

SIPRI SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

Solna, 4 February 2020

MINUTES

Participants

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

1. MoM approval

- The minutes from the SMT meeting on Jan 28 were approved.

2. Matters arising from the previous MoM

- Dan, Sibylle and Steph are planning to meet to discuss the set-up for the SIPRI lunch at the MSC on Feb 15.
- As agreed by the SMT, Siemon will draft the piece on the SIPRI data on Russian military expenditure.

3. Report back

- Steph shared with the SMT the feedback from our internal VC (Visual Communication) group about purchasing special software to facilitate quantitative research work and allocation of licenses. SIPRI is buying five licenses and the idea is to allocate them to our data teams – Amex, Peace Operations and GReVD. Endorsed by the SMT.
- Maria informed the SMT that the auditors will be working at SIPRI during the current week.
- Luc told the SMT that the Horn of Africa work is going towards its closure. External feedback on the quality of this work has already been very positive.
- Luc informed the SMT that the BRI workshop in China will be postponed until September due to the corona virus.
- Luc had a discussion with the Embassy of Japan on the workshop scheduled for March, informing the Embassy about the risks (we have two Chinese participants among the invitees).
- Sibylle had good discussions at the German MFA aimed at securing financing for our work on arms trade and arms control. Furthermore, Sibylle took part in a panel organized by the German Ministry of Defence. It was a chance to meet very senior people from the policy side that are very engaged with think tanks.
- From Berlin, Sibylle will travel to Hamburg where she has been invited to deliver a lecture at the research colloquium at the Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy at the University of Hamburg. She will also meet the IFSH Director and her team. Dan suggested to invite the Director to Stockholm since she is an interesting interlocutor and cooperation partner for SIPRI. Sibylle will tackle this during the meeting.
- Sigrún shared with the SMT the good news that the Swedish MFA has approved SIPRI's application for a three-year strategic grant. The total amount of the grant amounts to 92,5 mln SEK over three years which is (almost exactly) the target we aimed at.

- Sigrún reminded Luc and Sibylle to finalise their report back on the work under the previous strategic grant in line with Sigrún's comments.
- Dan reported back about his conversation with the Norwegian MFA. Norway is going to be the third country, along with Switzerland and Sweden, to finance the EoP 2022 study.
- Maria informed the SMT that Nikos and Fred have been working on the indicators template (indicators and benchmarking to support the SIPRI strategy). The SMT agreed that it would be good to invite both to present their draft directly to the SMT. Maria will have a preliminary meeting with Nikos and Fred on Feb 5 to go through their draft.

4. Staffing & project issues

- Maria stressed the importance of speedily processing the internal applications under the new MFA strategic grant now that this source of finance has been secured. Elin will set up a meeting between Maria, the DoSes, Sigrún and Nikos to go through all the received proposals.
- Upon Luc's suggestion and on the basis of his contribution to the Horn of Africa project, the SMT endorsed offering an Associate Senior Fellow status to Jason Mosley.
- Luc suggested and the SMT endorsed going ahead with the hiring process of a statistician (with a researcher status) for the SAHEL team. The idea is to start the recruitment asap and to finalise it in March-April.
- Sibylle provided an update on the recruitment process of a RA to work with the emerging technologies.
- Sigrún provided feedback from the joint seminar SIPRI held with the ICRC and the Swedish Red Cross. There is a lot of interest from the ICRC side to broaden the relations between the two institutions. To be further explored.
- Jannie, the new P&D DoS, will be in Stockholm for the Forum so there will be an opportunity for her to meet her new team. She will also be at the Fragility Forum in the DC, so Dan and other SIPRI colleagues who will be participating in the Forum will have a chance to meet her there.
- Steph reported back that the invitations to the Ambassadors lunch on Feb 17 sponsored by Per Taube have been sent.
- There will be a farewell fika for Aude on Tuesday Feb 11 at 15:00.
- Dan reported that the cyber disinformation workshop funded by the Japanese Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) and organized at SIPRI on Feb 4 had started well. JBIC showed interest in further cooperation with the Institute.
- Dan informed the SMT that the EoP 2022 is beginning to take shape and move forward. Dan and Sigrún are in the process of drafting JDs at the moment. Karolina will work 50 per cent on the project. Tomas is working on it on the communications side. Tomas and Karolina will do a one pager to explain the EoP 2022.
- The SMT endorsed promoting Caroline to a Senior Researcher. Caroline will also become the Program Director of the Knowledge Partnership with the WFP.
- Caroline and Dan have identified a consultant who will work on the cash transfer part of Phase II of the WFP program. She will be starting in August and will work for 8 months.

5. Visit of Ann Linde

- The Foreign Minister of Sweden, Ann Linde will be visiting SIPRI on March 10. It is only a one hour visit so very important that everyone who will participate in this briefing comes well prepared. Apart from Jan, Dan and Sigrún, Shannon, Ian and Sibylle will take part. The conversation might focus on the OSCE in view of the upcoming Swedish chairmanship. The idea is to have the discussion under the broad heading "International Cooperation". Before the briefing starts, there will be a photo op for all staff.

6. UNHCR – outline idea of cooperation

- Dan provided an update on the partnership with the UNHCR. We are currently in the process of discussing the contents of the MoU with Geneva colleagues. Our research will primarily focus on the root causes of forced displacement. Another field of research our partners are interested in are conditions of return. Here, we have been very clear in stating that our research results cannot be used to justify returns in a particularly given context. The ideal final product of this knowledge partnership should be political analysis embracing climate, governance and demography. Sigrún suggested merging this area of future SIPRI work with the relevant parts of our work formulated as part of the MFA strategic grant application. The SMT endorsed this approach.

7. Next RSC

- The next RSC will be convened on Feb 11 at 10:30. The main issue on the agenda will be (i) formal announcement of the MFA approval of our strategic grant application and (ii) explaining and initiating the process of identifying a new staff observer. Sigrún will prepare the background documentation.

8. AOB

- NTR.

Action Points

- Set-up for the SIPRI lunch at the MSC – Sibylle, Steph and Dan
- Processing the applications under the strategic grant – Sigrún, Maria and DoSes
- Indicators for the strategy implementation – Maria, Nikos and Fred

Items carried forward

- Series of events on multilateralism - planning
- Stockholm Forum 2020 – names of high-level key-note speakers and panelists
- Candidates to deliver SIPRI Lecture 2021 – at some point.