

SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

9 AUGUST 2023

MINUTES

Participants

Lucie Béraud-Sudreau, Stephanie Blenckner, Jannie Lilja, Kristina Sandberg, Dan Smith, Luc van de Goor

Absent

Joakim Vaverka

Note-taker

Sepideh Soltaninia

Format

Hybrid meeting

1. Minutes

- SMT approved the minutes of the 28 June meeting.

2. Report back

a. Sweden

- The final report of the Lancet and Swedish Institute for Global Health Transformation (SIGHT) Commission on Peaceful Societies through Health and Gender Equality will be launched virtually on 7 September.
- The Arms Transfer Programme and MILAP are jointly preparing an application for funding for their databases from the Swedish Research Council.

b. International

- SIPRI is exploring applying for an EU tender for conflict sensitivity analysis in the borderlands of the Horn of Africa.
- SIPRI will also explore publishing a commentary on the situation in West Africa, drawing on the Sahel-West Africa Programme's people-centred research.

c. Relations with other organizations

- Dan will moderate a panel at the African Resilience Forum, organized by the African Development Bank, in Abidjan on 3-5 October.
- Jannie will take part in a PhD defence committee at the Université Libre de Bruxelles for research focused on non-state armed groups in Syria.
- The Governance of AI programme is in discussions with the Future of Life Institute for funding.

- DUAT is in ongoing discussions with Open Society Foundation UK for a multi-year grant.

d. Operations

- Repairs are planned for the ceiling of the conference room and to fix water damage in the basement.
- SIPRI will begin using the Hailey HR system shortly. A training for line managers is scheduled for 28 August.

e. Outreach

- On 18 July – the day the UN Security Council met to discuss artificial intelligence – the Future of Life Institute launched a short film called ‘Artificial Escalation’ about the risks posed by integration of AI in Nuclear Command and Control. The film was widely inspired by the report SIPRI published in 2020. The report was credited in the accompanying op-ed and policy paper.
- SIPRI continues to receive small private donations through instructions available on the SIPRI website.
- Outreach will resume media training in the coming weeks.

3. SSC23

- SMT discussed the 2023 SSC. The Events Team will investigate the possibility of holding the small, in-person event in mid-December instead of early November.

4. Strategic Grant

- After allocating Strategic Grant funds to already completed activities and staff costs, some 2-4 million SEK are remaining for expenditure in 2023.
- SMT agreed that these funds should be used for strategic, forward-looking activities that help generate future activities, programmes and funding. They should not lead to additional publications in 2023.
- Dan will write to programme directors explaining how they can submit ideas for use of these funds.

5. Staffing and project issues

- The new Programme Director of the European Security Programme, Barbara Kunz, will join SIPRI in mid-October.
- A new Finance Officer, Jovana Cumbo, will join SIPRI on 14 August.

Action items:

- Dan to write to programme directors explaining how they can submit ideas for use of remaining Strategic Grant funds.
- Directors of Studies to develop a list of countries where staff safety may be at risk due to SIPRI’s data launches and other occasions when publications are promoted by 16 August. This list will support a red flag review of press releases (from a previous meeting).
- Dan to finalize the job description for the Head of Major Initiatives positions (from a previous meeting).

Items carried forward:

- Reconsolidated funds for travel and fundraising (August)
- SIPRI Lecture (August)
- Engagement with SIPRI Associates
- Safeguarding policy (August)