

SIPRI SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

Solna, 5 February 2019

MINUTES

Participants

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

1. MoM approval

- Minutes of the previous meetings on Jan 29 were approved.

2. Matters arising from the previous MoM

- Sigrún confirmed that the MFA division for European security policy will visit SIPRI on February 12. The SMT discussed the agenda and SIPRI participants. Sigrún will continue liaising with the MFA; Sibylle will follow up with her team on participation and topics.
- Sigrún confirmed that the NIS department were very pleased with their annual visit to SIPRI. As one of the follow up measures, Dan suggested having an internal discussion with the AMEX team focussed on Russia's and Iran's military expenditure. The objective is to ensure that SIPRI data continues to be reliable. As a next step, Luc suggested dedicating one of the already budgeted regional meetings to address these issues.
- Sigrún confirmed that the date for Dan's briefing for the members of the Swedish Defence Commission is Feb 13.

3. Report back

- Sigrún informed the SMT on the following:
 - o The preparations for the SIPRI lecture 2019 are underway. Formal invitation letters were sent to Michelle Bachelet and the Royal Court; Sigrún has also informed the government on Mme Bachelet's visit so that there is an official program for her visit to Sweden.
 - o She has asked for a meeting with the newly appointed Sweden's Development Minister to brief him on SIPRI.
 - o She had a meeting with SIPRI's corporate advisor Stefan Treschow. SMT discussed the work of the corporate advisers and agreed to keep on working at expanding fund-raising opportunities in this way. Sigrún will convene a meeting of the group to discuss ways forward.
 - o Sigrún has been invited by the CMI to come to Helsinki for meetings, tentatively on March 8. Ideally, Luc should join. This could be relevant for both the Forum and for funding aspects.
 - o Sigrún is liaising with Riksdagen on their availability to host the opening session of SSC 19. Depending on that, the dates for the SSC will be set and the booking of Norra Latin Conference facility can be confirmed.
- Steph reported on the highlights of the visit to Mali and the launch of the White Book:

- The event was successful and in demand; the SIPRI team did a great job in setting it up;
- A series of productive meetings with various ministries - Ministry of Security, Ministry for Women, the MFA and the Ministry of Reconciliation - took place;
- The launch enjoyed a very good media coverage, including by international media with DW being present on the spot and interviewing Zoé and Annelies. Both did a really good job!
- A very well attended press-conference for the local media in Mali was organized on the last day of the visit.
- Sibylle informed the SMT that:
 - A&D cluster away-day will take place on Feb 7.
 - SIPRI was approached by the Global Challenges Foundation with a view to join capacities in organizing a conference under the auspices of the Geneva Disarmament Platform. The SMT discussed the issue and decided that Sibylle should find out more on that and follow up accordingly.
 - A PhD student in statistics from the Munich University visited SIPRI to do a presentation on visualization of SIPRI arms transfers database. This is the result of the work of a special project group at the Munich University.
- Sibylle also flagged two forthcoming events:
 - A workshop on verification of the draft Hiroshima report on March 4, to be organized at SIPRI;
 - An expert workshop on regional security issues in Northeast Asia on February 21-22. Shannon is coordinating it.
- Maria informed the SMT that the auditors will be at SIPRI on Feb 6-7.
- Luc reported back on his trip to Mali and on the outcome of his meetings with all the various partners on the ground, including the Swedish and the British embassies. The SMT discussed how best to adapt the Mali program so as to accommodate all the various requests from the partners and make the findings accessible to a broader audience. The SMT agreed that there is a need to “operationalize” the results of SIPRI research. Sigrún will ask for a meeting at SIDA to get additional external input.
- Luc and Ian had a meeting with the German Marshall Fund, that is doing interesting work on China and also organizing the Stockholm China Forum. The GMF asked whether SIPRI’s Director would be interested in participating in the Forum. The answer is yes. Luc will follow up with the Fund so as to Dan receives the invitation letter.

4. Staffing & project issues

- Maria reminded SMT that it is essential that Lena is involved in all projects already on the project idea stage. Dan suggested reminding this at all cluster meetings.
- SMT discussed the proposal to appoint Ashok Swain as an Associate Senior Fellowship with link to the Climate Change and Risk Program and agreed to do so.
- Steph reminded SMT in this regard that the point of contact for each Associate has to ensure that communication with the editorial team is working properly at all times and that the Associate is aware of how editorial and publishing work is done at SIPRI. Joey is preparing a flowchart that will help and Steph will circulate it among the DoSes once it is ready. Dan suggested the SIPRI Editorial Board also discuss this.
- The SMT agreed to go ahead and advertise the position of the research assistant on the Climate Change and Risk Program.
- Dan reported that he has gone through all the PADs. Broadly speaking, the results are satisfactory and go in the right direction. Dan will provide a more detailed feedback at the SMT next week.

5. Follow-up on earlier decisions

- Dan led SMT through a discussion of all the Action Points of SMT meetings in December and January. Most things are done or on track; the following still requires attention:
 - o Press line on the Lundin report – Dan, Sigrún, Sibylle and Steph need to find time to discuss it.
 - o Norwegian MFA call – Sibylle confirmed that this is work in progress.
 - o Swedish Research Council call – Luc confirmed that this is work in progress.
- Dan's conclusion is that the SMT is following through on its decisions.

6. AOB

NTR.

Action Points

- Internal discussion with the AMEX team on RF and Iran military expenditure -Sibylle and Dan
- Schedule a dinner with SIPRI Corporate Advisors – Sigrún
- Dates for the SSC, liaising with Riksdagen – Sigrún and Luc
- Follow up on the CMI invitation – Sigrún and Luc
- Follow up on the Global Challenges Foundation request for cooperation – Sibylle
- Meeting with SIDA on the Mali project – Sigrún
- Follow up with the German Marshall Fund – Luc
- Press line on the Lundin report – Dan, Sigrún, Sibylle and Steph

Upcoming events at SIPRI

- MFA's division for European security policy visiting SIPRI – Feb 12
- HRH Crown Princess at SIPRI– Feb 14, from 10:30 to 12:30
- Japan's Ministry of Defence visit – Feb 18
- Workshop on the draft Hiroshima report – March 20