

SIPRI SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

8 September 2020

MINUTES

Participants

Sibylle Bauer (present for items 1-3), 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 including use of office, August-December 2020

- It has only been a few days since the schedule for working from the office has been introduced, therefore it would be too early to evaluate the new system. Helena is gathering individual feedback. It is obviously possible for staff to trade days between each other, without involving the management.

2. Minutes

- The minutes from the SMT meeting on September 1 were approved.

3. Matters arising

- Jannie forwarded the wish of cluster coordinators to be able to access additional virtual meetings' platforms e.g. Webex or Teams. Maria suggested to grant cluster coordinators access to such additional platforms. The suggestion was endorsed by the SMT.

4. Report back

- Joakim reported back on three fruitful meetings he had at the Swedish MFA on Sept 7:
 - The first meeting was with the OSCE team. The priorities of the Swedish chairmanship have now been set and the members of the small national secretariat identified. The willingness to cooperate with SIPRI is strong. To use this window of opportunity, we need to act fast. Joakim will coordinate SIPRI's response.
 - The second one was with NIS. This was also a very positive meeting. Priority cooperation areas were discussed and the procedure of appointment of SIPRI GB members. The issue of the next annual NIS visit to SIPRI in January 2021 also came up.
 - The third meeting took place with the recently reorganised UN division. Jannie and Elin also participated. Joakim reminded the colleagues of the importance of keeping the desk officers up-to-date about our work including various partnerships. The discussion also covered the Forum 2021 and the strategic grant. There is a strong desire to maintain a close dialogue with SIPRI.
- Jannie reported on the Forum working group meeting on Sept 4. SMT agreed to discuss possible Forum themes during the away-day.
- SMT agreed to seek a meeting with State Secretary Per Olsson Fridh to discuss the MFA strategic grant. The SMT also agreed to look into the shape of the strategic grant at the away-day.

- Maria reported back about ongoing trainings in Maconomy, the new financial system, for all staff. One of the questions that has been raised repeatedly during the trainings, was time management, especially in projects. There is a need for a broader discussion on this and guidance on how to calculate and budget time when submitting project proposals. Dan agreed to address this issue at the RSC.
- Steph informed the SMT that:
 - All is set for the visit of the Dutch Foreign Minister to SIPRI on Sept 7.
 - Equipment that would allow us host hybrid meetings has been ordered.
- Luc informed the SMT that the Sahel team has a meeting scheduled with their counterparts at the MFA. The team has also been invited to participate in the discussion of Sweden's five-year Mali strategy.
- Dan informed the SMT that on Sept 10, there will be a round table discussion between SIPRI and the Russian delegation at the UN on climate and security. Florian is our contact person on this.
- As agreed last week, Joakim has reached out to the Norwegian Security Council team; the first discussion on potential cooperation will take place this week.

5. Staffing & project issues

- Maria is working on the forecast of the strategic grant. As soon as her assessment is ready, she will circulate it among the SMT.
- Jannie shared a few good news from the EP team. The Swiss MFA has advertised the position of a researcher to be seconded to the project. GIZ continues to explore the possibility of providing some support funding.
- SIPRI has received another request for hosting a Taiwanese guest researcher. The SMT agreed that it is important to continue this tradition, however reducing the period of stay from one year to nine months, from September to June. Furthermore, as always, the candidate must possess strong research skills, and the topic of her/his research needs to be related to SIPRI work.
- The SMT endorsed Sibylle's request on granting a fellowship (one month in autumn 2021 and in 2022) to Dr Jeremy Wilderman, subject to him obtaining a grant to cover the time. Research topic is arms transfers to MENA.

6. RSC – date, agenda

- The RSC will take place on Thursday Sept 17 between 14:30 and 16:00. The agenda will include the forthcoming Board meeting in November, a look ahead to autumn/winter activities and a discussion of the effects of the pandemic on our work.

7. SSC – check in

- The work on concept notes for the sessions is in its final stage. Luc is expecting to get concept notes from Sibylle's cluster by the end of the current week. If all goes according to the plan, the work on the program and on the speakers can begin next week.
- The framing of the opening session is yet to be defined; one of the possible angles that would bring all key actors together could be the OSCE and the forthcoming Swedish Chairmanship.
- Sweden's FM is expected to open the SSC, and it would be great to have a representative from China, Russia and the US in the opening panel.

8. KPIs

- Maria informed the SMT that the document has been almost completed. As soon as all remaining comments and suggestions are incorporated, Maria will circulate the final version for SMT's approval.

9. Issues for the strategic meeting

- The SMT will have its strategic planning day on Sept 22 at 09:00. The agenda will be as follows:

- Corona virus.
- Institute strategy, including partnerships.
- Intersecting areas of work, including working methods and working culture.
- Themes for 2021 Stockholm Forum.
- Strategic grant application.
- Office space.

10. AOB

- Nothing to report.

Action Points

- Follow up on the SMT decision to grant cluster coordinators access to other virtual meetings' platforms than Zoom – Maria and the IT
- Coordinate the OSCE Chairmanship file - Joakim
- Request a meeting with Per Olsson Fridh - Joakim

Items carried forward

- Schedule of publications and events, Jan-June 2021 – to discuss in October 2020
- SSC