

## SIPRI SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

5 May 2020

### MINUTES

#### Participants

Sibylle Bauer, Stephanie Blenckner, Luc van de Goor, Maria Kaemmerle, Sigrún Rawet, Dan Smith

Helena Berger (present for item 3)

Note-taker Elena Haapaniemi

The meeting was conducted via Zoom.

#### 1. MoM approval

- The minutes of the SMT meeting on April 28 were approved.

#### 2. Matters arising

- Luc and Maria will meet later during the day to discuss the SSC-2020 budget. Luc will then convene a broader meeting, tentatively before the end of the week, involving also Dan, Sibylle and Katia.
- The SMT discussed the set-up for the forthcoming virtual meeting with the Swedish State Secretary for International Development Cooperation, Per Olsson Fridh, that will take place on May 8. All staff are invited and encouraged to attend. Jan will participate as well and will do a brief introduction.

#### 3. Corona virus

- Helena flagged the importance of making sure that all staff members take vacation, preferably in summer. This issue should be raised by all line managers at the MTRs. Helena will send a reminder to the managers to that end.

#### 4. Report back

- Maria underlined the good cooperation that the finance team has with all three cluster coordinators on the new project management guidelines, flowchart and the Excel tool; this is facilitating the implementation of the guidelines throughout the institute.
- Sibylle will attend a briefing of NGOs by Ambassador Gustavo Zlauvinen, President-designate of the 2020 Review Conference for the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT).
- Steph reported that the most recent data launch on world military expenditure went really well. It was covered by more than 3400 global media outlets – a record number. The SIPRI twitter account had over 1.2 million engagements in April – another record, twice the normal average. The SIPRI website had over 100,000 page views and over 36,000 users during the week of the data launch (average 13,000 users and 37,000 pageviews).
- Steph informed the SMT that the preparations for the peacekeeping data launch (embargo May 20, live May 27) have started.
- Luc reported that:
  - o DFID/UKRI has requested an additional 1-2 page paper on Covid-19, to be delivered in two weeks' time, as part of the joint project, which is proceeding

- according to schedule. The donors would like to organise a physical workshop in London in October, if possible.
- Gregory has been contacted by the head of the fragility department at the French general directorate of globalization (DGM) proposing a partnership that would allow SIPRI to apply for the fund for innovative projects. The deadline for feedback is May 7. Luc will circulate the memo from Gregory to the SMT asap and, unless there are any substantial objections, Dan will endorse the partnership on behalf of the SMT before May 7.
  - Sigrún and Steph have been following the online opposition to Lamamra nomination with the Swedish police. The investigation is under way.
5. Staffing & project issues
- Dan informed the SMT that the recommendation on the appointment of a new Deputy Director has gone to the Governing Board.
  - Claire McAllister has been appointed as the Project Lead for the EP 2022. Claire will start on May 11.
  - A candidate for the position of Food and Security researcher has been offered the post.
  - Recruitment process of the SR with the EP 2020 has been almost completed.
  - On April 28, Dan participated in a zoom meeting convened by MGIMO University to discuss their research project “Avoid war!” focussing on avoiding/preventing nuclear risks. It is not clear yet to what extent they would like to involve SIPRI. Dan will keep the SMT informed on how the project unfolds.
6. Forum: any final updates etc
- Sigrún confirmed that all preparations for the Forum are on track. It has been confirmed that the UNSG will address the Forum participants. All panellists have been confirmed too. 1900 people have already registered for the Forum. The SIPRI team is keeping 200 places reserved for additional key contacts. The Forum will also be broadcast on YouTube so it will be possible to follow the sessions without registration. All SIPRI staff are invited and encouraged to log in and join the virtual Forum.
  - Sigrún praised the amazing work done by Martina and Johanna to ensure that the technical side functions well.
  - Dan congratulated Sigrún and the whole team on the great preparatory work and wished everyone good luck with the Forum.
7. UNHCR Partnership: Virtual signing, roundtable – SIPRI participants
- Dan summarised the latest suggestions from the UNHCR to have a brief virtual signing ceremony attended by three from each side plus a senior figure from the Swedish MFA. Jan, Dan and Luc are the first choices from SIPRI and State Secretary Per Olsson Fridh would be the preferred representative from the MFA. The first week of June is the proposed date. Elena will continue to coordinate with her counterpart at the UNHCR and will facilitate direct contact between Steph and the UNHCR comms teams.
8. AOB
- The next SMT has been rescheduled to take place on May 14 between 13:00 and 15:00.
  - The SMT scheduled for May 26 will take place on May 27 between 13:00 and 15:00.
  - Luc and Sibylle will discuss the substance of the SSC-2020, share the outcome with the SMT and the SMT will take it from there. Dan confirmed that we are working on the assumption that we will be able to host a public event.

- Sibylle underlined the importance of reminding all staff who go to the office these days to be particularly careful about properly locking all windows before leaving the premises. Maria confirmed that the burglar alarm is working properly.

**Action Points**

- Report back from the NPT RevCon briefing for NGOs - Sibylle
- Discuss the SSC-2020 budget – Luc, Maria, Sibylle, Dan and Katia
- Discuss the SSC-2020 substance – Luc and Sibylle, the summary goes to the SMT
- Continue liaising with the UNHCR for the virtual MoU signing - Elena

**Items carried forward**

- Equal Opportunities, Diversity and Anti-discrimination Policy
- Speakers for the SSC-2020