

## **SIPRI SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING**

24 November 2020

### **MINUTES**

#### Participants

Sibylle Bauer, Stephanie Blenckner, Luc van de Goor, Maria Kaemmerle, Jannie Lilja, Dan Smith, Joakim Vaverka

Helena Berger (present for item 1)

Note-taker Elena Haapaniemi

The meeting was conducted via Zoom.

#### 1. Corona virus

- Stricter guidelines, in force in Stockholm since October 29, have been extended until December 13 and might be further extended after that date.
- Helena will draft a note summarizing the current official guidance for Dan to share with all staff asap.

#### 2. Minutes

- The minutes from the SMT meeting on November 10 were approved.

#### 3. Matters arising

- The SMT agreed to:
  - Extend the associate status agreement for Niklas Bremberg.
  - Not extend such status for Camilla Born.
- Joakim reminded the SMT that MFA's NIS department encouraged SIPRI to submit proposals for special project funding administered by NIS. Outline project ideas (one-page format) should be submitted to Joakim in early December so he can submit them to NIS by the middle of the month, so as to get feedback and develop some of them into proper proposals.
- Steph shared with the SMT an update from Olle on current access to academic journals. The SMT agreed to ask Programme Directors whether additional journals are of interest and which ones. SMT will then see whether requirements can be met either through additional subscriptions or through cooperation with Universities.
- The SMT pointed out the option of including a specific budget line for access to academic journals when drafting project proposals.

#### 4. Report back

- Steph reported back that the draft arms industry data launch storyline is ready.
- Luc informed the SMT that Ian is looking at possibilities of organizing an online event on Turkish involvement in Libya in cooperation with the University of Stockholm.

- Maria informed the SMT that she has received a letter from our new landlord. An introductory meeting with senior management, whether in person or virtually, should be organized at the earliest. Maria will follow up on that.
- Maria reported that the Governing Board approved the working budget for 2021 at the meeting held the previous week.
- Joakim informed the SMT that the Governing Board agreed to nominate Feodor Voytolovsky and Chan Heng Chee as new Board members and to nominate Radha Kumar for a further five-year term. The RSC has already agreed to these nominatins. When the trade unions' agreement is received Joakim will prepare the necessary paperwork for a formal government decision.
- Jannie informed the SMT that the call for proposals for the Stockholm Forum 2021 is ready to be sent out to partners. The working title for the Forum is "Promoting Peace in the Age of Compound Risk."
- Jannie reported back that Norway´s MFA approved funding of our work on climate and security in connection with Norway's membership of the UNSC.
- Sibylle shared her experience of participating in the annual EU Non-proliferation and Disarmament Conference where technical support was provided by a group of technical experts behind the scenes which made the whole experience considerably more professional. Steph will take this take-away further and share with Johanna and the rest of the team.
- Dan reported back about briefing the Informal Expert Group of Members of the Security Council on Climate and Security on recent developments in Somalia in an informal virtual meeting held on Nov 20. The invitation came from the Nigerian and German missions at the UN.

#### 5. Staffing & project issues

- SIPRI will start a recruitment process for a PD and a researcher for the SAHEL team.
- Jannie is drafting a JD for a RA to work on the EBA and on the SIGHT-Lancet projects.
- Maria informed the SMT that out of three applications submitted to FORMAS, one was accepted (Elise´s project proposal).
- Alexandra Kuimova has been promoted to a researcher position. The SMT congratulated Alexandra on all her hard work and wished her success in her new role.
- Joakim and Helena are working to set up a better structured "Introduction to SIPRI" for new staff members. Elin will be in charge of holding this process together, under Helena´s supervision. SMT discussed the point that better support on introducing international staff not just to SIPRI but to Sweden will be much appreciated by new staff members. Joakim and Maria will discuss and agree on ways to meet this demand.
- Sibylle suggested discussing how we can reach wider audiences with our job ads, to increase diversity among our staff. It was agreed to take this at the next strategic SMT away-day.

#### 6. SSC 2020 – reflections

- One of the main take-aways is that the studio day in SIPRI premises went relatively well. It did demand a considerable investment in terms of human and technical resources. Should we decide to continue to invest into this set-up, it could become a good alternative to renting an external studio for future events.
- The process of e-mail communication with participants, especially when sending reminders about particular sessions in bcc format, might need to be reconsidered.
- Steph raised the question of branding of the SSC distinctly from the Forum. What are the target audiences for each event? What is the lens each one brings to bear on different aspects of security? SMT will have a more in-depth discussion on Dec 8.

7. SIPRI Associate

- Vladimir Baranovsky's ten year mandate period of serving as SIPRI Board member is coming to an end early next year. However, there is a mutual interest in continued cooperation. The SMT endorsed inviting Vladimir Baranovsky to be a Distinguished Associate once his Board assignment expires i.e. starting on January 22, 2021.

8. MFA strategic grant: applications for allocations

- Maria compiled all the project proposals under the MFA strategic grant. The list needs to be trimmed down so as to fit into the overall allocated budget. The criteria for eventual selection include the ODA-relevance of the project, its quality, and its strategic value-added for SIPRI.
- The SMT made a first rough cut. Maria will adjust the list as a follow up of this discussion. DoSes will go back to programme directors with feedback and suggestions. PDs should take it from there and adjust, where possible, the applications, or consider other donors. Jannie, Joakim and Luc can provide addition guidance and advice on ODA funding criteria, if need be.

9. AOB

- NTR.

**Action Points**

- Feedback on what kind of projects would be eligible to receive NIS funding – Joakim
- Feedback from PDs on interest in particular journal(s) – DoSes to the SMT/Steph
- Follow up with the new landlord – Joakim
- Introduction to SIPRI and Sweden for new staff – Joakim, Maria and Helena
- Prepare a contract for Vladimir Baranovsky as Distinguished – Helena
- Further work on applications under the MFA strategic grant – PDs with feedback from DoSes, Maria to adjust the current list of eligible projects, SMT to resume discussion

**Items carried forward**

RAs at SIPRI: trajectory and development

Project management guidelines

First thoughts for SSC 2021 – to put on the agenda for Dec 8