

SIPRI SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

Solna, 23 October 2018

MINUTES

Participants

Sibylle Bauer (via Skype), Stephanie Blenckner, Luc van de Goor, Maria Kaemmerlé, Gary Milante (via Skype), Sigrún Rawet, Dan Smith
Note-taker Elena Haapaniemi

1. MoM approval

- Minutes of the previous meeting on Oct 16 were approved.

2. Matters arising from the previous MoM

- Sibylle suggested the SMT resumes discussion of the 2019 budget. It was agreed to add this point to the agenda of the present meeting.
- Sibylle stressed the need for a cross-cluster coordinated response to the Norwegian MFA call, first step being a bilateral discussion between Sibylle and Luc, possibly followed by a trip to Oslo on a later stage.

3. Report back

- Steph emphasized the fact that, when it came to analysis and comments on the two major global stories of the past days (the announced US withdrawal from the INF treaty and the Khashoggi case), SIPRI was the first institution for many news media to turn to. In practical terms, this translated into quite a few interviews to both Swedish and international media, broad coverage in social media and the publication of Dan's essay on the crumbling architecture of arms control. A special credit for the intense dedicated effort goes to Dan and Pieter.
- Luc updated the SMT on the state of cooperation with the Chinese embassy. There is a clear mutual interest in continuing the bilateral dialogue. Dan's participation in the next round of meetings with the embassy would bring an added value.
- Gary discussed the GReVD project with the UK Department for International Development (DFID).
- Gary will participate in the Alliance for Peacebuilding's Annual Conference (PeaceCon) to be held in Washington DC on Oct 24-26.
- The concept note for the Forum 2019 is being finalised by Gary and his counterpart at the Swedish MFA. Sigrún stressed the need of involving into the discussion of the draft all those concerned at SIPRI e.g. the SAHEL team.
- Dan reported back about his visit to Moscow that included meetings with key high-ranking interlocutors, a lecture for the graduate students of the Moscow State Institute for International Relations (MGIMO) and the participation in the launch of the 25th edition of the Russian version of SIPRI YB. The main outcome of all the meetings is that there is a need for more dialogue and open exchanges.

- Sibylle informed the SMT about two side meetings she had in Moscow on the margins of the YB launch. The first meeting was with Anton Khlopkov, Director of the Centre for Energy Security Studies (CENESS) and Editor-in-Chief of the Nuclear Club journal. The other meeting was with staff of the Russian International Affairs Council (RIAC) focussed on emerging technologies and artificial intelligence, for which they also brought in experts from the PIR Centre and the Russian Academy of Sciences for an informal and fruitful exchange. There is a clearly stated interest from both CENESS and RIAC on a closer cooperation with SIPRI.
- Sibylle stressed the need to revise and, if need be, adjust the nuclear team's funding proposals, related to the INF and other issues. This includes proposals submitted to the Ploughshares Fund and to Friedrich Erbert Stiftung. It is important to make sure that work done by SIPRI on the INF reflects a consistent standpoint.
- Sigrún reported back about her and Jan's visit to Vienna on the OSCE's invitation. It was a very intense and fruitful visit that helps both strengthen the SIPRI image and open doors for possible cooperation and/or funding. Jan and Sigrún met, among others, the OSCE Secretary General Thomas Greminger as well as with the CTBTO (Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organisation) Executive Secretary Lassina Zerbo. Among the issues discussed were OSCE plans for introducing and implementing new confidence building measures. To follow up closely, being strategical on using SIPRI internal resources.
- Sigrún informed the SMT about a conversation with her contact point at the UN GA First committee who reiterated that SIPRI's expertise would be an added value in the Committee's work. Sigrún will also have a meeting with the Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Ambassador in two-week time.
- Sigrún mentioned that she and Luc will meet to discuss the work on the UN SC Resolution 1325 on women and peace and security.

4. Staffing & project issues

- Gary is finalising recruitment of two data scientists, Julius Schulte and Caroline Delgado.
- The SMT endorsed appointing two Associate Fellows: Niklas Bremberg and Camilla Born.
- Gary informed the SMT that Anastasia is working full-time on the FORMAS project.
- Luc is finalising Johan Schaar's renewed contract.
- On projects, Luc informed the SMT that a Dutch scientific funding agency, NOW, is considering funding a four-year project with SIPRI peace operations team.
- Maria informed the SMT that there now are three short-listed candidates for the position of the SAHEL financial coordinator.
- Steph informed the SMT that Emma will be working at SIPRI until the end of the current year. Steph and Sigrún to discuss the profile of her replacement.
- Sigrún is fine-tuning the contract with SIPRI associate, Sten Hagberg.
- The SMT flagged up the need to brainstorm on the way forward with the line management training.

5. Board Meeting November 2018

- The SMT went through the draft agenda, to be finalised by Sigrún, and also through the venues for various social activities to be organised on the occasion of the GB meeting.
- The draft agenda and other practicalities as to the Board meeting will be discussed at the next RSC. The SMT agreed to schedule the RSC for Nov 16.

- Dan stressed that there should be as much interaction between SIPRI staff and the Board as possible, using the opportunity of Governing Board members now visiting Stockholm twice per year.
- All administrative preparations are on track.

6. Protocols:

a. Launching new project

- o The SMT agreed that there is a clear need for a concise internal guide on how to manage a project, once approved. Elena will prepare a draft.

b. Handling project seminars

- o The SMT endorsed, with minor changes, the draft internal guide prepared by Christina on practical management and division of labour for internal events. Maria will finalise it, also including feedback from cluster coordinators, and then circulate internally to all staff.

b. Reporting travel

- o Ulla and Cecilia are in charge of this part.

7. Budget 2019

- Maria provided an update on the ongoing work on the budget 2019 highlighting the differences from last years' budgets. It is indeed the first time when SIPRI will be able to draft a "bottom-up" budget, and this is indeed a positive change.
- The SMT then had a brief round raising good-to-have items in the next budget such as a special fund that clusters can use for travelling or more resources for visual outreach products or else a new mail system.

8. AOB

- For sharing (sensitive) information, the SMT agreed on setting a separate SMT ownCloud account. Maria will follow up on that.

Action Points

- Follow up on the Vienna visit – Sigrún
- Res 1325 – Luc and Sigrún
- Preparations for the GB meeting – the SMT, Christina, Elena
- Draft internal guide on project managing – Elena
- Finalise and circulate internal guide on project seminars - Maria
- Setting the SMT ownCloud - Maria

Items carried forward

Stockholm Security Conference 2019. Questions to address include:

- (i) whether there should be another SSC and, in the affirmative,
- (ii) what it should be about and
- (iii) (who should be in charge of it.

Cross-cluster upcoming dates

Meeting of the SIPRI Governing Board – Nov 26-27

Christmas lunch – December 7