

## **SIPRI SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING**

Solna, 28 May 2019

### **MINUTES**

#### Participants

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

#### 1. MoM approval

- Minutes of the previous SMT meeting on May 21 will be approved on an *ad hoc* basis by Luc, Sigrún and Dan who participated in the meeting.

#### 2. Matters arising from the previous MoM

- Steph is following up on:
  - The request to co-host an event with the Islamic Relief: the idea is to involve WFP in the process too. Steph will introduce Gary to her contact person at the IR and Gary will assign someone in his team to be the point of contact.
  - The invitation to participate in an event organized by the IM, Swedish humanitarian NGO called Individuell Människohjälp Swedish Development Partner. The timing for the event is not optimal but Sigrún will try to include it in her calendar.
- Steph reported that 350 guests registered to attend the SIPRI lecture. Good feedback on the event has been received. Dagens Nyheter is going to publish an article featuring Michelle Bachelet.
- Steph reported back on the trip to Nairobi to attend the launch of the regional expert group on regional mainstreaming of climate and security issues. The launch was set up in cooperation with Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung. It was a constructive first meeting of a group that includes representatives of government bodies, parliamentarians from the region, academics, NGOs and regional environmental organizations. The group will work under the Chatham House rule and will, in the first place, survey peace agreements in the region to establish if/how they have addressed climate issues. A very promising start from a communications point of view and yet another proof that Friedrich-Ebert Stiftung is a good partner for SIPRI.
- Gary informed the SMT that:
  - Marina is in Rome as part of an expert group on SDG 16 doing the preparatory work for the HLPF. Gary invited the SMT to use Marina's growing expertise in this field.

- Gary, Luc, Nan, Pieter and Marina met with the representatives of the African Center for Strategic Studies on the margins of the Forum, to discuss possibilities of conducting joint research on security sector reform. Gary suggested to take this discussion further, internally, after the summer break.
- Gary will meet DFID on May 29, to discuss progress on GReVD and to present the gaps report. Gary will circulate the draft report among the SMT.
- Gary and Martina had a meeting at the MFA earlier that day where Urban announced that he will be replaced by Christian Fågelström. The latter will become our new focal point for the Forum.

- The SMT discussed the MFA's request to SIPRI to publish a Forum report. The SMT discussed the need for such a report and what would be the most suitable format for it. It was agreed that if all opening speeches are to be included into the report, a transcript of Jan's welcome address needs to be made. Sigrún's suggestion to put together action points relating to the HLPF was welcomed by the rest of the SMT and so was the idea of Gary and Urban (or just Gary) publishing a joint blog post within the next couple of weeks. Steph and Gary will discuss further.

- The SMT agreed to have a strategic discussion on how to best tackle the gender agenda in our research.

- Sibylle briefly reported back from the Nuclear Disarmament conference organized by Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (SWP) in Berlin on May 20-21. Some fifteen government representatives as well as international experts participated in this event held under the Chatham House rule. SWP chose an interesting format that proved to be efficient and successful – work in smaller groups on assigned topics with the aim to identify common grounds. The conference was attended by the future chair of the NPT review conference, Argentinian Ambassador Rafael Mariano Grossi. Sibylle will brief Dan more in detail on this event bilaterally.

- Sigrún:

- Thanked everyone involved in the preparations for the Lecture, making it a success.
- Suggested rescheduling the meeting with Per Olsson Fridh; she will follow up on that.
- Informed the SMT about her discussion with Per Taube where he suggested hosting another ambassadors' lunch. This needs to be followed up.
- Suggested the SMT discusses the proposal by Lars-Erik Lundin on training on the role of nuclear disarmament in security policy. It was agreed to invite Lars-Erik to SIPRI to have a more in-depth discussion on this. Sigrún will follow up.
- Reminded SMT of the need for SIPRI to have a clear line as to Lundin report on the consequences of a Swedish accession to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Also, it would be good to have a Swedish speaking person read the entire official response and make a summary of main pro and contra arguments.

- Luc allocated most of his time last week to interviewing the candidates for the Sahel programme. Two strong candidates have been identified.

- Dan met Annika Söder on May 22 and one of the issues discussed was the emerging ambition of the ministry to establish a national nuclear disarmament knowledge base, both technical and political. The question of its possible location remains open.

- Dan provided an update on the ministerial meeting on non-proliferation on June 11. A parallel meeting of senior officials will be held alongside the ministerial one; BASIC's Paul Ingram and Dan to address them. The idea is to continue discussions later in September on the expert level (10-15 experts) and on the senior officials' level in November. The MFA would like SIPRI to play a major role in the whole process and

expects an application from SIPRI for a grant for this purpose. That means we will need to draft a concept note and initiate relevant preparations rather soon.

- Dan provided a brief feedback from the Board meeting. It was a good meeting with the Board members sharing interesting thoughts about the draft strategy document and, in general, being positive about SIPRI work. As a result of the discussion on the candidates to replace Lakhdar Brahimi on the Board, four names emerged:
  - To replace Lakhdar
    - Ramtane Lamamra or
    - Ghassan Salame.
  - To replace Dewi when she stands down next year
    - Tong Zhao.
  - As an additional Board member
    - Funmi Olonisakin.

#### 4. Staffing & project issues

- The position of a financial controller is currently being advertised.
- At some point, editorial capacity shall be discussed by the SMT.
- At some point, event logistics coordinator position shall be discussed. Gary suggested Martina compares the costs of having someone on SIPRI payroll to this end vs. using an external professional agency for tickets bookings, visas, taxis on an *ad hoc* basis.
- The joint event with the MSB run by Vincent on SIPRI's side was very successful.
- Ian's application for a grant on chemical weapons project has been approved.
- Regretfully, there will be no one available to greet and brief the delegation from Uzbekistan headed by the speaker of the parliament that would like to visit SIPRI on June 17. Sigrún will send the reply.

#### 5. SMT strategic planning away-day on June 3

- All DoSes will need to send their input for the grant application in the form of a one page paper and also to come up with the chronological list of important international events that might be important for the Swedish MFA and where the ministry might seek SIPRI's advice and support. All this will facilitate the strategic discussion.
- Dan summarized the input of the Board members as to the draft institutional strategy. It has been agreed that the strategy will include an introduction in the form of the strategic analysis of the current state of the world, including trends and possible future scenarios; this analysis will be updated on a yearly basis. A more detailed description of strategic initiatives per cluster should also be added; these should be linked to the grant application. The idea is that the strategy should be a living document, adjusted as required considering developments on the global arena.
- The agenda for the meeting on June 3:
  - MFA application.
  - Strategy discussion.
  - The IT infrastructure.
  - The Comms and outreach – the voice and the brand.

#### 6. AOB NTR.

### **Action Points**

- Follow up with the Islamic Relief and WFP on a joint event – Gary and his team
- Follow up on participating in the IM Swedish Development Partner event this autumn – Steph and Sigrún
- Cooperation with the African Center for Strategic Studies and possible joint project on security sector reform – Gary
- Discuss possible post-Forum printed reporting – Steph and Gary
- Strategic discussion on gender – the SMT
- Transcript of Jan's welcome address at the Forum – Sigrún
- Circulate GReVD gaps report among the SMT – Gary
- Detailed report back to Dan from the SWP's Nuclear Disarmament conference in Berlin – Sibylle
- Follow up with Lars-Erik Lundin on his training initiative and scheduling a meeting - Sigrún
- Rescheduling the meeting with Per Olsson Fridh – Sigrún
- Ambassadors' lunch at Steninge – Steph and Sigrún
- Concept note on taking the ministerial meeting further – Sibylle and Dan
- Look at the costs for a professional service taking care of logistics around our major events including Forum vs a new staff member – Gary and Martina
- Prepare for the SMT away day including input to the application for the MFA grant and overview of major forthcoming international events - SMT

### **Items carried forward**

- Stockholm Forum – any follow-up?
- SIPRI at Almedalen

### **Future events at SIPRI**

- SIPRI IISS event on the DPRK – June 18
- SIPRI - ICRC Workshop on Autonomous Weapons and Human Control – June 18-19