

SIPRI SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

Solna, 8 October 2019

MINUTES

Participants

Sibylle Bauer, Stephanie Blenckner, Luc van de Goor, Maria Kaemmerle, Gary Milante, Sigrún Rawet
Note-taker Elena Haapaniemi

1. MoM approval

- The minutes of the SMT meeting on Oct 1 were approved.

2. Matters arising from the previous MoM

- A meeting between Dan, Luc, Sibylle and Ian to discuss the set up for the implementation of the four-year project approved by the Norwegian MFA is still pending. Elena will look into the available dates, later in November.
- Sigrún briefed the SMT more into detail on the meeting with Mats Karlsson and the task of the latter to map the existing think tanks in Sweden. SIPRI will obviously be part of this mapping exercise. Mats Karlsson will be in touch.

3. Report back

- Sigrún expressed gratitude to Luc, Sibylle, Katia, Martina and all the other colleagues involved in organising yet another successful Stockholm Security Conference. The SMT also discussed what was good and what was less good in terms of the pre-conference dinner co-organised with the MSC. Very positive indeed was the very group of guests that did attend the dinner in the end. It is clear that we can not rely too much on an external partner that does not know the Stockholm context as we do. Another challenge was that, despite the fact that the MSC insisted on having an “informal” dinner, it turned out to be very formal. So good to think those things through next time we co-organise.
- Luc flagged the KINAC delegation visit scheduled for Oct 14, informing the SMT that the question of renewal of our MoU with the Korean partner will be one of the items on the agenda. Luc and Sigrún will need to further look into this issue, together with Ian, Shannon and Vitaly.
- Luc reminded the SMT about the seminar on the “EU-China relations in an era of connectivity” organised by Fei at SIPRI on Oct 17-18. Sigrún will extend the invitation to attend the seminar to the MFA’s Asia division.
- On Oct 7, Sigrún participated in her second meeting as a member of the Swedish Delegation on International Law and Disarmament. The meeting was chaired by the new Sweden’s Foreign Minister Ann Linde. Part of the meeting was dedicated to the Stockholm initiative on disarmament, where SIPRI’s role was mentioned. The participants also discussed the LAWS. MFA would like to establish a new working group with a six-months mandate to focus on LAWS. SIPRI should use this opportunity and become part of this group. Sigrún will circulate more info internally when she gets the information from the MFA

- Steph asked the rest of the SMT to share thoughts and provide feedback on the format and on the contents for the next Annual Review publication. Since Sigrún, in parallel, is in charge of drafting the Annual Report, there is a need to coordinate the work on both so as to ensure coherence and to avoid double work. Maria will check the timeline for the Annual Report while Sigrún and Steph will coordinate the planning for producing both Annual Review and Annual Report.
- Steph forwarded to the SMT the wish of the staff to organize a Halloween party. Since it is Gary's cluster that is in charge of the next cheese & wine afterwork, Gary will follow up on this with his team.
- Steph and Luc will be travelling to Nairobi to attend the presentation of Florian's paper on Somalia during an event scheduled for October 23. This is part of a project financed through the German Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung. Sweden's ambassador to Somalia is expected to attend the event.
- Sibylle informed the SMT about her conversation with the new head of Africa department at the Swedish MFA. Sibylle invited her to visit SIPRI for a briefing on our work. SMT agreed that this is a good idea and Gary said that he will be meeting her the following day, on Oct 9.
- Sibylle reported back on the Weapons Governance Conference she attended the previous week in Geneva. It was good both in terms of subject matters discussed and in terms of networking.
- Maria reminded the SMT about the auditors coming to SIPRI on Oct 9.
- Gary informed the SMT that the venue for the next Forum remains the same as in the past (Münchenbryggeriet) and that the dates have now been confirmed (May 11-13, 2020).
- Gary reported back that the USAID confirmed financing Dylan's project.
- Gary informed the SMT on the discussion he and Dylan had earlier that day with Elena on the status of the work on the internal travel and safety travel policy. While a working group composed of Sigrún, Luc, Fredric, Helena and Elena has been working on updating SIPRI's travel policy and introducing travel safety rules and procedures, Gary flagged that Dylan has been in charge of developing security protocols for travels to potentially dangerous areas as part of his project work. All internal efforts in this area should obviously be coordinated, and knowledge and experience shared and consolidated. Sigrún suggested Dylan gets in touch with the working group and welcomed his input to the existing draft document. Elena further suggested that Dylan takes the lead in organizing a BB lunch discussion to share experiences and best practices for travelling and working in a conflict and/or post-conflict environment.
- Gary also informed the SMT that he and Martina are looking for a suitable week, still in 2019, for Gary to come to Stockholm to be able to spend some quality time with the SMT colleagues and with his cluster team. The plan is to organize a cluster retreat day during that week.
- Maria provided a brief update on the current budget status. The available "climate" funding makes it possible to host the UN mini-mechanism at SIPRI for a week; there are funds for organizing a workshop in Beirut and for conducting two dialogue meetings in Stockholm before the end of the year. A more in-depth budget discussion will continue during SMT's retreat on Oct 15.
- Steph raised the question that came from Timo who is organizing an event in Brussels on Nov 13 where SIPRI will present the findings from its research on the implementation of the Civilian CSDP Compact. The event will be co-organised with Sweden and Finland and hosted by the Finnish Permanent Representation to the EU. The question is who from the SMT could do the opening and closing remarks. Luc and Steph will discuss this further. Sibylle preliminary agreed to do it if Luc and Sigrún cannot do it.

4. Staffing & project issues

- Maria informed the SMT that Lisa Alm has temporary joined the financial team. Lisa will be working three days a week until the end of the year 2019.
- Steph informed the SMT that there are two promising editor candidates among those who applied for the job.
- Luc had an interview with one of the candidates for the RA position with the MENA program earlier that day and will meet the second candidate the following day.
- Luc informed the SMT that the suggested budget for the UNEP project has been approved by the latter; we thus need to have the project up and running asap and have the report ready by the end of November, among other things.
- On Marina's behalf and in the view of the upcoming event on the Triple Nexus scheduled for November 28, Gary asked for the SMT's greenlight to hire Anders Reagan, one of the interns, for a period of two-months to assist with drafting a paper on Triple Nexus. The SMT endorsed this while Steph and Gary agreed to continue discussing the details bilaterally.
- Gary also informed the SMT that drafting of the JD for the gender researcher is underway.

Presentation training – feedback

- Elena briefly presented the feedback collected from SIPRI staff that participated in the training in presentation techniques with the British expert Michael Trigg back in April 2019. This feedback, mostly positive, has been shared with Michael. The SMT now needs to decide whether to invite Michael for the next round of training and, in general, on how to proceed with this kind of training. Since this decision involves the knowledge on the available budget, the SMT agreed to return to this discussion during the retreat the following week, where Maria will present a detailed current budget status.

Visualisation training – feedback

- Steph reminded the SMT about her mail dated Sept 22 summarizing the feedback and the next steps following the vizualisation training. As a reminder, our overall goal in this area is to operationalize in clear and practical ways how we 'think visually' as an Institute.

5. AOB

- NTR.

Action Points

- A meeting between Dan, Luc, Sibylle and Ian to discuss the status of the chemical weapons program at SIPRI, following the approval of Ian's four-year project by the Norwegian MFA - Elena will look into the available dates, later in November
- Feedback on the contents and the format of Annual Review 2019 – SMT to Steph
- Coordinate and sync the work on the Annual Review and the Annual Report – Steph and Sigrún
- Schedule a briefing for the NIS at SIPRI – Sibylle and Sigrún
- Organise a briefing on SIPRI for new head of Africa department – Sibylle and Gary
- SMT participation in the Nov 13 Brussels launch of the study on the Civilian Compact – Steph to coordinate with Luc and Sibylle
- Discuss further the coverarage of Triple Nexus event, etc. and hiring Anders for two months – Gary and Steph
- Follow-up presentation techniques training – SMT at the retreat

Items carried forward

- NTR.