

SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

5 October 2022

MINUTES

Participants

Stephanie Blenckner, Jannie Lilja, Kristina Sandberg, Dan Smith, Joakim Vaverka

Note-taker

Sepideh Soltaninia

Format

In-person meeting

1. Minutes

- SMT approved the minutes of the 28 September meeting.

2. Report back

a. Sweden

- Ilwad Elman, the Director of Programs and Development at the Elman Peace and Human Rights Centre and member of SIPRI's Environment of Peace independent panel of experts, was one of the recipients of this year's Right Livelihood Award. SIPRI will explore potential engagements with Ilwad for when she is in Stockholm to receive the award.
- Colleagues had a very good meeting at SIPRI with the MFA's Africa Department on 3 October. Engagement with the department will continue.
- On 4 October, Joakim participated in the Alva Myrdal Centre for Nuclear Disarmament (AMC) Board meeting. The AMC had decided it would set aside funding and move forward with planning and jointly organizing the 2023 Armament and Disarmament Summer School together with SIPRI.

b. International

- Jannie will be in Reykjavík on 10 October to participate in the Imagine Forum, organized by the Höfði Reykjavík Peace Centre, in cooperation with the Icelandic Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Nordic Women Mediators.
- Dan, Kristina Tschunkert and Caroline Delgado completed a paper for the African Union's (AU) High-Level Food Security and Nutrition Conference, planned for 10 October. The event is co-organized by the AU, the African Development Bank and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

c. Relations with other organizations

- On 29 September, Jannie spoke on a panel titled “Re-evaluating the character of conflict” at Chatham House’s Annual Security and Defence conference.
- Steph, Kheira Tarif and Karen Meijer were in Dakar last week for the final meeting of the West Africa Dialogue, sponsored by Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES), and an Environment of Peace launch event which was well received. FES is interested in further cooperation on and support of both the dissemination of the Dialogue findings and beyond.
- On 4 October, Joakim and Michael Sahlin, Distinguished Associate Fellow, met with colleagues from the Washington Institute, who were visiting Sweden and Finland to learn about their NATO accession processes, with a special interest in the Turkey dimension.
- On 30 September, Dan met with Rod Schoonover, Head of the Ecological Security Program at the Council on Strategic Risks and Founder and CEO of the Ecological Futures Group. They discussed several themes relevant to the Environment of Peace initiative.

d. Human Resources

- The Risk Assessment and Plan of Action, updated following the last &frankly survey, was posted on the intranet.

3. Strategic Grant

- SMT discussed the forthcoming Strategic Grant application.

4. SIPRI Strategy

- SMT discussed the trends currently outlined in the SIPRI Strategy (2019-2024).

5. Staffing & project issues

- A meeting was held on 30 September to discuss SIPRI’s possible activities related to the Gulf. Discussions will continue.
- Recruitment processes for the Project Manager, Communications Officer, Programme Director for the Arms Transfers Programme, (Senior) Researcher in Peacebuilding and Research Assistant for the A&D Cluster positions are continuing.
- SMT discussed a proposition for the modification of the career ladder at SIPRI. This will be discussed further as part of SIPRI’s salary structure discussions.
- The Climate Change and Risk Programme signed two new contracts for projects:
 - o A project on breaking the climate conflict nexus in Somalia with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) (18-month project).
 - o A project on providing strategic support to Switzerland during their tenure on the UN Security Council (2-year project).
- The China and Asia Security Programme’s US/West-China decoupling project was selected for a Future Fund Regranting Programme grant of USD275,000. The Future Fund is an effective altruism philanthropic organization that funds projects focused on improving “humanity’s long-term prospects”.

6. AOB

- SMT decided that the 10 October Monday morning all-staff meeting will be in-person. Colleagues who do not feel comfortable coming to the Conference Room/Library or who are not in the office can connect via Zoom.

Action items:

- SMT to further discuss modifications of the career ladder at SIPRI as part of the salary structure discussions.

Items carried forward:

- Consideration of the Internship policy.
- Use of approval functions in Maconomy and/or Microsoft Teams.