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SIPRI SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

Half Away Day
Ulriksdal, 8 December 2016

MINUTES

Participants

Sibylle Bauer, Stephanie Blenckner, Jakob Hallgren, Maria Kaemmerlé, Neil Melvin, Gary Milante and Dan Smith.

1. Minutes approval

- Minutes of the 6 December meeting were approved without changes.

2. Institute and cluster research strategies

- It was noted with appreciation that the institute had made important advances in the last year, and that it was now well placed to ‘move to the next level’. Upcoming challenges included joint work to ensure the ‘cluster structure’ delivers, thus enabling SIPRI to set strategic research agendas.
- Mindful of the expectation that SIPRI has something important to say on the state of the world, and fully aware of its mission to be a proponent of facts in a ‘post truth world’, four overarching research questions for the institute were identified:

- 1. Are we currently witnessing a breakdown of international peace and security arrangements on a scale comparable with the end of the Cold War? What is the evidence?*
- 2. What are the drivers of these changes (or continuities) in international peace and security arrangements?*
- 3. Do today’s international peace and security arrangements have the capacity to manage current and likely future challenges? If not, what are the possible sources of change for a more peaceful world?*

- It was decided that a process of ‘validation’ and ‘operationalization’ of these systemic questions will take place in clusters until the end of January 2017. The intention is not that all individual researchers and research projects and programs should focus on these questions solely. However, the

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aspiration is to achieve broad agreement on that these are relevant questions on which it would be good to throw some light, and which all three clusters can address to some degree. Moreover, the intention is to develop actionable research ideas stemming from these questions, which could form the basis for cross institute research proposals.

3. The SMT's agenda and table of work in the spring of 2017

- The following non-exhaustive list of key processes and events were identified for the SMT, and the institute, in the spring of 2017:

- Evaluation of the performance assessment process and salary review, as well as the finalization of new job descriptions for all;
- developing overarching institute and cluster research strategies, and research proposals stemming from these;
- developing a structured SIPRI publishing program;
- the annual Governing Board meeting 22 - 23 May;
- possible efforts to boost SIPRI's visibility in the public domain;
- the Forum on Peace and Development in May; and,
- the four data launches (Arms Transfers, MILEX, PKO and Nuclear) in February, April, May and June.

4. Titles for researchers and 'research administrators' at SIPRI

- Synchronization of titles for researchers and 'research administrators' will be made, while keeping suitable flexibility. The first step is a mapping.

5. Name for SIPRI's research on Asia

- Further discussions on the most appropriate name for SIPRI's research on Asia will take place, a concept note will be developed by Lora.

6. ILAC-proposal to share a communications officer

- SIPRI will decline an offer from ILAC to share a communications officer, for reasons of practicality.

7. Concept note template for research proposals

- The draft research proposal concept note template was endorsed, subject to some final fine tuning regarding the default budget lines.

8. NIR (International Council of Swedish Industry)

- It was decided that the collaboration with NIR (International Council of Swedish Industry) should continue and deepen. Identification of joint work on OBOR is underway, but other areas may also be considered.

9. Stockholm University Graduate School of International Studies

- Collaboration with Stockholm University Graduate School of International Studies (SIS), on among other things interns, was endorsed.

10. Items carried forward for future agenda

- The SIPRI 2017 budget (a separate meeting on 9 December).
- A SIPRI alumni structure, memo by Gerd Hagmeyer-Gaverus.
- SIPRI values discussion.
- Work phones at SIPRI, memo by Magda.
- Evaluation of the performance assessment process and salary review.
- Titles for researchers and 'research administrators' at SIPRI (mapping forthcoming).
- Name for SIPRI's research on Asia (concept note forthcoming).