



## **SIPRI SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING**

Solna, 22 May 2018

### **MINUTES**

#### Participants

Sibylle Bauer, Stephanie Blenckner, Jakob Hallgren, Maria Kaemmerlé, Gary Milante (via Skype)

Note-taker Elena Haapaniemi

#### 1. MoM approval

- Minutes of the previous meeting on May 15 were approved.

#### 2. Matters arising from the previous MoM

- None.

#### 3. Report back

- Sybille reported back on the briefing she, Dan and Jan held for the members of the Swedish Parliament Foreign Affairs Committee on May 17 on the topic of emerging technologies and arms control. The briefing was well received and the audience was both engaged and interested. This was a strategically important exercise which ought to be replicated for the members of parliamentary Defence Committee too. The briefing also proved to be a good step-in platform towards the SSC. SMT agreed that this kind of interaction with the parliamentarians is very important for the Institute.
- Jakob informed the SMT about a negative opinion piece on SIPRI published in a Swedish newspaper as a reaction to the MILEX data on Russian military expenditure. The SMT briefly discussed ways to deal with such publications, but first and foremost ways to avoid those in the future.
- Steph reported about the Mali trip that highlighted SIPRI's successful work in the Sahel region. The institute has, by now, a strong network of local actors in place which allows to make a regional footprint in Mali and the Sahel countries. Well done, SIPRI team!
- Jakob reminded the SMT about the SIPRI role when it comes to the G5 Sahel countries. The MFA grant allows SIPRI, among other projects, to maintain and to expand the regional research infrastructure consisting of partner institutes over the two-year period. SIPRI already has established working relationship with partner research institutes in Mali, Niger and Chad. The idea is to establish similar partnerships in Burkina-Faso and Mauritania. This regional network will hopefully be a vehicle, and a basis for research on the region. Such discussions are currently ongoing with UNDP about research into climate change and conflict. A meeting with UNDP representatives is scheduled for May 24 with the objective to develop a concept note for a research proposal towards UNDP's internal trust fund. This is a promising and exciting line of work for SIPRI.

- Jakob informed the SMT about the meeting he had with SIDA at the Swedish Embassy in Bamako. One of the highlights of the meeting was that SIPRI and SIDA agreed in principle upon three more years of cooperation (so called SIDA-MALI-3 initiative) beginning in 2019. This means that there will be a continuity in the implementation of the current programme and, hopefully, also a window of opportunity to further expansion in West Africa.
- Steph informed the SMT about the upcoming “SIPRI Circle” lunches in Almedalen.
- Gary had a meeting with the Institute for State Effectiveness (ISE) with which SIPRI is developing a partnership to work on the policy support project in collaboration with the Swedish MFA.
- Maria had completed the reforecast which she will forward to the SMT.
- Maria informed the SMT that the work on GDPR continues, concretely in the form of drafting a memo for the GB, an update for the staff handbook and a message to all the SIPRI staff as to make sure everyone in the Institute is aware of the GDPR and its implications.
- Jakob informed the SMT that all background documents had been forwarded to the GB. He used the opportunity to thank SMT members for their valuable contributions to these. The agenda of the GB will also be discussed at the upcoming RSC on May 25.
- Jakob reported that the final preparations for the SIPRI Lecture were under way. As of May 22, there are 330 registered participants.
- Jakob also informed the SMT that everything is on track for the upcoming Baltic Sea Region Conference. An important number of high-level personalities have confirmed their participation. Relatively low number of participants who registered so far is a slight concern.
- Finally, Jakob informed the SMT about the one-day event at the Swedish Arts Council he attended last week. The cooperation between SIPRI and the Arts Council is really taking shape. However, this implies that a focal point needs to be appointed to follow up on all the developments this cooperation entails. So far it has been Jakob’s role, but as he leaves there is a need to identify a successor.

#### 4. Staffing & project issues

- Jakob formally informed the SMT about his nomination as the next Ambassador of Sweden to South Korea. The process of hiring of Jakob’s successor has already been launched, with the first round of interviews with potential candidates tentatively scheduled for the second half of June. Since it is the SIPRI GB that formally appoints the Deputy Director, the former will need to be duly informed about this recruitment during the upcoming Board meeting.
- An offer has been made to a candidate for the accountant position.
- Both Gary and Steph will need to follow up with Helena on several HR issues.

#### 5. Offer from Chinese government to host a SIPRI researcher

- The offer from the Chinese People’s Association for Peace and Disarmament to host a SIPRI researcher in China in late June 2018 as part of the group of international experts has been discussed. This can be a window of opportunity to start building new contact networks for launching a new SIPRI China programme. Potential candidates have been identified and they will be further contacted by their respective line managers.

#### 6. UNSC res 1540 work in Vienna

- In 2018, Sweden is going to take over chairmanship in the OSCE Forum for Security Cooperation, a task only occurring every 17 years. The Forum, as its name suggests, strives to increase military security and stability in Europe. It is one of the decision-

making bodies within the OSCE and has a broad mandate to address issues ranging from traditional security between and within states to transnational risks and threats. A series of so called Security Dialogues will be organised within the framework of the Forum in Sep-Oct 2018. Jan has been invited by the Swedish OSCE mission in Vienna to act as a key note speaker at one of such Security Dialogues. Jan has agreed to the offer since it is an excellent occasion to increase SIPRI's visibility and to market Institute's subject expertise in front of the representatives of 57 OSCE Member States. Jakob and Sibylle will meet with the Swedish Ambassador to the OSCE on May 24 in order to discuss the details of SIPRI's involvement.

7. AOB

- Next SMT meeting to be held at 14:00 on May 29.

**Action Points**

- Identify a new focal point for the contacts with the Swedish Arts Council
- Follow up on various HR issues, as agreed upon – Steph, Gary and Helena
- All SMT members to submit their summer holiday schedules to Elena

**Items carried forward**

Summer break and dates for the SMT meetings during summer 2018.