

SIPRI SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

Solna, 27 August 2019

MINUTES

Participants

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

1. MoM approval

- There were no minutes from the previous SMT meeting on Aug 20.

2. Matters arising from the previous MoM

- None.

3. Report back

- Maria reported back that she has been working on:
 - Planning for the next round of line management training, together with Helena and Lilian; a follow up meeting with Dan and Sigrún is scheduled for Sept 12.
 - The office redistribution scheme so as to fit all new staff members.
- Maria will initiate the next budget process soon, in close cooperation with DoSes.
- The SMT agreed on featuring the Iranian Foreign Minister's lecture at SIPRI on Aug 21 in the monthly newsletter, focusing on the good international coverage of the event and adding a link to the spotlight interview.
- Steph might travel to the DRC next week to participate in the comms event planned within the framework of Jair's project.
- Sibylle invited the SMT to suggest additional names to invite to the NPD education meeting scheduled for Sept 23-24.
- Sibylle will participate in the German MFA's tech governance workshop in Berlin on August 30, and also use this opportunity to continue networking with key German interlocutors.
- Sibylle is planning to attend the Non-Proliferation Conference in Moscow.
- Sigrún, Sibylle and Tytti will have a working meeting with the MFA's NIS department on Aug 29, and the SMT discussed some of the points that need to be highlighted during that meeting.
- Gary and Sigrún had a good first meeting with the MFA about the Forum 2020. On this occasion, the new SIPRI curator of the Forum Jago Salmon has been formally introduced to the MFA Forum team.
- Gary will meet with the UNODC on Aug 30 to discuss GReVD. The plan is to work with UNODC experts on the methodology. Furthermore, SIPRI and UNODC might join forces in fundraising. This might materialize during Gary's next trip to London.

4. Staffing & project issues

- Partnering with the World Bank is moving forward on several levels:
 - The Sahel team, together with the climate team, has secured a grant to work on the development of a knowledge and monitoring platform for decision-making in the Lake Chad region. The grant should cover the design of the platform and the study of multidimensional risks in the region.
 - Dan continues to actively engage with the WB to secure support for several SIPRI projects, including our work in the Middle East and the EP 2022. A working discussion took place the day before, on Aug 26, and other follow up meetings have already been scheduled.
- The Sahel team will submit an application for the joint DFID and Danish Refugee Council financing next week. The project is about better understanding the causes of humanitarian protection risks and violations and gathering evidence on which interventions are most effective in improving humanitarian protection outcomes. The focus is in particular on impact of restraint, and impact of local protection mechanisms. Diversity/gender will be a crosscutting theme and the needs of the most vulnerable groups of populations will be at the core of the research. The geographic focus is on the Liptako-Gourma border regions (Burkina Faso, Niger and Mali). The project is funded by DFID and AHRC (Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) - part of UK Research and Innovation). If we were to be selected, implementation is foreseen to start in 2020, for a period of 2 years.
- SIPRI received over 300 applications for the advertised position of the RA with the MENA program. Recruitment process is underway.
- Sigrún thanked all DoSes for good discussions on the MFA grant application. The SMT briefly discussed a few issues that require further precision, e.g. disarmament education. The SMT agreed that it could be framed as peace research capacity building and/or linked to the dissemination of YB translations. The work on regional security in the gulf region (UNSC resolution 598) should be part of the future MENA program; for now, it is Shannon who should take the lead on that.
- On Aug 29, Sigrún will receive the new Minister Counselor of the Embassy of Korea, Mr Jae-Hui Kim who will pay a courtesy call to SIPRI.
- Dan continues to promote EP 2022 – in his contacts with the Swedish MFA, with the World Bank and also last week during his visit to Denmark where he participated in a panel discussion organised jointly by the Danish Foreign Policy Society and WFP.

5. UNHCR

- Cooperation with the UNHCR seems to be moving ahead. The joint ambition is that this cooperation should be formalized soon and, in any case, before the Global Refugee Forum.

6. UNEP

- Cooperation with the UNEP is also gaining pace.

7. Challenges and tasks:

P&D Cluster

- The challenges and priorities for the cluster include:
- In terms of HR:
 - Getting a new DoS (the draft JD is ready, Dan already provided his feedback, other SMT members will do the same).
 - Getting a gender researcher (the SMT suggested Gary drafts a JD) and

- Getting a new climate risk researcher (?).
- In terms of funding:
 - Diversifying the sources of funding.
- In terms of the structure:
 - There is a need to have a senior employee to lead the Nexus work.
- In operational terms:
 - There is a need to think how best to handle partnerships.

Outreach

- Three major concerns:
 - The editorial process (good to have freelancers but the downside is that true SIPRI footprint is missing, i.e. the issue of quality of our publications).
 - The in-house peer-review process is not functioning as it should. Little or no participation, even from those with the right type of expertise. A solution would be to include peer-reviewing as one of the tasks in all the relevant JDs and, consequently, as an integral part of PADs review.
 - Poor project managing and poor coordination between the researchers and the outreach. A feasibility check with the comms should always be done on any outreach deliverables! A remedy to that should be clear formal internal guidelines, and strict adherence to those. Elena will draft Project Implementation Guidelines.
- Other issues to follow up before Christmas:
 - Make sure that every associate is teamed up with an in-house researcher.
 - Find the right balance between quality and quantity of SIPRI products. To decide how to prioritize.
 - To convene SIPRI Editorial Board more frequently.

8. AOB

- NTR.

Action Points

- Suggest candidates to invite to the NPD education meeting – the SMT to Sibylle
- Follow up with the WB – Dan, Luc
- Finalizing the P&D DoS JD – Gary
- Drafting a JD for a gender researcher – Gary
- Draft Project Implementation Guidelines - Elena

Items carried forward

- MoU with the UNHCR
- Follow up on the meeting between Jan and Peter Maurer

N.B. Next SMT meeting on Sept 3 will start at 14:00.