



SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

13 DECEMBER 2023

MINUTES

Participants

Stephanie Blenckner, Kristina Sandberg, Jannie Lilja, Dan Smith, Joakim Vaverka

Absent

Sibylle Bauer, Luc van de Goor

Note-taker

Sepideh Soltaninia

Format

In-person meeting

1. Minutes

- SMT approved the minutes of the 29 November and 6 December meetings.

2. Report back

a. Sweden

- Preparations for the Annual Report will begin this month.
- Joakim, Kristina, Ulla and Sofie met with the MFA on 11 December to discuss this year's audit. A decision on next year's Strategic Grant is expected before the end of the year.
- Fifteen staff members attended the Nobel Peace Prize seminar at the Swedish Parliament on 12 December.
- SIPRI hosted a hybrid roundtable on ecological security on 12 December.
- Preparations for the 2024 Stockholm Forum are underway.
- The Whistle-blower Policy was approved by SMT.

b. Relations with other organizations

- On 5 December, the Environment of Peace initiative was awarded third place in the 2023 Geneva Centre for Security Policy Prize for Innovation in Global Security.
- The Korea Foundation is planning a three-day visit to Stockholm in 2024 with a group of students. The group will likely visit SIPRI.

c. Outreach

- The 2022 data on the top 100 arm-producing and military services companies was launched on 4 December. In the first week of the launch, over 2700 articles covered the new data, the second largest coverage of the launch.

- A paper on 'Russia's Military Expenditure During Its War Against Ukraine' by SIPRI Associate, Julian Cooper, will be published today.
- A news item summarizing SIPRI's analysis on the war in Ukraine will be published on 14 December.
- SMT discussed the need for uniform terminology for SIPRI publications on the wars in Ukraine and Gaza. Editorial will put together guidelines on such terminology.

3. Interns in the first half of 2024

- Eight interns will join SIPRI in-person during the first half of 2024. This includes:
 - o 1 intern with the AD cluster (3 months in-person)
 - o 2 interns with MILAP
 - o 2 interns with FPS
 - o 2 interns with the Forum team
 - o 1 intern with Outreach
- Unfortunately, due to equipment constraints, no additional in-person interns can join SIPRI in the first half of next year.
- SMT noted that some small changes to the Internship Policy are desirable but will be undertaken in the future.

4. SIPRI Strategy 2024-29, next steps

- SMT agreed to establish a team, which will work closely with PMO, to improve grant acquisition. The team will include existing staff and will be discussed with the necessary individuals and the unions.
- DoSes are asked to write to Dan by 1 February explaining which of their programmes fit under the headings of Battlefields of the Future, Peacefields of the Future, and Geopolitics Meets the Local. A one-sentence explanation per programme will suffice.

5. Staffing and project issues

- The Food, Peace and Security Programme has signed a contract with the Swedish Red Cross. As part of the project, members of the team will travel to South Sudan in January.
- Operations is recruiting a temporary HR Assistant.
- SIPRI has been approached to organize a panel at the World Bank Fragility Forum, which will take place in late February.

Action items:

- Editorial to put together guidelines on uniform terminology for SIPRI publications on the war in Ukraine and Gaza.
- DoSes to write to Dan by 1 February explaining which of their programmes fit under the headings of Battlefields of the Future, Peacefields of the Future, and Geopolitics Meets the Local.
- HR to investigate what insurance providers international NGOs are using and how they manage security-related evacuations (from a previous meeting)

Follow-up items:

- Office space
- Line management (with HR)