

SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

24 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 10 January meeting and has yet to approve the minutes of the 19 January meeting.

2. Report back

a. Sweden

- 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 22 and 23 January, SIPRI hosted a workshop on autonomous weapons systems. The workshop was very well received. A big thank you to Lucas and Mimmi for their support.
- Today, Barbara K briefed members of the Swedish Parliament on the Arctic.
- Foreign Minister Tobias Billström will visit SIPRI later this afternoon.
- The Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Department (NIS) at the Swedish MFA will visit SIPRI on 6 February. SMT agreed that the meeting will be in-person only.
 - o SMT also agreed that the Arms Transfers Programme can discuss trends emerging from their latest data but should not share any figures with NIS ahead of the data launch.

b. International

- Finland will chair the OSCE in 2025. The Finnish OSCE Task Force will visit SIPRI in April to explore how SIPRI can support Finland during its chairpersonship.

c. Relations with other organizations

- SIPRI is organizing a panel, moderated by Dan, at the World Bank Fragility Forum in late February. Gary Milante will also, in his capacity as SIPRI Senior Associate (see below under 'Staffing issues'), moderate another panel at the forum focussed on data.

- The Food, Peace and Security Programme will conduct research in South Sudan as part of a project with the Swedish Red Cross from 28 January to 10 February.
- Dan and Florian met today with Mathieu Bussières, Director of the NATO Climate Change and Security Center of Excellence.
- Joakim met with Stephen Heinz, CEO of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund. He is also following up with Granitor, a company based in Solna, and other Swedish fundraising leads.

d. Operations

- There have been several issues with the fire alarm, which Operations is working on resolving.
- Operations will look into what other organisations are doing to ensure that staff can be accounted for if a fire occurs.
- IT is updating SIPRI's firewalls today.
- Finance is working on closing the books for 2023.

e. Outreach

- Outreach is working on the 2023 Annual Review.

3. 2024 Stockholm Security Conference (SSC)

- This year's SSC will focus on rethinking deterrence with relevance in the European context.
- The SSC will take place in a venue in central Stockholm during the week of 21 October over two days, from early afternoon of the first day to early afternoon the next day.
- The MSC dinner will take place in the evening between the two days.
- Participants will include diplomats, experts, MFA officials, etc.
- All sessions will take place in-person with the possibility of some recording/streaming of sessions.
- SMT will explore if a participation fee should be charged.
- SMT also discussed fundraising for the SSC; it was noted that the Netherlands would be interested in this topic, which may be useful for fundraising.
- Barbara K will work on a concept note, Stephanie will work on a budget and Sepideh will work on a timeline for fundraising and sending a 'save the date'.

4. Staffing issues

- SMT agreed to appoint Gary Milante as a Senior Associate and adjust his entry on the website accordingly.
- Recruitments for a Facility Officer and HR Manager are ongoing.
- Recruitments for a Researcher in the Food, Peace and Security Programme and a Senior Researcher in the Climate Change and Risk Programme are ongoing.
- The seminar for line managers, scheduled for 26 January, has been postponed.
- Jannie will take a research sabbatical from SMT from 1 February to 30 June. Florian will serve as Acting DoS for the PD cluster and will represent the cluster at SMT meetings during this period.
- Xiao has been promoted to Researcher, effective as of 1 February.
- On 15 February, Desiré Raagart will join as an online part-time intern with the PD cluster on resilience and disinformation, and other projects.

5. Project issues

- SMT discussed an EU tender provide foreign policy expertise for the European Parliament in various areas. There are Seven lots for which there is interest from different programmes in the AD and CPS clusters. Several potential lead organisations have approached SIPRI to join their consortiums. It will be assessed which of these consortium leads is most relevant, and what role SIPRI can play per lot (partner or subcontractor).

6. AOB

- The next RSC will take place on 6 March from 10-11:30.

Action items:

- Operations to look into what other organizations are doing to ensure that staff can be accounted for if a fire occurs.
- Barbara to work on a concept note for the SSC, Stephanie to work on a budget and Sepideh to work on a timeline for fundraising and sending a 'save the date'.
- HR to draw up the Associate contract for Gary and Steph to change the info on the website

Follow-up items:

- OSCE (for the February Away Day)
- Anti-terrorism and anti-money laundering policy
- Office space
- Line management (with HR)
- Possible fee for participation at SSC