

## SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

15 NOVEMBER 2023

### MINUTES

#### Participants

Sibylle Bauer, Stephanie Blenckner, Jannie Lilja, Kristina Sandberg, Dan Smith, Luc van de Goor, Joakim Vaverka

Lucie Béraud-Sudreau and Mathew George (Item 3 only)

#### Note-taker

Sepideh Soltaninia

#### Format

In-person meeting

#### **1. Minutes**

- SMT has yet to approve the minutes of the 8 November meeting.

#### **2. Report back**

##### **a. Sweden**

- Due to new regulations, a lot more work is needed to assist those requiring visas for SIPRI events or workshops. Staff organizing events or workshops should keep this in mind. The Events team is looking into possible outsourcing solutions.
- The Stockholm Hub on Environment, Climate and Security is working on a new application for funding from the Swedish MFA.
- On 9 November, Joakim spoke 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.
- On 10 November, Steph attended an event organized by the German Embassy on the occasion of the visit of this year's participants in the European Orientation on Global Security Program. Given the German Ambassador's interest in SIPRI's work, Steph will organize a lunch with her and all German research colleagues at SIPRI.
- On 14 November, Luc and Fei met with Seth Bailey, Director for Korean and Mongolian Affairs at the US State Department and Jay Porter from the US Embassy (Political Unit Chief).
- Today, Joakim will speak at a pre-seminar for the Swedish Lunch. Foreign Minister Billström will also speak at the meeting.
- On 17 November, Dan and Joakim will meet with the Head and Deputy Head of Department for Disarmament and Non-proliferation at the MFA.

**b. International**

- Jannie will be in London on 27 November at the invitation of the Royal College of Defense Studies.

**c. Relations with other organizations**

- Sibylle was in Amman on 8-9 November for the Amman Security Collegium and Amman Nuclear Forum, organized by the Arab Institute for Security Studies (ACSiS). ACSiS is interested in further collaboration with SIPRI and EUNPDC.
- On 14 November, Luc, Alaa, Virginie, Jair and Shourjya met virtually with Abdisaid Muse Ali, Former Foreign Minister of Somalia and Chairperson of the Lomé Security and Peace Forum.
- On 23 November, Jannie and Florian will speak on two different panels at the 2023 Bonn Symposium, organized by the Foundation for Development and Peace. The Symposium will focus on 'Integrated, inclusive, in partnership? Germany's National Security Strategy and international cooperation'.
- Jannie will be in Tromsø, Norway, on 28-30 November for a meeting with other researchers working on the resilience to disinformation in Scandinavia project.
- SIPRI, alongside six other organizations, will join a 'Strategic Partnership on Systems Approaches' with the OECD and the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis.

**d. Operations**

- Finance is continuing to work with an external consultant on utilizing additional features in Maconomy.

**3. Complex Risk Analytics Fund (CRAF'd)**

- SMT discussed ongoing outreach by the MILAP and AT programmes with CRAF'd and the potential for funding for SIPRI's databases from the multi-partner instrument. Sepideh will carry forward the conversation with CRAF'd, with support from the MILAP and AT programmes when needed.

**4. November Governing Board meeting**

- The Board approved the 2024 budget and the nomination of Noha El-Mikawy to the Board.
- The Board appreciated the conversation with the union representatives and the lunch discussion with staff.
- The Board provided additional inputs to the Strategy, which Dan will incorporate.
- A Board member also recommended that SIPRI package all its work on Ukraine and make this easily accessible. Outreach is working on this.

**5. Staffing and project issues**

- HR will share a survey on the PAD process as part of its evaluation of the Hailey HR system.
- The job ad for a Facility Officer has been posted until 6 December. A temporary colleague from Veteranspoolen will join SIPRI until the recruitment process has been completed.
- SMT approved Markus Schiller as a SIPRI Associate Researcher.

- Two in-person interns will join the Stockholm Forum team from mid-January till the end of May.

**Action items:**

- Steph to organize a lunch with the German Ambassador and all German research colleagues at SIPRI.

**Follow-up items:**

- Line management (with HR)