

## **SIPRI SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING**

13 April 2021

### **MINUTES**

#### Participants

Sibylle Bauer, Stephanie Blenckner, Luc van de Goor, Maria Kaemmerle, Jannie Lilja, Dan Smith, Joakim Vaverka

Magdalena Söderqvist present for item 5

Note-taker Elena Haapaniemi (not present for item 8)

The meeting was conducted via Zoom.

#### 1. Corona virus

- NTR.

#### 2. Minutes

- The minutes from the SMT meeting on March 30 and April 6 were approved.

#### 3. Report back and matters arising

- Sibylle informed the SMT that the grant for the UNSCAR project to be carried out by the Amex team has been approved. The project is about establishing a globally accessible database of national military budgets and also transforming those into the UN reporting documents. It is relevant for our core work on transparency in military spending, but it can also be considered as a potential capacity building exercise.
- Sibylle reported back about attending two events focused on promoting the “next generation” work in disarmament and arms control:
  - An “Emerging Voices” event organized by BASIC in cooperation with UNODA and
  - An event organized within the framework of the EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Consortium launching a new mentoring initiative to bring more young women into non-proliferation and disarmament work.
- On April 12, Joakim, Dan, Jannie and Jan had an introductory meeting with Janine Alm Ericson, new State Secretary for International Development Cooperation. It was productive and encouraging.
- On April 16, Joakim, Tytti and Dylan will participate in the next round of digital meetings on regional dialogue in the Gulf/MENA region organized by Sweden, Finland and Germany on a rotation basis; this time the meeting will be hosted by Finland’s MFA.
- Jannie reminded the SMT that registration for the Forum opened on April 12; more than 1000 participants already registered.
- Jannie, Simone, Ian, Sepideh and Vincent are planning to have a follow-up conversation with the ICRC on potential SIPRI involvement in the ICRC project on misinformation, disinformation and hate speech online.

4. Update on MFA Strategic Grant

- Maria invited the SMT to take a look at the implementation status of projects approved under the MFA strategic grant for this year so as to ensure timely adjustments, where needed. The SMT had a discussion on the basis of the document updated by Maria; the DoSes will provide additional information to Maria asap and Maria will adjust the budget accordingly.

5. SIPRI IT/e-mail system

- Magda presented to the SMT a brief overview of four identified solutions for upgrading the SIPRI e-mail system.
- The SMT agreed that migrating to Microsoft Exchange is the best option considering that SIPRI already uses quite a few Microsoft products.
- The SMT decided to explore that option further, without yet deciding to carry out the change.
- The SMT asked Magda to make an overview of all the implications of such a migration and provide a timeline. It was agreed that a small test group should be set up as well.
- The SMT confirmed that, if needed, an external consultant can be hired for ensuring a smooth and swift migration from Zimbra to Outlook.

6. &frankly results implementation

- Joakim is in the process of putting together of a Plan of Action as a follow up of group discussions on the basis of the &frankly survey results. Once ready, it will serve as a basis of a more structured discussion at the next SMT meeting.
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7. Staffing & project issues

- The SMT agreed to grant an Associate Senior Fellow status to Wuyi Omitoogun upon recommendation by Elisabeth Sköns, provided that Wuyi Omitoogun confirms that there will be no conflict of interest between his status at SIPRI and current formal position with the African Union. Sibylle will follow up on that.
- The SMT agreed to renew the Associate contract for Sten Hagberg, professor at the Uppsala University who continues to actively collaborate with the Sahel/West Africa team.

8. Ongoing HR issues

- The SMT had an executive session to discuss ongoing HR issues.

9. AOB

- NTR.

**Action points**

- Feedback on the use of the strategic grant – DoSes to Maria
- Timeline for exploring the process of migration from Zimbra to Outlook – Magda to Maria by April 16
- &frankly discussions follow up, Plan of Action – Joakim
- Check that granting an associate status to Wuyi Omitoogun does not result in a conflict of interest - Sibylle

**Items carried forward:**

- **Vacation policy**