

SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

22 March 2023

MINUTES

Participants

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

Note-taker

Sepideh Soltaninia

Format

In-person meeting

1. Minutes

- SMT approved the minutes of the 15 March meeting.

2. Report back

a. Sweden

- On 14-15 March, SIPRI hosted a workshop of the Tafahum wa Tafadul dialogue with the Gulf Research Research Center Foundation and the Center for Applied Research in Partnership with the Orient (CARPO). The workshop went well and included participants from the Swedish MFA.
- Joakim, Florian and Elin met with Sigrún Rawet and Mattias Broman at the Swedish MFA on 16 March to discuss the government's engagement this year with the Stockholm Hub and the future of the Hub, as well as give an update on SIPRI's work on climate change and risk.
- On 16 March, CCR and CPS met at SIPRI with a delegation from the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, including the Belgian Special Envoy for the Sahel Region, to discuss developments in the Sahel and in DR Congo.
- The application for a new Strategic Grant will be submitted the Swedish MFA this week.
- Dan will speak at the celebration of 140 years of peace in Sweden, organized by the Swedish Peace and Arbitration Society, on 1 April.

b. International

- On 23 March, Joakim and Florian will meet virtually with the South Korean MFA to discuss possible cooperation with South Korea in view of its expected 2024-25 tenure on the UN Security Council.

c. Relations with other organizations

- Sibylle was in Montreal from 13-18 March for the International Studies Association Annual Conference. Gender was a major theme at this year's conference.
- On March 21, Jannie and Farah participated in a Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding (CCCPA) online event entitled "Perspectives from Africa on Pathways for Peace: 5 Years of Prevention".
- Alaa was in London last week for meetings with Chatham House and the Asfari Foundation. The Asfari Foundation and the Carnegie Middle East Center (which is, in part, funded by the Asfari Foundation) are interested in working with the MENA Programme.
- Joakim was in Geneva from 19-20 March for a meeting with other European institutes engaged in dialogue activities, hosted by the Swiss and Swedish governments.
- SIPRI, UN Department of Peace Operations (DPO), Folke Bernadotte Academy and Denmark have put together a Consortium on Climate Change and Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR). The purpose of the Consortium is to develop a formal advisory group that will provide feedback on DPO's 'Climate Change and DDR' workplan and other initiatives that will be developed in relation to this topic.

d. Internal

- On 18 March, Jannie hosted a cross-cluster brainstorm to explore SIPRI's current work on resilience and modalities for future activities and a working group on resilience.
- The PD cluster will hold a meeting on the work environment at SIPRI today.
- Most of the Code of Conduct meetings have taken place. Joakim, Kristina and Lisa will review and discuss the feedback from the meetings.
- Representatives from the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Informal Working Group presented the group's report to the Cooperation Group on 16 March. Joakim will circulate the group's report to all staff.
- Colleagues working on funding proposals may write to Caspar for support. Such requests must be made in advance with ample time for response.

e. Operations

- The stairs at the front of the building will be fixed once the weather allows.
- A new alarm will be installed for the back door of the building.
- A follow-up on the safety round conducted in late 2022 will be done this month.

f. Outreach

- The Prime Minister of Romania will visit SIPRI on 31 March.
- The Swedish Armed Forces Defence Attaché section will visit SIPRI on 21 April.
- The military expenditure data launch will take place on 24 April.

3. Stockholm Security Conference

- In 2023 and 2024, the SSC will continue under the broad theme of 'Battlefields of the Future'.
- In 2023, the SSC will comprise of a small, in-person, Chatham House Rule meeting with a livestreamed, public component. The closed-door portion of the SSC will be in-person only with no virtual participation. This will take place in November 2023.

- In 2024, the SSC will comprise of a series of virtual sessions, starting in the first quarter of the year. This will culminate in an in-person only, Chatham House Rule meeting (larger than in 2023) and some livestreamed, public events all in November 2024.
- Dan will be in touch with the Munich Security Conference regarding their potential participation in future SSCs.

4. Staffing and project issues

- SMT approved a post-doc fellow from the University of Southern Denmark working in the Governance of AI programme, if their funding application is successful.
- Matthew George, the new Director of the Arms Transfer Programme will join SIPRI in early May.
- In addition to his position at SIPRI, Mark Bromley will also serve as a visiting scholar at the University of Queensland.
- SMT approved to the renewal of Vladimir Baranovsky's Associate affiliation.

Action items:

- Joakim, Kristina and Lisa to outline a proposal regarding next steps on the DEI Informal Working Group's recommendations.
- Joakim, Kristina and Lisa to review and discuss the feedback from the Code of Conduct meetings.
- Joakim to circulate the DEI Informal Working Group's report to all staff.
- Dan to be in touch with the Munich Security Conference regarding their potential participation in future SSCs.