

SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

13 SEPTEMBER 2023

MINUTES

Participants

Lucie Béraud-Sudreau, Stephanie Blenckner, Jannie Lilja, Kristina Sandberg, Dan Smith, Lisa Wiklund (item 3 only), Luc van de Goor, Joakim Vaverka

Note-taker

Sepideh Soltaninia

Format

Hybrid meeting

1. Minutes

- SMT has yet to approve the minutes of the 30 August meeting.

2. Report back

a. Sweden

- On 11 September, Joakim attended the first day of the annual meeting of Swedish Ambassadors.
- The Swedish Government shared its foreign policy priorities during the opening session of the new parliamentary working year on 12 September.
- SIPRI begun discussions with the Japanese Embassy on the annual seminar organized by SIPRI and the Embassy.
- Jannie and Joakim met with the Centre for Health Crises at the Karolinska Institute on 4 September. The objective of the recently established Centre is to catalyse research and train and second experts on health crises, which includes a focus on preparedness.

b. International

- Today, Luc, Fei, Jiayi and Xiao met with Lieutenant Colonel Nelson, strategic analyst of the US Marine Corps Commandant's Office of Net Assessment, to discuss issues related to the Indian Ocean.

c. Relations with other organizations

- Dan was in London on 7-8 September for a two-day discussion on global risks, organized by Apple.
- On 11 September, Dan met with Nils Melzer, Director of International Law, Policy and Humanitarian Diplomacy at the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to discuss the humanitarian case for conflict prevention.

- On 12 September, Dan and Sepideh met with École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) to discuss their PeaceTech initiative.
- Also on 12 September, several SIPRI colleagues participated in the first of a three-part online learning series, organized by the Global Network Initiative, in collaboration with the ICRC and SIPRI. The learning series focuses on ways that ICT companies' business activities can have an impact and be impacted in the context of armed conflict.
- Diego and Xiao will be in Colombia from 16-28 September as part of a project on transparency of military spending in the country.
- The UNDP Oslo Governance Centre is interested in partnering with SIPRI on research related to the just energy transition.

d. Outreach

- Emilie Broek will have an interview with Sweden's TT News Agency on her upcoming publication on 'The Arctic is Hot: Addressing the Social and Environmental Implications'.
- Siemon recently had a large number of media mentions and interviews on the occasion of the North Korean government's visit to Russia.
- Unfortunately, after conversations with IMEMO (the Institute of World Economy and International Relations), there will be no Russian translation of the Yearbook this year.

e. Operations

- PMO is meeting with all programme directors to discuss the budget and forecast.
- HR will launch the new HR system, Hailey HR, on 25 September.

3. Cooperation Group

- SMT discussed the Cooperation Agreement and the Cooperation Group at SIPRI. Two new RSC representatives to the Cooperation Group will need to be elected following Kheira and Farah's resignations.

4. Reallocation of programme funds

- SMT agreed the principles that:
 - o Funds from database licenses Project surpluses will be transferred to the SIPRI Core account for strategically directed redistribution to clusters and team;
 - o Funds from honorariums will stay with the respective programme.
- DoSes will discuss implementation and potential exceptions their programmes.

5. Research Staff Collegium

- The next RSC meeting will take place on 21 September. SMT discussed the agenda for the meeting.

6. Safeguarding Policy

- The policy has been approved by SMT and will be finalized following the Cooperation Group's review. In the meanwhile, the SMT-approved policy will be in effect as an interim policy.

7. Whistleblower Policy

- The draft policy is under silence procedure until COB 15 September.

8. Staffing and project issues

- Barbara Kunz, the incoming Director of the European Security Programme, will be in Stockholm on 18-19 September for internal meetings. She will take up her position in mid-October.
- The recruitment process for a Communications Assistant is in its final stages.
- SMT discussed SIPRI leading a potential consortium for a European Defence Agency tender. The consortium will include, amongst other partners, ISDEFE, a state-owned company that provides consultancy and technical services to the Spanish Ministry of Defence. A Due Diligence Committee was convened at the meeting and the committee approved SIPRI's participation in and leadership of the consortium.

9. AOB

- Steph shared a list of upcoming and planned events with SMT for their feedback.

Action items:

- SMT to comment on the latest draft of the Whistleblower policy, which is under silence procedure until COB 15 September.
- SMT to share feedback on the list of upcoming and planned events.

Items carried forward:

- Environmental Policy