

SIPRI SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

Solna, 22 January 2019

MINUTES

Participants

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

Note-taker Elena Haapaniemi

1. MoM approval

- Minutes of the previous meetings on Jan 15 were approved.

2. Matters arising from the previous MoM

- Dan has been in touch with Vasu Gounden who promised to give feedback on SIPRI's comments to his cooperation proposal.

3. Report back

- Steph provided an update on the number of media requests received in connection to Korea meeting. More than 400 international and over 60 Nordic media outlets have so far reported on the meeting mentioning SIPRI; the interest from global media including Al Jazeera, CNN and Washington Post remains high. SIPRI continues providing the agreed press line.
- The SMT noted with appreciation the professional attitude and discretion shown by all SIPRI staff; special thanks go to Frank and Shannen who, in the absence of communications colleagues, monitored the activities of media crews outside of the building and responded to journalists at the front door.
- Maria and all the finance team are busy closing accounts for the financial year and preparing all the projects that will be audited in February. It is a huge workload.
- Luc reported back on the launch of the Arabic edition of the YB in Lebanon during the past week. It was a good meeting and it was particularly good to see that the topic of climate change led to a different kind of discussion from that which prevailed when the discussion was about conflicts and armaments. Furthermore, the meeting provided an opportunity to talk to potential new partners in the region. The next steps include aiming at organising another meeting in the region that would bring together local researchers. Luc will follow up on that and also include Sibylle and her cluster in the discussion since their interest is high.
- Sibylle reported back on her participation in the organisational committee for the conference on technology and arms control that the German MFA is organising in March this year. This was a perfect occasion to strengthen relationships with the German MFA.
- Sibylle and Luc were present at the Ian's and Vitaly's presentation on Black Sea security for the Swedish MFA. They saw this as a good format for launching SIPRI reports.
- Gary reported back from the symposium on managing security resources in Africa organised by the Africa Centre for Strategic Studies in Addis Ababa at National Defence University on Jan 15-17. Tremendous respect to SIPRI analyses on military

expenditure came up numerous times. The Centre would like SIPRI to be involved in all the deliverables for a course later this year. Gary will follow up on that. Also, Nan's piece on transparency was very much appreciated; translating it into French and Portuguese would be more than welcome.

- Gary reported on his contact with the Institute for Peace and Security Studies of Addis Ababa University, IPSS, who organises the yearly Tana High-Level Forum on Security in Africa. Forum takes place a week before SIPRI Forum. Both Dan and Gary have been invited to attend the Forum. Gary will get a formal invitation for Dan from IPSS Director.
- Dan informed the SMT that he will participate in a meeting of PSC ambassadors that Sweden is convening in Brussels on Feb 8 to discuss climate-related security risks. The idea is to see if it is possible to replicate in the EU what has been done in the UN.

4. Staffing & project issues

- Dan presented and the SMT discussed a proposal received from Adnan Tabatabai, CEO of CARPO, a German-based NGO, to co-host a workshop on environmental issues and climate change within the project on regional security in West Asia and the Arabian Peninsula. While the SMT agreed that SIPRI cannot be co-host on such short notice, Dan will write to Adnan suggesting he invites Johan Schaar to participate.
- Luc provided the first estimates of the budget for the SSC. The objective now is to finalize the tentative budget asap and to come up with enough of a conference concept to send the save-the-date invitations by mid-February. Dan will write to Espen to ask for help in getting in touch with Petter Stordalen who might help in securing the venue. Luc and Sibylle will continue brainstorming on the matters of substance.
- On Sibylle's request, the SMT confirmed that it did appoint Alfredo Malaret as an Associate Research Assistant. All practicalities can be sorted out with Helena.
- The SMT agreed to appoint Sam Perlo-Freeman as an Associate Senior Researcher.
- Steph stressed the need for a continued dialogue between the associates and their respective DoS's, so as to avoid unexpected additional burdens on SIPRI publications' team when an associate decides to publish on a short notice.
- Sibylle informed the SMT on:
 - o The project proposal that Vincent has developed in cooperation with the ICRC. The SMT endorsed partnership with the ICRC and expressed its appreciation of Vincent's initiative.
 - o The emerging possibility of Lora Saalman becoming more engaged as a SIPRI associate. The possibility of a consultancy agreement with Lora shall be explored.
- Gary flagged difficulties experienced by new SIPRI staff in finding accommodation in Stockholm and asked about arranging professional help with that. Maria pointed out that SIPRI already provides help through the company Bostad Direkt.
- Gary has been invited by the Quaker UN Office (QUNO) to their Annual "What's next in peacebuilding" event on Feb 25-27 in New York.
- Following up on his meeting with the IPSS in Addis Ababa, Gary pointed out that the 2006 SIPRI book *Budgeting for the Military Sector in Africa* is out of date. Gary has discussed the issue with his team and has estimated that an initial budget for producing a new publication is about 100 000 USD. The SMT discussed the issue and agreed that it is a useful publication and a great way to link the work of the three clusters. Steph suggested Elisabeth Sköns might be interested in coordinating the project. Gary wondered whether some of the relevant research could be done by some of the scholars who would be hosted at SIPRI under the possible cooperation agreement with

ACCORD. Gary will try to schedule a brainstorming meeting with Sibylle and Elisabeth and also write to Vasu.

5. Training needs and issues

- As a follow up on the RSC discussion on training opportunities, the SMT examined the following possibilities:

- o Project training

The SMT discussed the proposal submitted by Nikos. The conclusion is that suggested options cannot be applied to SIPRI at the current stage.

- o Presentation

The SMT discussed Dan's earlier suggestion to bring in a specialist in presentation techniques to provide training for a selected group of staff. The SMT agreed to go ahead with that. Dan will contact Michael Trigg.

- o Moderation

The SMT agreed to find out more about potential demand for training in moderation. Steph will look into it. Provided there is some interest, Dan will conduct an *ad hoc* training session.

- o Security

Sigrún will liaise with the FBA, which has a considerable expertise and experience in security training.

- o Other

The SMT agreed that, as stated during the latest RSC, staff members who feel they need training in additional skills that could be relevant to their SIPRI function, should contact their line manager, as a first step.

6. AOB

- NTR.

Action Points

- Follow up with Adnan Tabatabai - Dan
- Continue planning for the SSC – Luc and Sibylle
- New publication on *Budgeting for the military sector in Africa* - Gary
- Contact with Michael Trigg - Dan
- Find out about perceived need for training in moderation techniques - Steph

Items carried forward

- NTR.

Upcoming events at SIPRI

- Annual Briefing with the MFA Department for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation, NIS – Jan 28
- HRH Crown Princess – Jan 31
- Itay Fischandler talking on the Israel-Palestine water conflict, Dan moderating – Feb 1
- Wine & Cheese courtesy of the A&D cluster – Feb 6