

## SIPRI SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

Solna, 9 January 2020

### MINUTES

#### Participants

Sibylle Bauer (via Skype), Stephanie Blenckner, Luc van de Goor, Maria Kaemmerle, Sigrún Rawet, Dan Smith  
Note-taker Elena Haapaniemi

#### 1. MoM approval

- The minutes from the SMT meeting on Dec 17 were approved.

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

- Dan reminded SMT about **two firm deadlines on Jan 17**. They concern:
  - all reports on the work related to the MFA strategic grant 2017-2019 and
  - all proposals on the new MFA strategic grant for the years 2020-2022. As a reminder, there is a template to be used for this purpose done by Nikos.

#### 3. Report back

- Sibylle provided her brief positive feedback on the first draft terms of reference for the Swedish centre of excellence on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation received from Thomas Jonter. This is a proposal based on cooperation between Stockholm University and SIPRI. Sibylle will send her revisions to both Dan and Sigrún.
- Maria suggested that since the National Day, June 6, falls on a Saturday this year, those staff members who can and wish to do so may take the day off on Friday May 22. The others will take the day off depending on their schedule and upon agreement with their line manager. The SMT endorsed this.
- Dan provided feedback from his trips to Geneva and Rome back in December 2019:
  - In Geneva, Dan participated in the pre-day of the Global Refugee Forum on December 16. It was useful for networking. As to the emerging partnership with the UNHCR, it needs to be shaped up during this month.
  - In Rome, Dan participated in working meetings with WFP colleagues to discuss Phase II of the joint SIPRI-WFP project. Everything is moving ahead fine on that front. A piece of good news – following a meeting with the Danish MFA, Dan reported back that the Danish government has allocated 5 mln Danish crowns to support our partnership with the WFP.

#### 4. Staffing & project issues

##### Staffing

- The position of DoS of the Peace and Development cluster has been offered to Jannie Lilja who has accepted it. Due to family reasons, Jannie will start working the second week of August.
- Recruitment of an event assistant is underway; there are 120 applicants; the aim is to have Skype interviews with 5 short-listed candidates already next week.
- Our new editor, Emma Zetterström, is starting on Monday January 13.

- The position of MENA RA has been offered to two candidates. Luc has informed the unions about this double recruitment.
- The SMT endorsed offering an associate status for two years to Netta Goussac, former ICRC Legal Advisor. Sibylle will follow up with the practicalities.
- Recruitment of a RA on emerging technologies is underway. Luc has conducted Skype interviews with short-listed candidates; there are 3 of them that will be invited for a personal interview during the coming weeks.
- Two researchers have been recruited for the climate risk team – Elise Remling (starting on Feb 3) and Farah Hegazi (March, subject to work permit).
- Recruitment of a partnerships manager is underway.
- Ian Davis, Executive Editor for the YB, will be at SIPRI on Monday January 13 and will stay for one week.
- There is a need to hire a Senior Researcher to work on the joint SIPRI-WFP project. A JD needs to be drafted to this end.
- Margot Wallström has agreed to chair the EP 2022 panel. Some recruitment is needed to get the work started, including a project lead, a coordinator, and the senior writer.
- Corey Pattison has been invited to join the EP 2022 writing team.

- Projects

- Sigrún, Martina and Jago (via Skype) will meet with the MFA on Friday January 10 to proceed with the next round of preparations for the Stockholm Forum 2020.
- Luc informed the SMT that the draft UNEP report will be sent to UNEP on January 9.
- Luc has received the report from our consultant, Jason Mosley, who will be at SIPRI on January 30.
- The German MFA confirmed financing for the project “*Assessing Nuclear Deterrence Risks and Challenges in South Asia*” from now until June 30, 2021. Lora Saalman will work along with Petr and Shannon on this. Luc confirmed that Lora’s two-year consultancy contract has now been finalized.
- Sibylle received the green light from the EU consortium to organize a disarmament education seminar in Brussels. The event will most probably take place in June so as to best fit with the academic calendar.
- Sibylle is in discussions with the German MFA on funding a workshop in Brussels on AI risks and opportunities for peace and security. This would include sessions on responsible innovation, export control and verification and bring together relevant members of the EUNDP Network. Likely timing: late May or June. It would feed into the German MFA conference on emerging tech/rethinking arms control to be held later in the year.

5. Project management guidelines

- The SMT discussed the draft project management guidelines put together by Dan and Elena. Maria will finalise the draft, talk with Shannen about the graphical annex and forward to the SMT a draft project plan template prepared by Nikos.

6. SMT retreat

- The SMT agreed to have a strategic retreat meeting on Tuesday Jan 14. Topics to be discussed include:
  - SIPRI strategy: benchmarking & indicators discussion;
  - Sibylle’s feedback (and possible follow-up) of the Tokyo conference;
  - SSC 2020/2021;
  - WFP-related work.

## 7. The look ahead

- The SMT took a quick look at the upcoming events and important dates, at SIPRI and beyond.
- The events include:
  - 4 February, workshop at SIPRI on cybersecurity and disinformation in Europe, organized with the support of the Japanese Bank for International Cooperation;
  - 21-22 February, a peace building architecture event in Stockholm (Sigrún and Jago);
  - 7-9 February (tentatively), an African Union event in Addis Ababa; Florian is in charge from SIPRI's side;
  - 14-16 February, Munich Security Conference;
  - 2-4 March, World Bank's Fragility Forum; Dan is planning to participate.
  - 11-13 May, SIPRI's Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development.
  - 25 May, SIPRI Lecture, delivered by Madeleine Albright.
  - 25-26 May, SIPRI's Governing Board meeting.
- Key data launch dates:
  - 27 January (Embargo 22 January), Chinese Arms Industry data launch.
  - 9 March (embargo 2 March), Arms Transfers data launch.
  - 20 April (embargo 14 April), Military Expenditure data launch.
  - TBC 29 May, peacekeeping data launch.
  - 15 June (embargo 8 June), Yearbook Launch with focus on World Nuclear Forces.

## 8. AOB

- Sigrún informed the SMT that the annual NIS visit to SIPRI will take place between 10:00 and 12:00 on January 21. Sigrún asked Sibylle to submit a draft program to her.

## **Action Points**

- Feedback on Thomas Jonter's proposal – Sibylle to Sigrún and Dan
- Netta Goussac, formalizing the associate agreement – Sibylle and Helena
- JD for a SR to work on the WFP-SIPRI project – Dan
- Schedule a meeting between Jason Mosley and Dan – Luc
- Draft project management guidelines –Maria
- The dates for the future GB meetings up till May 2021 – Elena
- Agenda for NIS visit to SIPRI – Sibylle

## **Items carried forward**

- Gender strategy and gender hire
- Stockholm Forum 2020 – names of high-level key-note speakers and panelists
- Candidates to deliver SIPRI Lecture 2021 – at some point.