

SIPRI SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

29 September 2020

MINUTES

Participants

Sibylle Bauer, Stephanie Blenckner, Luc van de Goor, Jannie Lilja (present for items 1 and 2), Dan Smith, Joakim Vaverka

Helena Berger (present for items 1-4)

Note-taker Elena Haapaniemi

The meeting was conducted via Zoom.

1. Corona virus

- The SMT agreed that we need to achieve a greater coherence in terms of our internal rules regarding (a) quarantine procedures for all staff members arriving to Stockholm from abroad and (b) office sharing and social distancing at SIPRI premises. Helena and Dan will revisit the existing set of rules and come with suggestions.

2. PADs (Performance Assessment and Development)

- The PAD process for all staff will be initiated shortly. Helena will set up a timeline, and the SMT will fine-tune both the guidance and the evaluation form at the next meeting.

3. Minutes

- The minutes from the SMT meeting on September 15 were approved.

4. Matters arising

- On Sept 30, Joakim will have a discussion with the head of the MFA diplomatic training program about the dates and the format of SIPRI's input to the next round of the program.
- Joakim and Elin have started preparations for the forthcoming Governing Board meeting.
- Joakim will discuss with the MFA the possibility of having a pre-recorded message for the SSC open day on November 18 by Sweden's Foreign Minister.

5. Report back

- Steph informed the SMT that SIPRI will be issuing an expert comment by Ian on the situation in Nagorno Karabakh by the end of the week. On Oct 1, Jan will be giving his comments to Swedish media on the recent escalation between Armenia and Azerbaijan.
- The Comms team has started doing regional spotlight interviews for the connectivity project and for Petr's South Asia project.
- Joakim continues his tour of interlocutors at the MFA. Latest meetings were held with the representatives from Asia and Africa departments.
- Sibylle informed the SMT that Hiroshima prefecture will provide financing for another year, this time to produce a report on "Diminishing Nuclear Deterrence: the Role of Emerging Technologies".

6. Staffing & project issues

- Luc informed the SMT that the SSC invitations have been sent out and some positive replies have already been received.

7. Follow-up from strategic away day

- The SMT went through Dan's informal notes from the away-day on Sept 22 and discussed required follow up. One of the main action points consists in updating the Institute Strategy that Dan will take forward. Another important issue is agreeing on a uniform procedure in terms of peer review, writing style and further issues pertinent to SIPRI publications. It was agreed to discuss it both in clusters and at the RSC.

8. Amex database upgrade proposal

- Sibylle presented the AMEX team's proposal relating to upgrading the arms transfers database. This is a necessity since the current software is so outdated that further maintenance is not possible. The aim is to make the database user-friendly. The proposal is in line with SIPRI strategy.
- The SMT agreed that, before proceeding, the budget must be checked and agreed with Maria. In any case, there will be no additional hire for this work.
- The SMT confirmed the ambition to achieve coherence and to ensure SIPRI branding for all our databases.

9. AOB

- Nothing to report.

Action Points

- Revisit internal corona-related procedures – Dan and Helena
- PAD timeline – Helena
- Fine-tune the budget for upgrading arms transfers database – Amex team with Maria

Items carried forward

- Finalize PAD guidance and form
- Outreach calendar Q1 2020 (to discuss in October)