

SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

3 NOVEMBER 2023

MINUTES

Participants

Sibylle Bauer, Kristina Sandberg, Dan Smith, Luc van de Goor, Joakim Vaverka

Absent

Stephanie Blenckner, Jannie Lilja

Note-taker

Sepideh Soltaninia

Format

Virtual meeting

1. Minutes

- SMT approved the minutes of the 18 October meeting.

2. Report back

a. Sweden

- On 13 and 26 October, Nivi met with MFA and Ministry of Defence officials to discuss and contribute to Sweden's space strategy.
- On 6 November, Stefan will speak at the Global Challenges Foundation about the UN and the process towards the 2024 Summit of the Future.
- On 9 November, Joakim will speak on a panel about the 'Fight against Information Manipulation' at the Aspen-GMF Bucharest Forum, organized by the Aspen Institute Romania and the German Marshall Fund of the United States.
- The Swedish Foreign Minister, Tobias Billström, will visit SIPRI on 12 January.
- The Director's Office is organizing a meeting with the leadership of the Africa Department of the MFA.
- The annual visit to SIPRI by the MFA's Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Department will likely take place in January.

b. International

- On 1-2 November, Sibylle and Gretchen attended the Feminist Foreign Policy Conference in the Hague, convened by the Dutch Government.

c. Relations with other organizations

- On 16 October, Luc, Jiayi, Timo and Fei met with the Austrian Institute for European and Security Policy (AIES), a Vienna-based research institute and think tank primarily focused

on European Security and Defence Policy, which is increasingly also working on the larger Indo-Pacific and China. SIPRI and AIES exchanged ideas and discussed potential areas of future collaboration.

d. Operations

- HR is looking at the possibility of outsourcing residence and work permit applications to a company specializing in such applications.

3. November Governing Board meeting preparations

- SMT discussed preparations for the November Governing Board meeting, including the 2024 SIPRI budget, and the public event and Governing Board dinner on 13 November.

4. Remaining Strategic Grant funds

- The 2023 Strategic Grant funds have been allocated and all projects using these funds are underway.

5. Follow-up to the 26 October Research Staff Collegium Strategy discussion

- SMT discussed the strategy sessions at the 26 October RSC. Staff will have the opportunity to discuss the Strategy further with Board members during a dedicated lunch session on 13 November.

6. Update of the Travel Policy

- SMT discussed the SIPRI Travel Policy. The informal working group which will draft the Environmental Policy can suggest changes to the Travel Policy for consideration by SMT. SMT will then re-examine the Travel Policy in its entirety.
- SMT noted the need to re-evaluate SIPRI's high risk travel insurance.
- High risk travel insurance should be included in relevant budgets. PMO will add this to the budget template.

7. Staffing and project issues

- Recruitment for a Senior Researcher in the Governance of AI programme is ongoing.
- Maria Gillgren will leave her position as Office Assistant on 8 December.

8. AOB

- The next Wine and Cheese Evening, organized by Operations, Outreach, Director's Office will take place in January.

Action items:

- HR to re-evaluate SIPRI's high risk travel insurance.
- PMO to add high risk travel insurance to the budget template.

Follow-up items:

- Reconsolidation of programme funds