

## **SIPRI SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING**

25 August 2020

### **MINUTES**

#### Participants

Stephanie Blenckner, Luc van de Goor, Maria Kaemmerle, Jannie Lilja, Dan Smith

Helena Berger (present for item 1)

Note-taker Elena Haapaniemi

The meeting was conducted via Zoom.

#### 1. Corona virus including use of office, August-December 2020

- The schedule for working from the office during the fall is almost ready. Helena will circulate it to all staff asap.
- An updated memo summarizing advice and recommendations from the Swedish authorities, in English, will be shared with all new staff members currently based abroad. A reference to applicable SIPRI rules will be part of it.
- The IT department has been looking into the possibility to provide extra screens when working from the office. Information about this will be shared together with the memo on working from the office.
- The SMT discussed the need to agree upon, and endorse the set of rules for informing each other in case a staff member gets diagnosed with Covid-19.

#### 2. Minutes

- The minutes from the SMT meeting on August 18 were approved.

#### 3. Matters arising

- Nothing to report.

#### 4. Report back

- The Finance team is working on the set-up of the new financial system, Maconomy.
- From now on, Maria will try to join as many cluster meetings as possible so as to be able to directly address and provide feedback on all relevant issues e.g. the Project Management guidelines, the new financial system etc. Steph has the same ambition.
- Steph and the team are helping to set up Dan's conversation with the UNHCR's Filippo Grandi scheduled to take place on Aug 31, as well as the forthcoming Connectivity and the Arctic workshops.
- Luc provided a detailed update from his cluster, in particular from the Sahel team. So far, the work of the team has not been affected by the recent military coup in Mali. The draft contract with the UNDP is ready to be signed. The CMI has reached out to explore possibilities of joint work. Previous cooperation with the World Bank resulted in the fact that SIPRI has been identified as a lead partner for the WB project in the lake Chad region.
- Dylan is working on a proposal for USAID.
- The "Just Peace" project in Luc's cluster has been approved. It is a project in cooperation with the Dutch MFA and CORDAID. SIPRI is the biggest partner in this five-year

initiative. Specific countries and local partners are yet to be identified. The project should start as of January 2021. The project lead will be in touch with Lena and Maria on the details.

- The Finnish MFA has agreed to fund a paper on the effect of COVID-19 on peace operations as part of the New Geopolitics of Peace project. The deadline of the overall project is delayed with one year in order to allow for meetings to take place in 2021.
- The Swedish MFA has expressed its interest in cooperating with SIPRI in the context of Sweden taking the Chair of the OSCE next year and will be in touch soon.
- Jannie informed the SMT that Mistra Geopolitics project is going into the next phase. An annual conference is scheduled to take place in mid-September.
- Jannie conducted her first cluster meeting on August 19.

#### **5. Staffing & project issues**

- Louise will be back from her maternity leave on August 31. She will continue working with the Sahel team.
- New members of the MENA team are slowly relocating to Stockholm. The new statistician with the Sahel team should hopefully be able to come to Sweden in October 2020.
- Dan informed the SMT that for those staff members who might be travelling to potentially risky countries on SIPRI's behalf, there is a possibility to undergo a HEAT training online.
- The SMT agreed to:
  - Extend Michael Sahlin's contract as a distinguished SIPRI associate.
  - Consider an associate status for Professor Jingdong Yan upon receiving a memo from Luc.
  - From now on and until further notice, accept and duly process applications for virtual internships.

#### **6. SSC 20**

- Luc provided an update on the SSC status. Preparations are moving ahead, with the clusters developing concept notes for the sessions. Luc brought a memo outlining outstanding issues to SMT for decisions, including on the structure of the event over four days, session themes and partnerships.

#### **7. Key Performance Indicators**

- Maria circulated the latest draft among the SMT, adapted following discussions in all clusters. The SMT made some adjustments in the document. Dan and Maria will meet separately to go through the sections on convening power and building peace research capacity, while Jannie will take the P&D section to her cluster for a further reality check.
- Dan reiterated that KPIs is a strategic tool; as such, it is an instrument for Dan, the SMT and the Board to monitor the implementation of the Institute's strategy, not a means of guiding programme directors' decisions.
- The objective is to endorse the KPIs at the SMT meeting the following week.

#### **8. Outreach technology**

- Steph informed the SMT on the progress in procuring equipment for hosting high quality virtual and/or hybrid events at SIPRI.
- This item will remain on the SMT agenda until a firm decision has been adopted.

#### **9. AOB**

- Nothing to report.

**Action Points**

- Finalise the KPIs – Maria, Dan and Jannie