

SIPRI SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

Solna, 28 August 2018

MINUTES

Participants

Sibylle Bauer, Stephanie Blenckner, Maria Kaemmerlé, Gary Milante, Dan Smith
Note-taker Elena Haapaniemi

1. MoM approval

- Minutes of the previous meeting on August 21 were approved.

2. Matters arising from the previous MoM

- Dan will discuss the draft cooperation agreement with MSC in a phone meeting on Aug 29.
- Joost Hiltermann, ICG MENA Programme Director, will do a presentation on Middle East for the interested SIPRI staff and associates on Sept 10.
- Helena is finalising the list of guest researchers from the Korean peninsula.
- SMT away-day is scheduled for Oct 9 between 09:00 to 15:00.
- Dan drafted a memo on PADs which was forwarded to the rest of the SMT. The SMT has to resume its discussion on PADs agreeing, among other things, on deadlines.
- Dan had a Skype meeting with Lars Wikman. A tailored workshop on EU research projects, on raising money from the EU for the research projects and on designing EU research programmes will be organised for SIPRI senior staff already in September. Elena to follow up on that.

3. Report back

- Sibylle reported back on the results of a round table on nuclear disarmament she attended last week in Hiroshima. Sibylle mentioned the Hiroshima Governor's initiative to set up a network of nuclear disarmament think tanks. Such a network would, tentatively, comprise SIPRI, Chatham House, UNDIR and NTI. The SMT discussed the ways to take this initiative forward, agreeing that this is a viable idea worth exploring further.
- Sibylle then informed the SMT about another emerging inter-institutional cooperation initiative on a broader nuclear agenda with the same actors as above plus PRIO minus NTI. The SMT briefly discussed pros and contras of such cooperation format agreeing that more information is needed before any decision can be taken. Sibylle to clarify the terms of reference etc. with PRIO before SMT could decide on possible further steps.
- Sibylle flagged the need to follow up on the invitation extended to Jan by the Permanent Delegation of Sweden to the OSCE on the occasion of Sweden taking over the chair in the OSCE Forum for Security Cooperation (FSC), OSCE's decision making body. The chairmanship is *per se* rather extraordinary since it happens once every 17 years. One of the tasks of the chair includes setting up the agenda of the so called "Security Dialogues" and that's where Jan has been invited as a speaker. Dan will follow up on that with Jan.

- Gary reported back on several successful fundraising efforts:
 - o GIZ has agreed to sponsor an expert workshop on the Violent Deaths project, probably in November and probably in Paris in association with the meeting of the International Network on Conflict and Fragility, a subsidiary body of OECD's Development Assistance Committee.
 - o CIC in New York has allocated funding to develop the work on pilot cases on prevention and peace building, in cooperation with the MFA. Gary will meet his contact person at the MFA on Aug 29. A field trip to Addis Ababa has to be scheduled too, probably in mid-September.
- Gary also reported back about a spontaneous and rather promising meeting with DELL's sales representative. In the short run, this contact offers a possibility to bring in an additional expert on cyber warfare to the upcoming SSC but it also can, in the long run, expand our network of useful private sector contacts. This led SMT to briefly discuss ways of better structuring SIPRI interaction and cooperation with relevant actors within the private sector, starting with those in the Stockholm area, so as to further implement the Target Sweden strategy.
- Steph informed the SMT that the Stockholm Climate Security Hub, a cooperative initiative by Stockholm based think tanks (SIWI, SEI, SRC and SIPRI) will be officially launched on Aug 30.
- Steph further informed the SMT about the communications team's plans on further implementing the Target Sweden strategy during the fall. So far, in concrete terms, this means reaching out to foreign policy associations as well as organising an event on the Middle East in the Museum of Mediterranean.
- Dan reported back about his conversation on Iran with the leadership of the European Leadership Network. A summary was already circulated among the SMT.
- Dan informed the SMT on the progress of discussions with the WFP and the upcoming visit of two WFP representatives to SIPRI on Aug 31. The desired outcome of that meeting would be shaping up our cooperation on food insecurity, ideally agreeing on launching three or four country case studies in order to identify the issues WFP faces in each particular context, how the organisation addresses them, whether WFP activities achieve peacebuilding outcomes, whether on purpose or not, and what further steps could and should be taken on that front.
- Dan briefed the SMT on the progress of cooperation with SIGHT (Swedish Institute for Global Health Transformation). The latter would like to have SIPRI on board in the Lancet commission SIGHT has been invited to establish looking at the relationship in the SDGs of health, governance, gender equality and peace. The next working meeting is scheduled on Sept 11. Dan and Gary to follow that up.

4. Staffing and projects issues

- The SMT agreed that SIPRI should offer to organise a farewell party for John. Sibylle to contact John.
- Maria informed the SMT that Helena is finalising the set-up for the new office space as per reached agreement. The re-shuffling of the office space offers a possibility to eventually review the overall safety and working environment which is positive.
- Gary reminded the SMT that Martina Selmi starts as the P&D cluster coordinator in mid-September.
- The China recruitment process is put on hold. Dan will discuss the way forward with Luc.

5. PADs

- Cf. para 2 “Matters arising”.

6. SSC18

- Sibylle led the SMT through the draft agenda, speakers and loose ends. SMT agreed on the way forward on most pending issues.

7. Horizon Europe

- Cf. para 2 “Matters arising”.

8. YB 2018 Launches

- The preparations for the launch of the Russian Edition of the YB are under way, and the level of cooperation with IMEMO has so far been really good. The SMT agreed on the composition of the SIPRI delegation, on the speakers and on the topics. Dan, Sibylle, Petr, Steph, Harri and Elena will represent SIPRI during the Moscow event on October 18. Elena to continue liaising with IMEMO.

9. AOB

- Dan reminded the SMT about the upcoming MSB visit to SIPRI on Sept 14 and quickly went through MSB’s proposed programme for the visit. SMT suggested that Vincent and, possibly, Mark could do a brief presentation on cyber security.

Action Points

- Practical arrangements for the workshop on EU funding with Lars Wikman - Elena
- Liase with PRIO on inter-institutional cooperation on nuclear issues – Sibylle
- Jan’s participation in the FSC in Vienna in October – Dan and Jan
- Various staff issues – Dan and Luc
- The next SMT to take place on Thursday Sept 6 at usual time

Items carried forward

- Practical arrangements around the MSB visit on Sept 14.