

SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

10 JANUARY 2024

MINUTES

Participants

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

Note-taker

Sepideh Soltaninia

Format

In-person meeting

1. Minutes

- SMT approved the minutes of the 13 and 20 December 2023 meetings.

2. Report back

a. Sweden

- The MFA has announced a Strategic Grant of 15 million SEK to SIPRI for 2024.
- On 8-10 January, Joakim attended the annual *Folk och Försvar* conference in Sälen. Many ministers and officials from the Swedish security policy establishment attended and spoke at the conference, which primarily focused on strengthening Swedish military and civilian defence against the backdrop of serious challenges to international peace and security, notably the war in Ukraine.
- SIPRI is part of a consortium of researchers working on a project on disinformation in Scandinavia. As part of the project, 12,000 surveys were sent out this week (6000 in Sweden and 6000 in Norway).
- The deadline for cluster and department inputs for the Annual Report is today. SMT agreed that the report should begin by explicitly noting what the core grant is used for and should thereafter include activities that were not solely funded by the core grant.
- The PD cluster will hold a cluster retreat on 16 January. Guest speakers at the retreat include Michael Claesson, Deputy Chief of Swedish Defence; Björn Kavalkov Halvarsson, Deputy Director in the Swedish MFA; and Habib Mayar, Deputy General Secretary of the g7+ Secretariat.
- On 16 and 17 January, SIPRI will host an expert workshop on space and nuclear issues.
- On 22 and 23 January, SIPRI will host an expert workshop on autonomous weapons and international humanitarian law.
- The Swedish Foreign Minister will visit SIPRI on 24 January.
- SMT will hold an Away Day on 21 February.

b. International

- On 10 January, Dan, Luc, Fei and Barbara met with Maki Kobayashi, Press Secretary/Director-General for Press and Public Diplomacy/Assistant Minister at the Japanese Ministry for Foreign Affairs.
- On 9 January, in her capacity as Chair of the EU Non-proliferation and Disarmament Consortium, Sibylle met with the European External Action Service (EEAS) to discuss implementation of the current 3-year EU Council Decision as well as the timeline for a follow-up Council Decision. The current funding is valid until May 2025.

c. Relations with other organizations

- Colleagues from XCEPT will visit SIPRI on 31 January.
- On 5 December, SIPRI, ICRC and the Global Network Initiative concluded their three-part learning series on the responsibility of tech companies in armed conflict. Discussions on next steps are ongoing.

d. Operations

- The closing of the books for 2023 is ongoing.
- Finance is working on updates and changes to reporting in Maconomy. They will be shared with staff in the coming weeks.
- IngMarie has identified a framer to frame letters sent to Robert Neild in the 1960s. Robert was SIPRI's first Director. Three of his letters will be framed: one from Alva Myrdal, one from Ambassador Örjan Berner, and a third from Torsten Nilsson (then Foreign Minister of Sweden).

e. Outreach

- The data visualization training on 18 and 19 December 2023 went well. The facilitator also provided good feedback on SIPRI's existing visualisations.
- Outreach is evaluating the coverage of the data launch on the top 100 arms producing companies. A brief report will be shared with staff in the coming days.

3. Allocation of work environment tasks

- Dan and Kristina will meet with HR on 11 January to discuss the allocation of work environment tasks.

4. Stockholm Security Conference

- Barbara Kunz will lead on the preparations for the SSC, which will provisionally be held on the week of 21 October.
- The topic will be discussed, with Barbara, at the 24 January SMT meeting.

5. Staffing and project issues

- The Sahel-West Africa Programme has been very successful recently in fundraising for new projects.
- The CCR and Sahel-West Africa programmes will each recruit a new Senior Researcher.
- Recruitments for a Facility Officer and HR Manager are ongoing.
- Simon Herrman joined HR as a consultant on 8 January.
- Joshua Wilks joins SIPRI as an Events Assistant today.

- As of 15 January, Martina will join the Munich Security Conference (MSC) for 5.5 weeks as the second part of the staff exchange with MSC.
- Annielk will join the Major Initiatives team on 1 February, taking over from Andrea who will be on parental leave.
- Marta Berteia joined the Forum team as an intern on 8 January. Another intern, Thomas Bacchelli, will join the team on 22 January.
- Elvira Svenheim Paldanius will join the Communications department as an intern on 15 January.
- SMT agreed that HR should systematically inform line managers and the relevant SMT member when contracts are sent and signed.

6. AOB

- SIPRI is working on a concept note for the establishment of a Brain Trust, a group of high-level experts from across the globe to discuss the changing world order and its impact on geopolitics.

Action items:

- Kristina to ensure HR should systematically inform line managers and the relevant SMT member when contracts are sent and signed.

Follow-up items:

- SSC topic (24 January)
- Anti-terrorism and anti-money laundering policy
- Office space
- Line management (with HR)