not confirmed his participation yet.
- On May 22, Dan had a very interesting meeting with the ECDC's Jan Semenza who works on climate change and inequalities. He seems to be a good external candidate for a

BBL at SIPRI; this could be organized after the summer break. It would be also good to schedule a meeting with the ECDC head, Dr Andrea Ammon, at some point.

- The SMT agreed that SIPRI will not organize a special event to highlight the recent report by the Swedish Defense Commission on Sweden's Security Policy and the Developments of its Military Defense 2021-2025, mostly due to the lack of time to be able to properly prepare it.

4. Staffing & project issues

- Luc informed the SMT that the MFA has signaled it is going to sign the contract regarding the civil compact project.
- There are several relevant candidates to replace Aurélien in the Sahel team and the recruitment process has been good all along, according to Luc.
- Dan updated the SMT on the progress he and Gary, Carolina and Suyoun have made on re-drafting the draft WFP report. It was submitted to the WFP at the weekend. Dan will talk with the WFP on Phase 2 of the project on May 23. To be continued.

Research Assistant recruitments in MENA, Peace Ops & Technologies

- Vincent drafted a JD for the RA in Technologies. The SMT agreed that he made a strong case for the need of having a RA; the SMT endorsed the recruitment for a period of one year.
- The SMT endorsed the recruitment of a RA to work on Peace Operations, this one for six months.
- The SMT endorsed the recruitment of a RA for the MENA programme.

5. SSC19 update

- Dan, Luc and Sigrún had a look at the updated draft program and discussed the revised set-up after the parliament withdrew from co-hosting the event, due to lack of administrative capacity. However the parliament wants to be an active part in the conference. It was agreed that Sigrún will liaise with Riksdagen suggesting Andreas Norlén formally opens the conference during a reception on the evening of Oct 2 and that, additionally, MPs are included as panelists as appropriate. Luc is pursuing the dialogue with both the MSC and the IWEP on how to involve them in the SSC. Luc has also been contacted by the Mercy Corps that has showed interest in being involved in the SSC – a positive development. Luc will also network with Per Taube during the formal dinner on May 27, following the SIPRI lecture.

6. Governing Board & SIPRI lecture preparations

- All or almost all is set up for the forthcoming Board meeting and also for SIPRI Lecture. 280 people have registered to attend the lecture so far. Michelle Bachelet has a good programme for her visit including meetings with both Margot Wallström and Peter Eriksson. Sigrún will meet the HC at the airport and Martina will accompany her during the day. For the dinner following the lecture, we have 43 confirmed guests, including the Foreign Minister.

7. Next SMT meetings' timing

- 28 May between 15:00 and 17:00
- 3 June (Monday, not Tuesday) from 12:30 until 17:00. Location – Bergendal conference centre in Sollentuna.

8. AOB

- Dan has been invited to speak on the occasion of the ministerial meeting on non-proliferation that the Swedish MFA will host on June 11.

- The SMT agreed to the idea of co-hosting a learning event with Islamic Relief, IRC and NRC on “triple-nexus” programming.

Action Points

- Explore ways in which WFP and WB could support SIPRI work – Luc for Sahel, Dan for EP 2022
- Stay in touch with the ECDC, possibly a BBL with Jan Semenza at SIPRI after summer break – Dan and Elena
- Contact Riksdagen re. the SSC – Sigríun
- Co-hosting the event with the Islamic Relief - Steph

Items carried forward

- Stockholm Forum – any follow-up?
- SIPRI at Almedalen

Future events at SIPRI

- SIPRI-MSB workshop - May 24
- SIPRI Governing Board meeting – May 27-28
- SIPRI IISS event on the DPRK – June 18
- SIPRI - ICRC Workshop on Autonomous Weapons and Human Control – June 18-19