

SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

8 March 2023

MINUTES

Participants

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

Lisa Wiklund (item 3 only)

Note-taker

Sepideh Soltaninia

Format

Virtual meeting

1. Minutes

- SMT approved the minutes of the 15 and 21 February meetings.

2. Report back

a. Sweden

- The Armament and Disarmament Summer School, co-organized by SIPRI, the Alva Myrdal Centre, and the Odesa Center for Nonproliferation will take place in Solna and Uppsala in the week of 20-25 August.
- Luc, Lucie and Jiayi will meet with Representative of the Republic of China (Taiwan) to Sweden when he visits SIPRI on 9 March.
- Luc and Fei will meet with officials at the Chinese Embassy this week.
- On 6 March, Joakim participated as a panellist in a seminar entitled “Paradigm Shift in the Nuclear Weapons Issue”, organized by Folk och Försvar.
- On 7 March, Luc participated in a meeting with the Swedish and Dutch foreign ministers, organized by Folk och Försvar.
- The AD cluster held its monthly cluster meeting on 6 March. Alaa presented the work of the MENA programme at the meeting and engaged in an exchange with the cluster on how the AD programmes could collaborate more with the MENA programme. This was a very fruitful discussion and a model that will be replicated at future AD cluster meetings.
- The CPS cluster held an Away Day on 24 February. Among other topics, the framing of ‘geopolitics meets the local’ to describe the cluster’s work was discussed.

b. International

- Sibylle attended the launch of the German government's feminist foreign policy principles in Berlin on 1 March.

c. Relations with other organizations

- SIPRI is working with the UNDP Sub-Regional Hub for West and Central Africa on a long-term agreement that would facilitate SIPRI's participation in projects with UNDP.
- Dan and Sepideh travelled to Geneva on 27 and 28 February for meetings with UNHCR, ICRC and UNIDIR colleagues. This included meetings with Nils Melzer, the new Director of International Law, Policy and Humanitarian Diplomacy at ICRC; Gillian Triggs, Assistant High Commissioner for Protection at UNHCR; and Robin Geiss, Director of UNIDIR. Sepideh will organize meetings with all relevant colleagues to discuss next steps for the partnership with UNHCR.

d. Operations

- Operations is continuing to work with a consultant on SIPRI's financial processes.
- Direct reporting of projects in Maconomy was initiated in February and is going smoothly.

e. Outreach

- The Prime Minister of Romania will speak at an invitation-only event at SIPRI on 31 March.
- The Arms Transfers data launch is scheduled for 13 March; preparations are on schedule.
- SIPRI has begun its dissemination of commentaries, reports and videos to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the invasion of Iraq.

3. Report of the Informal Working Group on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)

- SMT discussed the report of the Informal Working Group on DEI.
- Representatives of the group will be invited to discuss the report with SMT at the 15 March SMT meeting.

4. Institutional Risk Management

- SMT discussed SIPRI's institutional risk management areas. The discussion will continue at the next meeting.

5. SIPRI Strategy 2024-29

- Dan will hold a meeting with each cluster and department to discuss the SIPRI Strategy. The meetings, in part, will discuss a small number of themes and geographical areas on which SIPRI could focus.

6. Staffing and project issues

- Lisa Wiklund, the new Human Resources Manager, took up her post on 6 March.

Action items:

- Sepideh to organize meetings with all relevant colleagues to discuss next steps for the partnership with UNHCR.

- SMT to invite representatives of the Informal Working Group on DEI to the next SMT meeting.
- Director's Office to organize meetings with Dan and each cluster and department to discuss the SIPRI Strategy.

Items carried forward:

- Discussion on the SSC.