

SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

19 January 2022

MINUTES

Participants

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

Helena Berger for items 1 and 5

Note-taker

Elena Haapaniemi (not present for item 9)

Format

Zoom meeting

1. Corona virus

- The latest guidance e-mailed by Helena on January 14 and reiterated by Dan during the Monday morning meeting on January 17 continues to apply. Nothing new to report at this stage.

2. Minutes

- Feedback on the minutes of the SMT meetings on December 16 and on January 12 is pending. Once received, Elena will finalise and circulate the minutes.

3. Matters arising

- The SMT went through the list of action points; all have been taken care of apart from the review of Intranet which remains on everyone's to-do list.
- For our work on China, the SMT decided for the moment to use the name "China-Asia work stream", until a programme director has been identified. The work will be coordinated strategically by Sibylle and Luc and thematically by Jingdong and Lora who will work as consultants. Management of staff/consultants will remain the same as before.

4. Report back and forthcoming events

Luc

- On January 20, Ian will do an in-house Brown Bag seminar on the current situation concerning Ukraine and Russia.

Jannie

- Forum save-the-date message has gone out.

Steph

- Steph has been reaching out to the Swiss MFA regarding their sponsoring of the YB translations in Ukrainian and in Russian. Steph will keep the SMT posted on the outcome.

Joakim

- On January 14, together with SIPRI colleagues, Joakim attended a productive meeting of the Stockholm Hub on Environment, Climate and Security. The re-launch of the Hub, which is timely, is tentatively being scheduled to take place at the end of March or early April.

Sibylle

- Preparations for the summer disarmament school in cooperation with the Alva Myrdal Center (AMC) are underway. Tentative dates for the school: 12-17 June.
- The official opening of the AMC, previously scheduled to take place on 31 January, has been postponed to October.
- We need to start looking for the SSC22 dates.

Dan

- On January 31, Dan will meet Sweden's FM to discuss climate change and security issues.
- The EP project is moving along; the writing team has completed the 3d draft, which will soon go out for external peer review.
- Dan wrote to Helen Clark, whom we have invited to deliver SIPRI Lecture 2022, reiterating our invitation and suggesting that she can participate in whatever format that would be most convenient for her i.e. the Lecture might be digital this year too.

5. Follow-up to Work Environment Authority Inspection

- As one of the follow ups to the WEA inspection, Helena has drafted a risk assessment based on the group discussions held as follow-up to the &frankly survey. Two draft documents – one describing the risks and the other one translating incorporating those risks into the Plan of Action – have been circulated among the SMT. The SMT endorsed both drafts, which will now be discussed at the Cooperation group meeting on Jan 26. They will then come back to the SMT for final approval.

6. “Deficiency of Trust”: potential roundtable/seminar/expert meeting in spring

- Jan, Joakim and Dan had discussed organising an event addressing the deficiency of trust in world politics. The SMT discussed the possible theme, format and participants.
- There was a consensus that this is an interesting idea.
- A concept note will need to be drafted to this end after which the SMT will discuss how to bring this further.

7. Staffing & project issues

- Steph is hoping to be able to get the new virtual intern onboard asap.
- The process to recruit the new Head of Operations has started.
- Two new RAs have been recruited to work in the A&D cluster, one in MILAP and one in DUAT/AT.
- Recruitment of new PDs for the Sahel and West Africa and the MENA programs will start soon.

- Luc flagged an issue with the intellectual property rights for the Swiss Cooperation project in Mali. The SMT discussed how to go forward on that. Luc will follow up.

8. AOB

- NTR.

9. Executive session

- The SMT held an executive session.

Action points:

- Intranet review – all SMT
- Feedback on the Swiss MFA's funding of the YB translations – Steph
- Concept note for an event on addressing the deficiency of international trust – ???
- Follow up with the Swiss Cooperation on the intellectual property rights - Luc

Items carried forward:

- SSC22 dates
- Draft Sexual Harassment policy
- Recruitment check-list
- “Deficiency of Trust”: potential roundtable/seminar/expert meeting in spring /concept note pending/