

SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

19 JANUARY 2024

MINUTES

Participants

Sibylle Bauer, Stephanie Blenckner, Jannie Lilja, Kristina Sandberg, Dan Smith, Luc van de Goor (left early)

Absent

Joakim Vaverka

Note-taker

Sepideh Soltaninia

Format

Virtual meeting

1. Minutes

- SMT has yet to approve the minutes of the 10 January meeting.

2. Report back

a. Sweden

- The PD cluster held a cluster retreat on 16 January. Guest speakers at the retreat included Michael Claesson, Deputy Chief of Swedish Defence; Björn Kavalkov Halvarsson Deputy Director at the Swedish MFA; and Habib Mayar, Deputy General Secretary of the g7+ Secretariat. It was a mutually inspirational exchange.
- On 16 and 17 January, SIPRI hosted an expert workshop on space and nuclear issues with experts and senior representatives from the diplomatic community. The workshop was very well received.
- On 17 January, the Cooperation Group met with Zondera, with whom SMT has already met, on the new staff survey. The meeting went well.
- On 17 January, Stefan, Dan, Joakim, Steph and Sepideh attended the Swedish Lunch in Davos on the side lines of the World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting. The event consisted of three panels, the second of which was organized by SIPRI and included Dan as a speaker. The Swedish Minister for International Development Cooperation and Foreign Trade, Johan Forssell, also attended the event and provided the opening remarks. In a conversation with Dan at the event, Minister Forssell also noted that he will visit SIPRI. The Director's Office will follow-up with his office.
 - o At the event, Stefan also spoke with Swedish Finance Minister, Elisabeth Svantesson, who spoke highly of SIPRI's work.

- On 18 January, Stefan, Dan and Sepideh met with Henrik Lundin, the CEO and CIO of IMAS Foundation in Davos. The foundation helps to facilitate the funding of the IKEA Foundation.
- On 24 January, Barbara K will speak at a Swedish Parliament event on the Arctic.
- The Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Unit (NIS) at the Swedish MFA will start a new initiative on nuclear risk reduction and has asked SIPRI to lead the intellectual input for the initiative's first meeting. SMT agreed that SIPRI should do this.

b. International

- On 18 January, Luc and Timo met with the Kim de Jong (Deputy Head of Mission) and Jara Verkleij (Security and Economic Security) from the Dutch Embassy. The Dutch Embassy would like to organize a small social event on the side lines of the Forum and is interested in exploring a similar event on the side lines of the SSC or offering its facilities for a larger meeting.
- On 25 January, Wilfred and Tytti will meet with Merle Spellerberg, Member of the German Bundestag to discuss armament and disarmament issues.

c. Relations with other organizations

- Dan and Sepideh were in Geneva on 15-16 January for meetings with UNHCR, UNIDIR, Interpeace, ICRC, PeaceNexus, the UN Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement, and the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk. Volker Türk agreed to deliver the 2025 SIPRI Lecture (an invitation to IMF Managing Director, Kristalina Georgieva, for the 2024 Lecture is pending).
 - o Sepideh will work on organizing a roundtable with IOM and potentially with OHCHR for relevant SIPRI colleagues to learn more about each organization's work (and vice versa).
- On 24 January, Dan and Florian will meet with Mathieu Bussières, Director of the NATO Climate Change and Security Center of Excellence.

d. Operations

- There have been several issues with the alarm, which the alarm company is working on resolving.
- SIPRI has purchased a portable wheelchair ramp.
- HR has investigated the high-risk travel insurance providers for other organizations. The Swedish Red Cross uses the same provider as SIPRI.

e. Outreach

- The benefits of providing additional in-house tech support for events, subject to budget, were noted to SMT.

3. Staffing and project issues

- Noah leaves his position at SIPRI today.
- Hedvig will leave her position at SIPRI on 31 January.
- Thomas Bacchelli will join SIPRI as an intern with the Forum team on 22 January.
- Recruitments for a Facility Officer and HR Manager are ongoing.
- Planning for EU tenders is underway. Depending on the number of applications, SMT may need to make decisions about which applications move forward.

4. AOB

- SMT discussed the Summit of the Future. The Governance of AI programme plans to organize an event with UNODA on the side lines of the summit in September. Stefan will be speaking with UN officials about the Summit in the coming weeks. The Director's Office will ask him for further information on the summit following his meetings.

Action items:

- Director's Office to follow-up with Minister Forssell's office about a visit to SIPRI.
- Sepideh to organize a roundtable with IOM and potentially with OHCHR.
- Director's Office to check-in with Stefan on more information on the Summit of the Future following his meetings with UN officials.

Follow-up items:

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