



## SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

31 JANUARY 2024

### MINUTES

#### Participants

Sibylle Bauer, Stephanie Blenckner, Florian Krampe, Kristina Sandberg, Dan Smith, Luc van de Goor, Joakim Vaverka

#### Note-taker

Sepideh Soltaninia

#### Format

Hybrid meeting

#### **1. Minutes**

- SMT approved the minutes of the 19 and 24 January meetings.

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

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

- The Foreign Minister's visit on 24 January went very well. Following the visit, Stefan sent a thank you letter to the Minister.
- On 25 January, Joakim and Claire met with SIPRI's new focal point at the MFA.
- On 1 February, Joakim will meet with a representative of a private equity fund focused on Nordic resilience.
- The Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Department (NIS) at the Swedish MFA will visit SIPRI on 6 February.
- On 7 May, Per Taube will organize a lunch at Steninge Slott for a network of Swedish family offices. Stefan and Joakim will likely attend.
- Sundeep Waslekar, author and President of the Strategic Foresight Group, will visit SIPRI on 18 March.

##### **b. International**

- On 30-31 January, Sibylle attended the 2024 Security and Defence Conference in Berlin, organized by the Handelsblatt newspaper. Sibylle spoke on a panel on the military use of AI and met with, amongst others, General Chris Badia, Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Transformation, NATO. General Badia expressed interest to attend the Stockholm Security Conference.
- On January 25, Jannie attended the first advisory meeting on assisting the UK government on conflict prevention, organized by Chatham House and the FCDO.

### **c. Relations with other organizations**

- On 29 January, SIPRI and ICRC held their fourth annual roundtable.
- On 31 January, Dan briefed the Office of the UN Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa on perspectives and thinking ahead on climate and security.
- Caroline, Simone and Marie are in South Sudan for field research with the Swedish Red Cross until 10 February.
- On 1 February, Dan will brief the Group of Friends on Climate and Security. He will discuss food security issues.
- Barbara K was in Paris on 22 January for a meeting on the future of the European security order, organized by ISREM and Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik.
- Jiayi was in China from 24-27 January for a closed-door seminar on Global Food Security, hosted by the International Cooperation Center, and had meetings with, among others, Beijing University and Tsinghua University and potential partners for an EU-funded project on a European-Chinese think tank dialogue.
- Barbara K will be in Berlin from 29 February to 2 March for meetings, including with Tobias Bunde, the Director of Research and Policy at the Munich Security Conference.
- Barbara K will be in Paris on 12-13 February for an event at the Sorbonne University and will meet with French MFA officials to discuss the SIPRI work on European security.
- Steph and Barbara K will meet with Gabriele Baumann, Head of Nordic Countries at the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung on 1 February to discuss mutual interest and potential cooperation, including on the SSC.

### **d. Operations**

- Finance has completed the closing the books for 2023.

### **e. Outreach**

- SIPRI will open a BlueSky account.
- Starting the week of 18 March, SIPRI will release commentaries and videos to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of NATO.

### **3. Anti-terrorism and anti-money laundering policy**

- SMT reviewed the draft policy. Kristina and Luc will finalize the policy based on SMT's comments. The policy will then be shared with the Cooperation Group. If there are no substantive comments from the Cooperation Group, the policy will be reviewed by Editorial and considered approved.

### **4. SMT Away Day**

- SMT will hold an Away Day on 21 February. SMT discussed the agenda for the all-day meeting.

### **5. Staffing issues**

- Kristina will check with HR what kind of insurance is provided for in-person interns.
- Recruitment for the HR Manager position is ongoing. The unions will meet with the main candidate for the position today.
- The Cooperation Group will discuss how many hours union representatives should spend per month on their union responsibilities.

## **6. Project issues**

- The research clusters are coordinating on the EU tender provide foreign policy expertise for the European Parliament in various areas.
- XCEPT (Cross-Border Conflict Evidence/Policy/Trends) visited SIPRI today and met with Dan, Luc, Florian, Virginie, Jason Mosley, and Sepideh. The meeting focused on potential areas of SIPRI's research that may be relevant to XCEPT's funding calls, including closed calls that SIPRI may be invited to participate in. XCEPT is already funding a project in the Sahel-West Africa Programme. XCEPT also met with Claire to discuss their participation in the Forum.
- The Swedish MFA will provide an estimated 300,000 SEK to the WMD programme for substantive input to a new nuclear risk reduction initiative the MFA is leading on, including a meeting to take place in Stockholm on 22-23 May.

## **7. AOB**

- NA

### **Action items:**

- Kristina and Luc to finalize the policy based on SMT's comments.
- Kristina to check with HR what kind of insurance is provided for in-person interns.
- The Cooperation Group to discuss how many hours union representatives should spend per month on their union responsibilities.
- Operations to look into what other organizations are doing to ensure that staff can be accounted for if a fire occurs (from the 24 January meeting).
- HR to draw up the Associate contract for Gary and Steph to change the info on the website (from the 24 January meeting).

### **Follow-up items:**

- OSCE (for the February Away Day)
- Office space
- Line management (with HR)
- Possible fee for participation at SSC