



SIPRI SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

Solna, 30 April 2019

MINUTES

Participants

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

1. MoM approval

- The SMT will provide feedback on the minutes of the previous meeting on April 23 in writing. The minutes will be approved at the next SMT meeting.

2. Matters arising from the previous MoM

- The SMT agreed to aim at planning an internal dissemination event on knowledge sharing on gender related issues in August, after the summer break.

3. Report back

- Steph reported that the milex data launch is going exceptionally well this year, with the record number of articles (1200 as of noon on April 29) featured in major global media including CNN, Al Jazeera, The Economist, major US, French and Swiss newspapers etc. as well as the Swedish Svenska Dagbladet and Swedish Radio. Alex will prepare a detailed summary. When it comes to editing and fine-tuning SIPRI milex documents, Dan stressed the need for having an internal system that would allow more time. The Director and DoS need to read an early draft if it deals with a (potentially) sensitive issue. Steph said she will make sure that, in the future, Dan always gets an early draft.
- Steph informed the SMT that SIPRI will issue Dan's comment on the JCPOA on May 7, one day ahead of the one-year anniversary of the US withdrawal from the agreement, to mark the occasion and to feed SIPRI timely into the debate. Steph will circulate the draft among the SMT.
- Steph pointed out that the increasing number of events at SIPRI premises require an increasing level of internal cooperation and coordination. If we fail to do that we might end up with competing events and serious logistic challenges. Even today, it is hard to ensure smooth running of events since internal communication is not always working properly. The SMT agreed that there is no need to change the existing open booking system as long as it works. This issue will also be raised at the RSC.
- Sibylle confirmed that Shannon is planning a closed event on the DPRK together with the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), to be held at SIPRI (Boardroom) on June 18. According to Sigrún, the NIS department is very interested in the event; it might be good to send an invitation to them. Sigrún will follow up with Shannon.
- Sibylle informed the SMT about another workshop at SIPRI that Vincent will organize in cooperation with the ICRC on June 18-19. The workshop is on autonomous weapons and human control.
- Sibylle reported back on the successful launch of the disarmament verification paper at the NPT PrepCom meeting in New York on April 29.

- Gary is in Bogota attending a meeting on methodology that the Institute for Integrated Transition (IFIT) has developed for secret talks; this is very relevant to our dialogue processes. This could be further discussed between Gary, Dan, Luc and IFIT Director Mark Freeman on the margins of the Forum.
 - Gary and the team are working to complete two pieces of work by the end of the week:
 - The draft report with WFP. Gary will send the final draft to Dan latest on Monday May 6, before it goes to the WFP.
 - The GReVD “gaps” report.
 - Dan, who attended the Moscow Security Conference last week, reported back about his meeting with the Russian Senator and former ambassador to the US and to NATO Sergej Kislyak. They discussed the non-existing dialogue between Russia and the US. As a first attempt to change the situation, Kislyak suggested bringing together a small group of parliamentarians from both sides. This needs further thought.
4. Staffing & project issues
- The SMT agreed to Annika Salisbury, currently on part-time leave of absence due to studies, temporarily returning to full-time work as an editor to help alleviate the bottleneck in editorial capacity. The period concerned is between 1 May and 10 June.
 - Luc informed the SMT that there is a long list of nine candidates for Aurélien’s position. The next step is Skype meetings with the candidates.
 - Sigrún informed the SMT that SIPRI’s proposal on Mali has been sent to SIDA.
 - Steph reported back on her meeting with Elena to summarize the outreach team’s feedback and comments on the draft project implementation policy. Elena will update the draft accordingly and resubmit to the SMT for additional discussion.
5. Stockholm Forum update
- To quote Gary, the Forum is now at the “polishing” stage.
 - Additional capacity is urgently needed to help the Martina with the remaining preparations. Elena, Elin and Carina are already available to help. Luc will check who is available in the SAHEL team. Where possible, other interns apart from Fiona (who is working full-time with Martina) and Carina shall be involved too. Sigrún will coordinate joint efforts.
6. SSC19 update
- Luc informed the SMT that he:
 - Has established contact with the MSC for partnering on the SSC19 and
 - Is contacting IWEP for the same purpose.
 - The SMT endorsed the idea of inviting Federica Mogherini to the SSC.
7. SIPRI strategy 2019-2024
- Dan presented the updated draft institutional strategy for the five-year period from 2019 until 2024. Apart from the very format (a fully structured word version vs a PowerPoint presented to the Board last May), the document comprises a few novelties, namely:
 - The need to include the gender perspective in the research is stated much more clearly.
 - Both cluster 1 and 2 have been given responsibility for the SSC.
 - Dan invented a new project for cluster 2 and gave a new commitment for cluster 3 to work on gender and sustainable development in peace processes and for cluster 2 on peacebuilding.
 - Dan changed the name of cluster 2 to Conflict, Peace and Security.
 - The SMT agreed that it will be good to have an annex to the strategy paper with a short description of each cluster. This needs to be drafted by the DoSes; however, there is no

deadline for that for the moment. Dan will present to the Board the version without the annex. Prior to that, the draft will be discussed at the RSC.

- Luc, Sibylle and Gary already provided their comments on the draft in writing. There was further discussion at the SMT. Dan thanked the SMT for all the comments that will be reflected, where appropriate, in the draft to be then send out to RSC.
8. Governing Board agenda
- Sigrún presented to the SMT the draft agenda that will be also discussed at the RSC on May 7.
 - For the thematic discussion on SIPRI research, when all staff are invited to participate, the following three topics have been identified:
 - Armament and disarmament and preparations for NPT2020;
 - China's Belt and Road Initiative (Luc will check whether Fei could do it);
 - Environment for Peace 2022.
 - A briefing on the Forum is part of the first day's program (Gary).
 - The thematic lunches on the first day will be centered around SIPRI research. We will have 6 tables which means 6 topics, 2 participants per cluster. The topics/candidates can be, as suggested by DoSes:
 - Gary: GReVD and Marina's work on governance and society with focus on security reform;
 - Luc: SAHEL (with the team being in the field during the Board meeting, only Mamadou might be available; Luc will check with him), peace operations or Ian on European security.
 - Sibylle: AI/LAWs (Vincent), missiles in the Middle East (Tytti and Pieter) or India/Pakistan (Petr).

9. Governing Board members:

- Successors need to be identified for Lakhdar (whose mandate ended in April 2019), Dewi (stepping down February 2020) and Vladimir (January 2021). The SMT identified Mohamed ElBaradei (Egypt) as a viable candidate to replace Lakhdar. Hanan Ashrawi might be considered too. Additional names might be suggested by the RSC and by the Board itself. The final decision on the candidate(s) lies with the Board.
- To replace Dewi, Dan suggested considering selecting a representative from Latin America since we simply do not have anyone from the region. With Caroline and Diego joining the SIPRI team, we need to further consolidate our work in Latin America.
- Dan finds it essential to have a Russian to replace Vladimir, and his suggestion is the IMEMO Director Feodor Vojtlovsky.
- The names for the Board will be discussed at the RSC.

10. AOB

- With Gulzhan being away, Gary will assist Sigrún with the preparations for the launch of the Lancet commission on May 9.

Action Points

- Raise the issue of better coordination and cooperation around events at SIPRI at the RSC – Dan and the SMT
- Circulate Dan's statement on the JCPOA among SMT plus relevant research staff – Steph
- Invite NIS to the SIPRI-IISS event, if possible – Sigrún and Shannon
- Arrange a meeting between Gary, Dan, Luc and Mark Freeman on the margins of the Forum - Gary
- Forward the draft WFP report to Dan - Gary

- Invite Federica Mogherini to the SSC19 – Luc and Katia
- Update the draft project implementation policy – Elena

Items carried forward

- Sigrún advised the SMT that the agenda next Tuesday will include deliverables from each cluster to be included in the MFA grant application.

Future events at SIPRI

- NATO PA delegation visit – May 6
- RSC – May 7
- Kuwait visit – May 8
- Arctic workshop – May 9
- SIPRI-MSB workshop - May 24
- SIPRI Governing Board meeting – May 27-28
- SIPRI IISS event on the DPRK – June 18
- SIPRI - ICRC Workshop on Autonomous Weapons and Human Control – June 18-19