

SIPRI SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

27 October 2020

MINUTES

Participants

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

- Considering that a few new staff members will be in Stockholm shortly, there might be a need to review and slightly adjust the working-from-the-office schedule. Helena will look into this.

2. Minutes

- Feedback from Sibylle, Joakim and Luc on minutes of the 20 October meeting is pending.

3. Matters arising

- NTR.

4. Report back

- The SMT approved the request submitted by the climate team for having an away-day plus dinner at the office, under the condition that all due precautions will be taken and that all other staff that have their office day then, are duly informed in advance. The kitchen area will then be only accessible to the climate team.
- Luc updated the SMT on the progress in organising the SSC.
- Jannie informed the SMT that Florian has submitted the application to Norway's MFA for advice on climate change and security during the country's UNSC membership.
- Jannie reported on a side event held in the margins of the virtual World Bank annual meeting, in which Jago Salmon participated, and in which Sweden launched an initiative on good peacebuilding donorship.
- On Oct 22, Dan participated in a seminar "Risk of a Hunger Pandemic" organised by Sweden's MFA with the participation of WFP Executive Director, Sweden's Minister for International Development Cooperation, Sida's General Director and Head of the International Department of the Swedish Red Cross. The event gave Dan an opportunity to discuss with WFP's David Beasley the signing of the agreement to extend the SIPRI-WFP partnership. They agreed in principle to sign it when Mr Beasley returns to Stockholm after the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony in Oslo and to have a public, filmed conversation together as they did in early 2018 when the partnership MoU was first signed.

5. Staffing & project issues

- Shourjya Deb, researcher/statistician with the Sahel team, is coming to Stockholm shortly.
- Katia will be on leave for seven months, starting from January 2021. Luc and Steph have already started a discussion on replacement options.
- Ian Anthony has been invited to become a member of the Royal Swedish Academy of War Sciences. This is a very honourable nomination. The SMT duly acknowledged it and warmly congratulated Ian on this important achievement.

6. AOB

- On Dan's suggestion, the SMT brainstormed on topics that are worth discussing on a more in-depth level at forthcoming meetings. This was welcomed by the SMT members present. Suggested topics include:
 - Modes of outreach and visualization.
 - Language used to describe a situation in a country (e.g. use of the term "regime" vs "government").

Action Points

- Adjust the working-from-the-office schedule if necessary - Helena
- Follow up on the away-day with the climate team - Maria

Items carried forward

- IT at SIPRI: alternatives to Zimbra (Jan 2021)