

SIPRI SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

15 June 2021

MINUTES

Participants

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

Note-taker Elena Haapaniemi (not present for the Executive session)

The meeting was conducted via Zoom.

1. Corona virus

- Once back from the summer break, the SMT will start on a plan for a rotation system for working from the office, should the pandemic situation in Sweden allow that.

2. Minutes

- Joakim will circulate the draft minutes from the SMT meeting on June 7 among the SMT members for final approval.

3. Matters arising

- Dan reported back about a very good meeting he had the previous week with Carl Skau, in person. Forum evaluation and thematic focus for Forum 2022 have been discussed.

4. Report back and forthcoming events

- Sibylle reported that Vincent has been exploring possibilities of conducting a joint project with the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), a prominent Singaporean think tank.
- Luc reported that:
 - Ian is organising a meeting focussed on Turkey and NATO 2030 Agenda.
 - Dylan is finalising the work on the next phase of the USAID project and under the Bosch foundation grant; both projects should be completed before the Operations team goes on summer leave.
- Steph reported that the YB and nuclear data launch are going very well so far. Sibylle noted that there is an interest among diplomats in having SIPRI publications, including the YB, in other languages than English – in French and Spanish in the first place. Diplomats have also suggested webinars on SIPRI publications in languages other than English to facilitate broader engagement with capital.
- Jannie alerted the SMT to the need to pin down the dates for Forum 2022 asap.
- On June 1, Dan participated in a panel on Environment and Violent Social Conflict organized by the Latin American Network on Inclusive and Sustainable Security. The Friedrich Ebert Stiftung plays an important part in this network. As a follow up, FES

wants to explore possibilities for research collaboration with SIPRI on climate and conflict in Latin America. FES is preparing a concept note to this end. Luc pointed out that our work conducted for UNEP in 2020 could be very useful in this regard. The SMT agreed that this is an interesting possibility, but it remains to be seen whether we have capacity for it.

- Joakim reported back about a positive meeting that he, Florian and Elise had with the members of the Stockholm Climate and Security Hub.

5. Post-pandemic return to the office

- Joakim reported back about discussions in the internal working group on the return to the office after the pandemic. Joakim presented a staff survey to be launched shortly.

6. Attic conversion update

- Joakim provided an update on the progress with attic conversion. The SMT agreed that having 8-10 working stations plus a silent room seems most appropriate. Before it is fully endorsed, Joakim will try to obtain from the architect a visual design of the space with furniture, if possible. The fire department has stated that there is no need for an external fire escape so there is no need to apply for planning permission from Solna municipality. This will speed up the whole renovation process.

7. Archives

- The attic has hitherto been used to store SIPRI archives; this will not be possible after the renovation. The SMT discussed options including the possibility of digitalizing the archives, remotely storing them, and continuing to store them in the Signalistgatan building. The SMT agreed to discuss this issue thoroughly at a later stage.

8. Summer breaks

- All SMT members are asked to add information about their and, where relevant, their team's summer leave in a document on the ownCloud SMT folder. Dan will then send an e-mail to all staff about administrative and management presence during the summer.
- The last SMT meeting before the summer will be on June 22; the first one after the break will be 10 August if enough SMT members are back by then.
- The last Monday morning staff meeting will be on June 21; the first one after the break will be on 9 August.

9. Agenda for next RSC

- The meeting of the Research Staff Collegium has been scheduled to take place on June 22. Its agenda includes:
 - Latest update on the pandemic.
 - Report back from the May Governing Board meeting.
 - Plans for return to the office.

10. Staffing & project issues, including checklist for recruitments

- Maria Volakaki is our new financial accountant who will start working on August 30.
- HR officer recruitment is ongoing with second round of interviews under way.
- CCR team experiences staff shortages, partly as a result of difficulties with the SR recruitment. During the autumn, both Simone and Martina will work part-time with the CCR team, Simone would continue her engagement with the CCR team through the summer of 2022.
- The SMT endorsed extending the internship of Jordan Smith for three months, upon Sibylle's request. Since January, he has worked with the arms transfers team in AMEX.

During the extension period, he will be working with the arms and military expenditure team.

- Isaaka Souaré, new SAHEL/West Africa program director will start working on July 1.
- Joakim reiterated the importance of circulating information, internally, on all new staff members including the interns that are about to join SIPRI in good time.
- Joakim circulated a Recruitment Process checklist prepared by Helena. Joakim invited the SMT to look through the document and to share their comments. The SMT will then come back to discuss it.

11. AOB

- NTR.

12. Executive session

Action points

- Finalise and circulate the draft SMT minutes from the meeting on June 7 – Joakim and the SMT
- Dates for the Forum – Jannie, Forum team, SMT
- Follow up on the Stockholm Climate Hub – Joakim, Florian
- Summer leave e-mail – Dan with input from the SMT
- Attic conversion design with visuals, if possible – Joakim to the SMT
- Follow up on the internship contract extension for Jordan Smith - Sibylle
- Comments on the Recruitment process checklist - SMT to Joakim

Items carried forward

- Procedure for in-house review of external publications by SIPRI staff
- SIPRI archives