

## **SIPRI SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING**

Solna, 15 May 2018

### **MINUTES**

#### Participants

Sibylle Bauer, Maria Kaemmerlé, Gary Milante (via Skype), Dan Smith  
Note-taker Elena Haapaniemi

#### 1. MoM approval

- Minutes of the previous meeting on May 2 were approved.

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

- Gary specified that the process of hiring for Kate's position has already been initiated.

#### 3. Report back

- In the wake of the 2018 Forum on Peace and Development, Gary expressed his gratitude to Dan and to the rest of the SMT for their vote of confidence and also for their active support of and participation in the event itself. The SMT, in turn, commended Gary and his team on the brilliant work both behind and beyond the scenes ensuring that this year's Forum becomes a true success. That intangible something about the overall mood and atmosphere created at this year's Forum translated into a lot of positive feedback from quite a few participants. Even if the outcome of the upcoming elections in Sweden is not known yet, we can assume, and hope that the Swedish government will continue supporting the Forum in the years to come. Meanwhile, Gary and his team are going to be occupied with various activities deriving from the Forum, e.g. policy support activity in cooperation with the MFA.
- Maria is working on the reforecast after the first quarter of 2018. Work on GDPR and its implementation continues too.
- Sibylle showed to the SMT the voluminous hard copy of the EU Consortium contract that has been finalised. The SMT acknowledged all the work invested by Sibylle and Maria in this endeavour and then briefly discussed the issue of whether SIPRI should assume the role of the Chair as defined by the contract, once it is signed by all parties. That is still to be decided upon. A steering group meeting will be organised in the near future. With contract signature, the practical work can hopefully start at last.
- Sibylle briefed the SMT about the discussions she had on the margins of the Forum which, among others, brought some new ideas as to how to bring more diversity to SIPRI, namely by bringing in new associates and disseminating job ads through additional networks.
- Sibylle, Shannon, Tytti and Petr had a working lunch with Rolf Ekéus to discuss the implications of the US withdrawal from the JCPOA. The idea of facilitating a US-Russia dialogue on the subject was brought up. The SMT agreed that this is an issue to bring to the consideration of the SIPRI GB.

- Sibylle praised the work of Tarja Cronberg, Distinguished SIPRI Associate Fellow, and asked Maria for possibilities of allocating a separate budget line for Tarja's expenditures, if possible. SMT agreed that Maria will look into that.

#### 4. Staffing & project issues

- Maria informed the SMT that the candidate who was offered the position of a financial coordinator has signed the contract and will start working in August 2018.
- Maria further informed the SMT that the process of hiring a new accountant is entering its final stage and will be hopefully finalised soon.
- Gary used this opportunity to praise both Gulzhan and José for the incredible work they have done for the Forum.

#### 5. Korea work

- Dan briefed the SMT about his participation in the 4<sup>th</sup> ROK-EU International Conference on MENA Affairs, held in Seoul on May 2-4, 2018, where Dan spoke about Conflicts and Coalitions in the Middle East. Dan used the opportunity to meet with Korean MFA officials.

#### 6. AOB

- NTR.

#### **Action Points**

- Adjust the agenda of the GB meeting as to include the possible line of work on facilitating the US-Russia dialogue – Dan and Jakob
- A budget line for Tarja Cronberg's work - Maria
- Dates for the upcoming SMT meetings - Elena

#### **Items carried forward**

Institute strategy.