



SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

7 FEBRUARY 2024

MINUTES

Participants

Sibylle Bauer, Stephanie Blenckner, Florian Krampe, Barbara Kunz (item 3 only), Kristina Sandberg, Dan Smith, Luc van de Goor, Joakim Vaverka

Note-taker

Sepideh Soltaninia

Format

Hybrid meeting

1. Minutes

- SMT has yet to approve the minutes of the 31 January meeting.

2. Report back

a. Sweden

- On 2 February, Stefan and Joakim met with the Ambassador of Qatar.
- The Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Department (NIS) at the Swedish MFA visited SIPRI on 6 February. The visit was very successful.
- Programme directors and members of SMT, PMO and the Director's Office met on 6 February for the fundraising coordination meeting. The meeting is held every other month.
- On 6 February, former SIPRI Chair, Jan Eliasson, wrote to some members of SMT to congratulate SIPRI on its excellent publications. He wrote to convey his "appreciation and admiration of the quality of these intellectual products. The range is impressive: what the Ukraine war does to the Russian budget and GDP, the crossover between cybercrime and cyber warfare, the growth and distribution of arms production and trade, the effect of nuclear deterrence on European security - and earlier on peacebuilding, Sahel and the climate/security nexus [...]"
- On 8 February, Joakim will participate in the Alva Myrdal Centre board meeting.

b. International

- Sibylle was in Berlin last week, where she met with German Federal Foreign Office officials to discuss future funding for SIPRI.

c. Relations with other organizations

- On 1 February, Steph and Barbara K will meet with Gabriele Baumann, Head of Nordic Countries at the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung. The Konrad Adenauer Stiftung expressed interest in funding the SSC.
- Dan and Sepideh will be in Rome from 12-15 February for a meeting of the co-leads of the Fighting Food Crises along the HDP Nexus Coalition, followed by meetings at the World Food Programme.
- Dan and Sepideh will be in Munich from 16-18 February for the Munich Security Conference. Timo will also be at the conference for a session co-organized by SIPRI and the Center for International Peace Operations (ZIF).

d. Operations

- The new IT infrastructure for the Arms Transfers database will be go live for the data launch on 11 March.

3. Stockholm Security Conference 2024

- SMT discussed the draft concept note for the SSC. Luc and Barbara will work further on the concept note, incorporating feedback from SMT.

4. Recruitment of a new Director

- Dan will leave his position as SIPRI Director at the end of August 2025. The Governing Board, which appoints the Director, will decide how to move forward with the recruitment of Dan's successor.
- Joakim will leave his position as Deputy Director in the summer of 2024. Until then, he will coordinate the recruitment process for a new Director and will pass on this role to his successor.
- The advertisement for the Deputy Director position will be posted during the spring. The advertisement for the Director position is tentatively planned to be posted in the summer.

5. Allocation of the 2024 Strategic Grant

- SMT discussed the allocation of the 15 million SEK 2024 Strategic Grant. SMT will continue this discussion at its Away Day on 1 February.

6. HR Issues

- SMT approved Daniel Ferrara as a guest researcher in the DUAT programme. Pending funding, Daniel will join SIPRI for six months starting in June 2025 or January 2026.
- Recruitment for a new Finance Manager is underway. Ulla will be retiring in May 2024.
- Johan Schaar's Associate contract will be renewed for two years. He will be an Associate with the MENA Programme.

7. Project issues

- The Stockholm Hub on Environment, Climate and Security will likely receive a renewed grant from the Swedish MFA.

8. AOB

- NA

Action items:

- Luc and Barbara to work on the SSC concept note, incorporating feedback from SMT.
- HR to look into insurance for in-person interns (from the 31 January meeting).
- 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).

Follow-up items:

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