

## SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

11 January 2023

### MINUTES

#### Participants

Sibylle Bauer, Stephanie Blenckner, Jannie Lilja, Kristina Sandberg, Luc van de Goor, Joakim Vaverka

#### Absent

Dan Smith

#### Note-taker

Sepideh Soltaninia

#### Format

In-person meeting

#### **1. Minutes**

- SMT has not yet approved the minutes of the 21 December meeting.

#### **2. Report back**

##### **a. Sweden**

- Earlier this week, Joakim attended the Folk och Försvar (“Society and Defence”) Annual Conference in Sälen. Speakers included the Swedish Prime Minister, and a number of line ministers, heads of agencies and other senior officials, including the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Minister of Defence, Minister for Civil Defence, and Minister of Justice. The agenda was broad, addressing both foreign and domestic challenges to Sweden’s national security. Discussions focused heavily on the Russian invasion of Ukraine and Sweden’s efforts to join NATO.
- At the conference, the government announced that the Swedish National Security Council, which will be chaired by the Prime Minister and include several ministers as members, will meet every second week.
- Nivi has been approached by the Swedish MFA to join the Swedish government delegation to the 3rd session of the open-ended working group (OEWG) on reducing space threats, to be held 30 January to 3 February 2023 in Geneva.

##### **b. International**

- Germany extended its grant to SIPRI for work on cyber issues until the end of 2023. Research under the grant focuses on cyber postures of Russia, China, USA and EU.

- Vincent, Laura and Sepideh met virtually with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea to discuss collaboration on the 2023 World Emerging Security Forum and South Korea's potential UN Security Council membership in 2024-2025.
- Luc and Sepideh met with the Deputy Director of the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs' Policy Planning Unit to brief them on the Stockholm Security Conference. Ireland is also interested in SIPRI's work related to protection of civilians through gendered community engagement and the Environment of Peace initiative.

**c. Relations with other organizations**

- Jannie will be in Oslo on 18-19 January to participate in the UNDP Oslo Governance Center's 'Future of Governance Workshop'.
- Eric Berman, former Director of Small Arms Survey, will visit SIPRI on 19-20 January.
- Virginie and Luc will also attend the first meeting of the Research and Action for Peace (RECAP) Network in Dakar in late January.
- SIPRI is exploring organizing an expert meeting with GlobSec in late February to commemorate the one-year anniversary of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.
- SIPRI will hold a meeting in March with the Center for Applied Research in Partnership with the Orient (CARPO) and the Gulf Research Center on water sharing in the Gulf region.
- Ian Anthony co-organised an event on chemical weapons with the Indian Institute of Defence Studies and Analysis (IDSA). IDSA is interested in continued and closer cooperation with SIPRI.
- The Open Society Foundation in Colombia approached MILAP to bid for a grant to support the Colombian Ministry of Defence in improving their military expenditure transparency.
- The Sahel and West Africa Programme is in touch with UNHCR on additional projects following their collaboration in 2021. They will likely propose a project related to 18–25-year-olds in the region.

**d. Outreach**

- Outreach has resumed proactive dissemination.

**e. Operations**

- Operations is working on closing the books for 2022.
- SIPRI is collaborating with a management consultant to support in improving SIPRI's financial systems and processes.
- All clusters and departments are asked, by 20 January, to ensure that their intranet pages are up to date.

**3. Staffing and project issues**

- The DUAT and MENA teams have a very good collaboration on a project related to capacity building on dual use export controls in the six Gulf Cooperation Council countries plus Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq.
- SIPRI was approached by International Alert to join a consortium to bid on research grants as part of FCDO's Global Development Delivery (GDD) Framework. Sepideh will follow up with the Directors of Studies and with International Alert.
- Barbara Becht joined SIPRI as a Project Manager on 9 January.

- Lukas Wiktorsson, who will replace Johanna while she is on study leave, will join SIPRI on 16 January.
- SIPRI's new HR Director, Lisa Wiklund, will start on 1 March.
- Mathew George has been appointed the new Arms Transfer Programme Director and will start on 24 April.
- The Environment of Peace team will have a new intern, Sofie Waller Snygg, starting this month.

**Action items:**

- All DoSes and heads of departments to ensure that their respective intranet pages are up to date by 20 January.
- Sepideh to follow up with DoSes and International Alert on the FCDO GDD Framework consortium.

**Items carried forward:**

- Broader approach for larger scale fundraising for clusters.