

SIPRI SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

7 April 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 from the SMT meeting on March 27 were approved.

2. Matters arising

- Finalising Siemon's piece on Russia's military expenditure is on track. Steph will check the final wording with Dan, Sigrún and Sibylle before publishing.
- Maria sent the SMT a new update on the status of projects.

3. Corona virus

- The SMT noted with relief that there are currently no major concerns in terms of staff health.
- Sigrún provided a brief feedback from the latest cooperation group meeting held on April 2.
- Sigrún informed the SMT that Hyeonsuk Kim, the guest researcher with the Governance Programme has safely arrived back home to South Korea.
- The SMT agreed to have Covid-19 related information, including the risk analysis, on SIPRI intranet. Elin will look after that. Furthermore, the SMT agreed that Dan will send a situational update to all staff straight after Easter break.
- The SMT discussed the broader impact of Covid-19 on SIPRI, beyond the immediate impact on current projects. Along with the urgent response being tailored by Maria and project leads to address that immediate impact, it is important to start looking at the broader mid- and long-term financial implications since Covid-19 could affect fundraising for next year.
- Amid the uncertainty, the SMT agreed on the working assumption that travel bans and reliance on virtual meetings will continue until the summer break at least. Planning for normal events thereafter can proceed but should not involve financial commitments. Staff will be asked to notify all partners that, until midsummer, all events are either postponed or put online.
- A few staff members had expressed concerns about Monday meetings being recorded. Elena has informed all staff prior to proceeding with the recording explaining that this is needed to enable our colleagues in different time zones to still be part of SIPRI's. The recordings are deleted after use, both by those who record and by those who receive them (in compliance with GDPR), do not breach privacy and pose no additional risks to our

computer systems. Staff will be reminded every Monday morning meeting that the meeting is recorded.

4. Report back

- Sigrún informed the SMT of the reasons for the delay in the government's decision on appointing Ramtane Lamamra as our new Board member.
- Sigrún also reported that Madeleine Albright has agreed to deliver the SIPRI Lecture on May 24, 2021. Steph will update the info on the website and Sigrún will follow up with the Royal Court.
- Dan has been approached by MSB to help with its discussion about the future after the pandemic. Dan is working with Malin and Sepideh on this.

5. Staffing & project issues

- The SMT agreed to promote Dylan to the position of Senior Researcher and to designate him as Programme Director, MENA. With this, he will also move to the Conflict, Peace and Security cluster.
- Luc is currently working together with Dylan on a proposal for the MENA work. The cluster is working on several proposals for external funding with imminent deadlines.
- The Conflict, Peace and Security cluster will meet in two weeks to discuss the implications of the coronavirus crisis on cluster programs and whether analysis of the current Covid-19 situation and its impact can be turned into a project. The SMT agreed that a cross-SIPRI discussion on Covid-19 and post-Covid would be really useful. Marina's work on governance and security, the work of the climate team and work on the SIGHT-Lancet Commission are also relevant in this regard.
- Sibylle has submitted a concept note to the German MFA on 'Capturing Technology and Rethinking Arms Control: lessons from the field of biological arms control' with the Carl Friedrich von Weizsäcker-Centre for Science and Peace Research (ZNF) at the University of Hamburg, as a contribution to the "Rethinking Arms Control" conference in November.
- Mark is working on a concept note to look at the humanitarian impact of sanctions. It will look at Iran, Syria and the DPRK. The SMT welcomed this timely and interesting initiative. Sigrún flagged the need to consider the Swedish Red Cross as one of the key actors in this regard.
- Alexandra Kuimova is planning a publication on military spending of Egypt, reassessing Egyptian military expenditure. The SMT agreed that this can be financed through the MFA strategic grant.
- On the basis of a note submitted by Lucie, the SMT discussed the possible enlargement of the AMEX team with two additional RAs. The SMT endorsed recruiting one RA for six months until the end of this year and one RA for 13 months. They will both be working on the MFA Grant this year but the precondition of both hires is that alternative sources of funding need to be secured going forward.
- Sigrún flagged the need for professional IT support to ensure the technical side of the Forum. Sigrún and Maria will further discuss this further to find a solution.
- Steph reiterated the comms plea to all clusters that they should be aware of the limited capacity to provide editorial support for extra publications and be sure to inform all new staff members on procedures for preparing publications.
- Dan is involved in 4 out of 6 recruiting processes that are currently underway.
- The SMT agreed to extend Anniek's contract until end of June.
- Sigrún informed the SMT that Marina is working on a draft JD for the inclusion researcher.

6. Governing Board agenda

- The SMT discussed and agreed the agenda drafted by Sigrún for the next Board meeting.
- As part of the lead-up to the Board meeting, SMT agreed that the date and time of the next RSC will be 23 April at 14:30.

7. Stockholm Forum: progress

- Sigrún provided a brief update on the Forum agenda, adjusted to the online format. The Forum will open May 11. On the first three days – 11-13 May – there will be three high level panels including one on women and security, on climate and security, which will also be used to launch the EP 2022 project, and one world politics including the impact of Covid-19. A series of consultations will be organised within the virtual framework of the Forum, plus there will be thematic sessions organised by the partners. The Forum will last for ten working days, until May 22.
- Sigrún pointed out that organising the Forum virtually requires much more effort than convening it in a traditional format, and praised again the incredible effort put in by the Forum team.

8. SSC 20: progress

- The first draft of the concept note is ready. Luc will circulate it to the SMT for discussion next Tuesday. The hope is still for a physical event in Stockholm in November, and for a non-virtual Board meeting that will precede the SSC.
- The SMT also discussed partnering with the MSC on the pre-Conference dinner.
- Discussion will be resumed next Tuesday on the basis of the draft concept note.

9. AOB

- NTR.

Action Points

- Covid-19 related updates, a message to all staff – Dan on April 13
- Update information on SIPRI Lecture on the website – Steph
- Draft SSC concept note – Luc to the SMT

Items carried forward

- Climate panel chaired by Dan at the Forum
- Draft SSC concept note
- Equal Opportunities, Diversity and Anti-discrimination Policy
- Building