



SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

23 AUGUST 2023

MINUTES

Participants

Lucie Béraud-Sudreau, Stephanie Blenckner, Jannie Lilja, Kristina Sandberg, Dan Smith, Luc van de Goor, Lisa Wiklund (part of item 5 only)

Absent

Joakim Vaverka

Note-taker

Sepideh Soltaninia

Format

Hybrid meeting

1. Minutes

- SMT has yet to approve the minutes of the 16 August meeting.

2. Report back

a. Sweden

- The Armament and Disarmament Summer School is underway this week and is progressing very well.
- Joakim reported separately that on 22 August, he participated in a roundtable about the UN General Assembly and multilateralism organized by the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation in Uppsala. The roundtable featured the President of the UN General Assembly, Csaba Körösi. Körösi's initial remarks, in which he described current challenges to international peace and security, were remarkably similar to the EP narrative.
- On 22 August, Dan, Luc and Jiayi met with a delegation from the Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry.
- On 23 August, SIPRI hosted a roundtable on 'Climate, Peace, and Security Challenges in the Horn of Africa' with the US Special Envoy to the Horn of Africa, Mike Hammer.
- On 24 August, Luc, Lucie, Fei and Jiayi will meet with members of the UK Embassy at SIPRI.
- On 29 August, SIPRI will host a roundtable and press conference at its offices in Solna, and a dinner at Steninge Slott, with Rafael Grossi, Director General of the IAEA.

b. International

- The African Union Security Sector Reform Policy Network will organize a meeting on 'A Decade of Implementation: Successes, Challenges and Perspectives for the Future'. The conference will mark the 10-year implementation of the AU Security Sector Reform (SSR) Policy Framework, and will be organized back-to-back with the fifth meeting of the AU/ Regional Economic Communities SSR Steering Committee in Addis Ababa, from 21-23 November. SIPRI Board Member, Mohamed Ibn Chambas will participate in the event.

c. Relations with other organizations

- On 17 August, Dan met with Scott Weber, former Director-General of Interpeace. Scott now leads Peace Invest, an organization focused on developing peace bonds. SMT discussed potential future activities with Peace Invest.
- The Arms Transfers Programme signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Korea Institute for Industrial Economics & Trade.
- MILAP is in discussions with the Africa Center for Strategic Studies and UNDP regarding a 1-year project on security spending in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- MILAP and the Peace Operations Programme are working on a joint project proposal on how European countries finance international military deployments and operations.
- MILAP and the China-Asia Programme are working on a joint project proposal on coast guards in the Indo-Pacific region.

d. Outreach

- Ahead of the BRICS Summit this week, SIPRI released a thread on X (formerly known as Twitter) featuring visualizations of SIPRI data on arms trade between BRICS members. This is an additional way to have our data easily accessible on social media, informing an ongoing international debate. The thread was very popular and Outreach aims for similar cooperation with SIPRI's data teams in the future.

e. Operations

- The Project Management Office is continuing to look more deeply into the source of remaining programme funds. No programme funds have been reconsolidated.
- Operations colleagues are working on closing the books for Q2.
- Planning for the 2024 budget is underway.

3. SSC23

- SMT agreed to defer the SSC with the ambition to hold the event in 2024. The subject and timing of the 2024 event will be considered once the European Security and China-Asia Programme Directors are in place.

4. SIPRI Lecture

- SMT is interested in organizing the lecture in 2024 with Kristalina Georgieva, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund. SMT will contact Georgieva informally to gauge her interest. Steph will share a budget (including the post-lecture dinner) for review at a future SMT meeting.

5. Staffing and project issues

- SMT agreed that a pool of Research Assistants per cluster is not necessary but noted that Research Assistants should be flexible and willing to work on different projects. This should be reflected on all future Research Assistant job advertisements.
- SMT received a presentation by Lisa about the new Hailey HR system.

Action items:

- SMT to contact Kristalina Georgieva informally to gauge her interest in the SIPRI Lecture.
- Steph to share a budget for the SIPRI Lecture for review at a future SMT meeting.

Items carried forward:

- Reconsolidated funds for travel and fundraising
- Safeguarding policy
- Environmental Policy