

SIPRI SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

Solna, 5 June 2018

MINUTES

Participants

Sibylle Bauer, Stephanie Blenckner, Jakob Hallgren, Maria Kaemmerlé, Gary Milante (via

Skype), Dan Smith

Note-taker Elena Haapaniemi

1. MoM approval

- Minutes of the previous meeting on May 22 were approved.

2. Matters arising from the previous MoM

- The SMT resumed discussion on the implications of the latest MILEX data release in its part relating to Russia. The shared understanding is that the media reaction was predictable and that a more cautious planning and better internal cooperation are required to avoid similar negative external reactions in the future. Researcher teams need to get better in anticipating those and also in putting the research results into a broader context. The management requires more time for proof-reading sensitive material before it is being released. This incident proved yet again that greater visibility that SIPRI is currently enjoying entails greater vulnerability, and that the Institute has to adapt accordingly.

3. Report back

- Steph reported that everything is going as planned ahead of the Yearbook launch. Steph will send an early draft of the press release to Jan, Dan and Jakob.
- Jakob informed the SMT about the second meeting he had with the UNDP together with the representatives from SIPRI Sahel, West Africa and climate teams. The UNDP does indeed have funding and is very keen on developing a partnership with SIPRI. There is a potential for signing a MOU for a two to three years cooperation. A concept note for the first report should be ready by this fall.
- Maria – nothing to report.
- Sibylle reported back on her attending the Primakov readings in Moscow, which proved to be a fruitful and positive experience both in terms of speakers and contents but also in terms of the many discussions held on the margins of the conference. These discussions reinforced the impression that there is an urgent need to take the idea of facilitating the Russia-EU-US dialogue forward. Furthermore, an interesting discussion was held with the head of the Regional Austrian office of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung who reiterated the readiness to support SIPRI activities and projects. Another discussion worth mentioning was held with the representatives of the Tufts university who showed readiness to spread our vacancy ads among their global leadership programme students.
- Gary attended a panel discussion in Oxford on the marketplace for political force with Alex de Waal and Mary Kaldor.

- Dan reported back on the MSC Cyber Security Summit's night-cap session on emerging technologies and arms control he moderated in Tallinn straight after the GB meeting in Stockholm. Despite the fact that the panel was rather poorly balanced because it only included the IT community, it was an interesting experience and yet another successful cooperation with the MSC. MSC reiterated their readiness to support the upcoming SSC.
- Dan reminded the SMT about the joint SIPRI-IMEMO event planned for October 18 to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Russian edition of the YB, which is one way to engage and encourage the dialogue with Russia. Another way could be inviting a high-level Russian speaker to SIPRI for a round table discussion. All of this was discussed at the meeting Dan and Elena had with the Russian Ambassador. The Ambassador suggested inviting senator Konstantin Kosachev, chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the upper chamber of the Russian parliament and previously chair of the FA Committee of the lower chamber of the parliament. Kosachev, subsequently contacted by the Ambassador, confirmed his strong interest. His visit is tentatively scheduled for November, and the exact dates will be decided upon in September as soon as he knows his parliamentary schedule. Jan endorsed the idea too.
- SMT discussed the internal draft concept note on cooperation with the Tony Blair Foundation in Mali, agreeing to call for a separate internal meeting with all those concerned and thus adjourning the decision on whether to pursue this cooperation or not. The SMT then reiterated that all partnership proposals have to get SMT approval before any action is undertaken.

4. Staffing & project issues

- Dan provided the update on the Deputy Director recruitment process. There is a total of 11 applicants. Dan will send 6 names to Jan to agree upon whom to short-list. The SMT decided that the short-listed candidates will be interviewed by a panel composed of Dan, Jan and Maria. Meetings with a group of staff representatives (the composition of such group to be decided upon asap) plus trade unions as well as profile assessment done by Lilian are foreseen too. The interviews are scheduled for June 20.
- For the ongoing recruitment of the China & Global Security Programme Director, a short list of candidates can already be drawn up, according to Dan. As for the timeline for this recruitment, the SMT agreed to postpone it until late August also to allow Luc to actively participate in the process.
- Dan proposed that Paul Beijer, a former Swedish Ambassador to North Korea, join SIPRI as an associate. He can be a huge asset to the Institute considering his broad expertise and experience as well as his excellent writing skills. The SMT discussed then whether Amb Beijer qualifies as a "Distinguished" or a "Senior" associate. Jakob will circulate a memo on the distinction criteria as to facilitate the decision.
- Jakob further informed the SMT about renewal of the associate agreements with Julian Cooper and Sten Hagberg and the SMT discussed their respective roles within SIPRI.
- Gary is going through applications for the Programme Coordinator.
- The SMT agreed to offer Richard an associate position for the coming six months as to ensure his participation in the launch of the SIPRI report on the maritime component of China's Belt and Road Initiative.
- SMT endorsed Mark's proposal to advertise for a Senior Researcher for the DUAT Programme.
- On projects, Sibylle informed the SMT that she is finalising a proposal on emerging technologies for the German Foreign Affairs Ministry. We are asking the Ministry not only to fund a breakout session at SSC but also a subsequent study that takes the results of the discussion during the said session forward. Furthermore, the idea is that three external panel experts will be commissioned with delivering background papers. All this

culminating in a follow-up workshop to discuss the results or a launch event in Berlin. Kolja will take a lead on that.

5. Baltic Sea Conference 11-12 June 2018

- Steph reported that all is on track also when it comes to work with the media and promotion of the Baltic Sea Region Conference. The press release, agreed with the MFA, has been sent out. Some 40 journalists from the region were invited to attend the event.

6. Our artistic preferences – conceptual or figurative, aesthetic or pedagogical?

- Jakob provided the SMT with an update on the emerging cooperation between SIPRI and the Swedish Arts Council, whose consultant is currently in the process of gathering the collection of about 20 pieces of art. The compilation will have to be validated by SIPRI at some point, before it is purchased by the Arts Council and subsequently lent to SIPRI. The SMT agreed that it is essential to have the possibility to physically see the whole compilation before deciding upon whether it is appropriate for the Institute or not. Tastes might differ and consensus is not easy to reach when it comes to art, but a pragmatic solution will be to entrust a group of staff with the preliminary decision that will subsequently be endorsed by the management. Prior to the final decision Jan should be consulted too. Since Jakob, who has been the focal point for this project so far, is leaving SIPRI, SMT needs to appoint a replacement. The SMT agreed that the best choice would be Steph, who undoubtedly is “The Guardian” of the SIPRI brand. The abovementioned group of staff will then be composed of Steph, Jiayi and Alexandra K.

7. Date of next RSC

- The SMT agreed to convene the next RSC on June 14. The only issue on the agenda will be staff representative’s report back from the GB meeting on May 29-30.

8. External cooperation proposals

Indonesia

- Raden Bagas Hapsoro, Indonesian ambassador whom Dan met through Dewi’s intervention on May 29, expressed a strong wish to conduct a joint closed event with SIPRI in Stockholm this fall, inviting prominent Indonesian scholars and decision makers. This initiative is partially linked to the Indonesia-driven ASEAN decision to establish regional Institute of Peace and Reconciliation (IPR) with headquarters in Jakarta. This could be further used by SIPRI as a window of opportunity to spread the knowledge about SIPRI as such and about our work globally and in South-East Asia. Dewi’s idea is slightly more ambitious – SIPRI should assume mentorship over the IPR. This could be a promising partnership, and SMT pondered over the possibility to engage into it by launching the YB in Jakarta as a starting point. The launch might indeed be a reasonable first step in testing possibilities of a more profound cooperation with the new institute in particular and with Indonesian authorities in general. The SMT agreed to adjourn the decision and will resume discussion during its next meeting.

Paris Peace Forum

- Justin Vaisse, Director of the French MFA’s Centre for Analysis, Planning and Strategy, whom Dan met on May 30, extended the invitation to SIPRI to participate in the “Market Place” that will be organised within the framework of the Paris Peace Forum to be held on Nov 11-13. It might be in the form of a SIPRI stand or a side

SIPRI seminar / round table or in some other way. Justin will come back with more info in due time. Worth noting that the Forum, organised this year to commemorate the 100-year anniversary of the Armistice, is a three-year commitment. The SMT agreed that being associated with the Forum can be very beneficial for SIPRI.

ACCORD

- Vasu Gounden, the Executive Director of the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD), met with Dan on May 30. ACCORD is a small NGO based in Durban, South Africa, focusing on conflict management and conflict resolution on the African Continent. Gary endorsed establishing a partnership with the Centre and suggested he could be SIPRI focal point for further contacts once a “background check” on them is done.

China Military Law Institute

- A student from the said institute reached out to Dan to check if SIPRI would be interested in establishing some form of cooperation. Since the exact shape of such cooperation is not yet clear, the SMT decided to adopt a “wait-and-see” approach. In the meantime, Sibylle will make sure an invitation to the SSC will be forwarded to the Institute.

Swedish Institute for Global Health Transformation (SIGHT)

- Peter Friberg, SIGHT's co-founder and Director, joined by Björn Johnsson from Karolinska University, reached out to Dan to talk about their joint work and to invite SIPRI to join the *Lancet* commission they are part of. Such commissions are established with a view of conducting a research on a specific topic which is then published as a special edition of Lancet. This particular project is planned to last for eighteen months. The SMT agreed that this would be worth exploring, though more details are required before any decisions are taken. Dan will meet Peter again in September. Eventual next steps to be decided upon then.

9. AOB

- SMT will meet for the last time before the summer break at 12:30 on Thursday June 21. A need for an additional meeting on June 26 will be assessed then.

Action Points

- Meeting asap to discuss cooperation with the Tony Blair Foundation – Dan, Jakob, Steph and Gregory
- Follow up on SIGHT - Dan

Items carried forward

- Tony Blair Foundation (decision)
- Follow up on the Indonesian proposal
- SMT priorities through August