

SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

11 OCTOBER 2023

MINUTES

Participants

Lucie Béraud-Sudreau, Stephanie Blenckner, Kristina Sandberg, Dan Smith, Luc van de Goor, Joakim Vaverka

Absent

Jannie Lilja

Note-taker

Sepideh Soltaninia

Format

Hybrid meeting

1. Minutes

- SMT approved the minutes of the 4 October meeting.

2. Report back

a. Sweden

- On 10 October, Joakim met with the head of the Foreign Minister's office, the Department for Development Banks, Sustainability and Climate, as well as the MENA Department, of the Swedish MFA.
- Joakim participated in the Alva Myrdal Centre Board Meeting on 3 October. The Armament and Disarmament Summer School will be co-organized with SIPRI again in 2024. SIPRI will need to fundraise for its share.
- On 11 October, Dan spoke at the Sida MENA and Asia departments' retreat, held at Skansen.
- On 11 October, the recommendations of a government investigation on financing research and innovation were released. The investigation proposed that three new agencies be established: the Science Agency, the Agency for Strategic Research and the Innovation Agency. It also proposed that the current authorities Formas, Forte, the Swedish Research Council and Vinnova be phased out and that external research funding at the Swedish Energy Agency end.
- On 16 October, Alaa will host an internal seminar, reflecting on the Israel-Hamas war.

b. Relations with other organizations

- On 28 September, Dan met with Mark Malloch-Brown, President of the Open Society Foundations to discuss potential funding for SIPRI's databases.

- Dan and Karen were in Abidjan from 2-5 October for the Africa Resilience Forum, organized by the African Development Bank (AfDB). Dan moderated a panel and met with colleagues from USIP, UNDP, ICRC, the German Federal Foreign Office, Peace Invest and AfDB.

c. Outreach

- Coverage of SIPRI before and after the Nobel Peace Prize announcement surpassed 1000 articles and media mentions.
- On 17 October, SIPRI will release a statement on Russia's potential withdrawal from the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

3. Promotion process

- SMT discussed the draft memo on the promotion process at SIPRI. The memo will be discussed at the next Cooperation Group meeting.

4. Planning for 2024

- SMT discussed plans for 2024, including the 2024 SIPRI budget. A draft budget will be shared during the next RSC meeting, scheduled for 26 October.

5. RSC Agenda

- SMT discussed the agenda for the next RSC meeting.

6. Staffing and project issues

- Recruitment for the Coordination Officer substitute position is ongoing.
- Lara Bühler will join SIPRI from 16 October to 15 November as part of a staff exchange with the Munich Security Conference.
- SMT approved a new remote intern with the DUAT Programme and the extension of an intern with the Arms Transfers Programme.

7. AOB

- SMT discussed the proposals prepared by colleagues for funding from the Australian Department of Defence.

Action items:

- Joakim to discuss fundraising for the 2024 Armament and Disarmament Summer School with Sibylle.

Follow-up items:

- Internship policy (18 October meeting)