

SIPRI SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

8 December 2020

MINUTES

Participants

Sibylle Bauer, Stephanie Blenckner, Luc van de Goor, Maria Kaemmerle, Jannie Lilja, Dan Smith, Joakim Vaverka

Helena Berger (present for item 1)

Note-taker Elena Haapaniemi

The meeting was conducted via Zoom.

1. Corona virus

- Sweden's Prime Minister was holding a press-conference as the SMT had its meeting. Helena will share with the SMT any relevant information in its aftermath. SMT agreed to communicate the current guidance to staff at the start of the New Year. Helena will review previous guidance, adjusting where necessary, and prepare a draft for Dan to look at in the first week of January.
- The SMT agreed to look into investing in devices to boost internet capacity for staff members at their home offices.
- The SMT confirmed that it is possible to apply for virtual internships.

2. &frankly survey – next steps

- Joakim and Helena provided a progress report. SMT will return to it at a future meeting. After SMT has concluded its deliberations, the survey will be presented at the Cooperation Group.

3. Minutes

- Feedback from several SMT members on the draft minutes of the SMT meeting on December 1 is pending.

4. Matters arising

- Dan suggested that the agenda for the forthcoming RSC should include three main items:
 - Election of a new RSC representative to replace Vane who is leaving SIPRI.
 - Joakim's report back from the Board meeting.
 - An update on the budget from Maria.
- Steph informed the SMT that on December 11, there will be a training session to learn how to use new hybrid technology equipment. It will take place at the office, with six colleagues participating in person. The plan is to organize another training session towards spring 2021.

4. Report back

- Joakim reported back from his trip to Finland where he and Shannon participated in a dialogue event organised by CMI.
- Steph informed the SMT that the arms industry launch has been going on well. The comms team will provide details on international coverage next week.
- Steph suggested that the SMT discusses, at one of the future meetings or at a strategic away-day, the quality control process and responsibilities for SIPRI publications. This was agreed.
- Sibylle reported back about participating in an arms control panel on global strategic stability within the framework of Beijing Conference.
- Luc reported back about:
 - Prospects for a new project with Chinese funding on the Arctic; a project proposal to this end will be submitted to the Chinese embassy shortly.
 - Workshop on the future of peace operations together with DPO in New York is scheduled to take place on January 22. Jair is our lead on that.
- Dan reported back about the first roundtable discussion with the ICRC on December 4.
- Dan had a virtual meeting with Ulrika Modéer, Assistant Secretary General at UNDP, to discuss possibilities for an enhanced partnership between SIPRI and UNDP.

5. Staffing & project issues

- Following a request submitted by Malin, the SMT endorsed hiring two RAs for the CCR team, to replace the two RAs who will be leaving SIPRI shortly. The SMT also agreed that Malin goes ahead with advertising for an additional researcher but the final decision on whether to recruit will be made after an SMT discussion about the overall research staff numbers and the consequent staffing requirements in Outreach and Operations.
- Sibylle reminded the SMT about the importance of reaching out to as many audiences as possible when advertising positions so as to achieve a greater diversity among our staff.
- Luc suggested considering granting an associate status to Erik Burman. Luc and Sibylle will discuss this bilaterally.
- The SMT asked Elena to suggest a date for an SMT strategic away-day in January 2021.

6. MFA strategic grant allocations: 2nd step in the discussion

- The SMT discussed the outline of all project proposals compiled by Maria following the previous SMT discussion. The discussion produced some prioritised projects, some that will not be funded from this source, and some that can be considered further.
- Dan and Maria will follow up and come back for a further phase of discussion at SMT.
- An issue that was raised in connection with this discussion concerned possibilities to fund the preparatory work for organising and presenting a session at the Stockholm Forum under the strategic grant. The SMT agreed to postpone the discussion of this important matter until a meeting at which Jannie is present.

7. AOB

- NTR.

Action Points

- Preparations for the staff survey – Helena and Joakim
- Follow up project proposals under the strategic grant – Maria & Dan
- Date for an SMT away-day - Elena

Items carried forward

Funding of Forum preparatory work done
SSC 2021 – themes and thoughts
Project management guidelines
&frankly survey – next steps
SIPRI publications: quality control process and responsibilities