

## **SIPRI SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING**

Solna, 6 November 2018

### **MINUTES**

#### Participants

Sibylle Bauer, Stephanie Blenckner, Luc van de Goor, Gary Milante (via Skype), Sigrún

Rawet, Dan Smith

Note-taker Elena Haapaniemi

#### 1. MoM approval

- Minutes of the previous meeting on Oct 23 were approved.

#### 2. Matters arising from the previous MoM

- NTR.

#### 3. Report back

- Gary reported back on the PeaceCon meeting in Washington which turned out to be a good platform to follow up on the Forum but also on other initiatives. Worth mentioning the continued evolving discussion with Raymond Gilpin from National Defence University (NDU) who informed Gary about a joint series of meetings NDU is planning to organise with the Swedish Defence Research Agency (FOI) at PRIO in December this year. Gary is planning to attend those meetings.
- Gary reported back on the meeting with Melanie Greenberg, Managing Director and Head of the DC office of Humanity United. There is a clear interest to engage with SIPRI. Gary will organise a trilateral Skype meeting with Dan and Melanie in the near future.
- Sibylle mentioned the growing number of invitations she and her team receive from various constellations within the EU parliament. The SMT agreed that it is ok to accept as long as it fits in with other engagements and does not entail SIPRI taking political sides.
- Sigrún reported back on the trip to New York to participate in the expert workshop on climate change and security risks organised jointly by the German MFA, Germany's diplomatic mission to the UN and Adelphi in the light of Germany taking over the two-year seat on the UN SC as of January 2019. This was an opportunity to highlight the high-quality work SIPRI Climate team and Camilla Born are doing on this file and to ensure continuity for the work Sweden has been doing as a non-permanent member of the UNSC. For the future though, it is crucial to ensure that there is a clear understanding on the division of labour between Adelphi and SIPRI, something that Dan will discuss with the Adelphi Director on Nov 7.
- Sigrún reported back on the presentation the SIPRI SAHEL team made for the African Division and Conflict and Humanitarian Division of the Swedish MFA on Nov 6. It is

a part of a bigger briefing tour organised for the new staff members at the MFA and has been very much appreciated.

4. Staffing & project issues

- Gary is finalising recruitment of two data scientists, Julius Schulte and Caroline Delgado.
- Steph and Sigrún are working on the job description of Emma´s replacement – to be finalised by the end of the week.
- The SMT endorsed appointing two Senior Associates with the Armament and Disarmament Cluster, Michael Brzoska and Filippa Lentzos.
- Luc is finalising recruitment of Mamadou Bodian for the researcher position with the SAHEL team.
- Luc informed the SMT on the plans to bring in a consultant for carrying out the work on the Central African Republic and on the Democratic Republic of Congo. There are currently three candidates. Helena and/or Maria to advise on internal procedures.
- In the light of the strong allergic reaction experienced earlier that day by one of the staff members, Dan reiterated the need to remind all at SIPRI about vital importance of abstaining from the use of strong perfumes in the office. This already is a part of the initial welcome briefing for all newcomers but it is important to sensitize everyone on this important issue and to ensure this simple rule is respected.
- Sigrún reiterated the importance of involving all clusters into an internal discussion on the 2019 Forum. Gary will ask Martina to circulate all the available info (dates, draft concept note etc.) as a starting point for such discussion.
- Sigrún stressed the need for Deputy Director being the only legitimate focal point for all financial discussions between SIPRI and the Swedish MFA. This message will be convened further by DoSes to their teams but it also needs to be communicated to the MFA.

5. Board meeting

- Dan updated the SMT on his work on the new Institute´s strategy that will be presented and discussed at the upcoming Board meeting. At the current stage, it is the research strategy of the Conflicts and Peace cluster that needs to be completed. Dan further reminded the SMT that the Board will formally decide on the strategy at its meeting in May 2019.
- The SMT confirmed that the three themes for the joint discussion with the Board members, open to all SIPRI staff, should be the GReVD (presented by Dan), Cyber Security (Sibylle) and Dialogue tracks (Shannon).
- Sigrún will send the finalised agenda of the meeting as well as all the agreed preparatory documents to Board members on Nov 12.
- The SMT briefly discussed possible themes for the public meeting with the Board members on Nov 26. To be fine-tuned by Steph.
- The SMT went through the list of topics for the thematic lunches with the GB members on Nov 26 and endorsed Mark´s suggestion to nominate a “facilitator” from the staff for each group. Mark will use doodle to distribute participants more or less equally.

6. Middle East programme

- Johan Schaar submitted the draft report on his vision of the new MENA programme. Dan and Luc will meet Johan on Nov 8 to further discuss the draft that, so far, strongly

focuses on the risks linked to the climate change and to water insecurity. The SMT proposed that in the further discussion with Johan it is important to reflect that in order for the programme to stand out, to succeed and to reach out to the widest possible audience it needs to be innovative, to build upon SIPRI's existing knowledge and expertise, to be middle- to long-term and to incorporate both hard and soft security aspects. Furthermore, the initial findings of the research could be used as door-openers for other SIPRI programmes (e.g. military expenditure, arms transfers, etc.) in the Middle East.

#### 7. AOB

- Dan reminded the SMT of the necessity to give feedback to Lars Wikman who did an informal info session on EU funding back in September 2018. Despite the fact that Lars is both very knowledgeable and very eager to help, his knowledge is better applicable to the academic world rather than to a research institute. Dan will write to Lars.
- Sigrún reminded the SMT about the visit of young diplomats from Nordic and Baltic countries scheduled for Nov 22. Dan and Malin will look after the afternoon session dedicated to climate change and risks. Elena will identify and invite "young" researchers at SIPRI to participate in the session.
- Next SMT meeting will take place on Thu Nov 15.

#### Action Points

- Arranging a Skype meeting with Melanie Greenberg – Gary
- Theme for the public discussion with the GB members – Steph
- Thematic lunches with the GB members (topics, SIPRI facilitators and participants) – Sigrún and Mark
- Feedback to Lars Wikman – Dan
- Young diplomats at SIPRI – Dan, Malin and Elena

#### Items carried forward

- Outline of three YB chapters (Conflict, MILEX and Arms Transfers).
- Draft IT user guide.
- Memo comparing new mail systems.
- Associate Fellows: systematising our approach

#### Cross-cluster upcoming dates

Meeting of the SIPRI Governing Board – Nov 26-27  
Christmas lunch – December 7