

SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

10 April 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 has yet to approve the minutes of the 27 March meeting.

2. Matters Arising

- Given the smaller size of this year's Strategic Grant, the funds have already been allocated to ongoing projects and events.

3. Report back

a. Sweden

- On 8 April, the China-Asia Programme met with colleagues from the Swedish Defence Research Agency (FOI).
- On 9 April, Joakim and Barbara K met with Johan Frisell, Head of the Security Department at the Swedish MFA, to discuss funding for the SSC.
- On 10 April, Dan, Joakim and Claire met with Thobias Thyberg, Head of the UN Department at the Swedish MFA, to discuss political participation at the Forum and the Strategic Grant. Work on the next Strategic Grant application will begin shortly. The application will be discussed at a future SMT meeting.
- SMT discussed the need for SIPRI to present its work to high-level MFA officials, including state secretaries. Stephanie and Sibylle will explore a potential presentation of SIPRI's military spending data.

b. International

- Dan and Caroline will be in New York City on 16-17 April for a high-level event co-organized with the Permanent Missions of Germany and Guyana.
- On 4 April, Sibylle met with Stephan Klement, EU Special Envoy for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation and Special Advisor on the Iranian Nuclear Issue. He is interested in being more involved with SIPRI and would like to take part in the non-proliferation course for

engineers the first week of December at SIPRI, which we organise on behalf of the EUNPD Consortium.

c. Relations with other organizations

- On 9 April, Dan met with Benedikt Franke, CEO of the Munich Security Conference (MSC). The MSC will organize a dinner at the SSC.
- Wolfgang Ischinger, President of the MSC Foundation Council and former member of the SIPRI Governing Board will be in Stockholm 16-17 May and has been invited to join the Governing Board dinner on 16 May.
- SIPRI is moving forward with a consortium led by European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS) for funding from the European Parliament.
- Sepideh hosted a meeting with Peaceinvest and relevant programme directors on 10 April to discuss SIPRI's partnership with Peaceinvest.

d. Operations

- The update of Maconomy went smoothly.
- Thanks to everyone's feedback on Zoom licenses. SIPRI will save 80,000 SEK by removing Zoom licenses which are not needed by colleagues.
- HR held a kick-off meeting for the Mid-Term Review process on 8 April with all line managers.
- SIPRI is currently not included on the list of organizations that can receive tax exempt donations in Sweden. Kristina will look into this.

4. SIPRI Yearbook

- SMT discussed potential changes to the Yearbook.
- Stephanie and Sibylle will meet separately to discuss this.
- SMT will discuss the Yearbook at a future meeting.

5. Blogposts by Forum partners

- From the 2024 Forum on, only Forum partners selected by SIPRI will be given the opportunity to publish blog posts on SIPRI's WritePeace blog.

6. Preparation of the Fundraising Coordination meeting

- SMT discussed the format of the upcoming Fundraising Coordination meeting on 11 April.

7. HR issues

- A new Finance Manager has been appointed. Karin Buzzi-Donato will take up the position on 28 May. Ulla will retire in May.
- Advertisements for two Project Managers and one Grants Coordinator positions will be posted on 16 April, at the latest.
- Barbara Becht's last day at SIPRI will be 14 May.
- Lisa's last day as a consultant with SIPRI will be 30 April.
- SMT approved a remote guest researcher with the MILAP programme.

8. Project issues

- N/A

9. Due diligence

- N/A

10. AOB

- N/A

11. Executive session

- SMT held an executive session.

Action items:

- Stephanie and Sibylle to explore a potential presentation of SIPRI's military spending data to political-level MFA officials.
- Operations to prepare budgets for all departments and clusters.
- Kristina to look into if SIPRI can be included on the list of organizations that can receive tax-exempt donations in Sweden.
- Steph and Sibylle to discuss changes to the Yearbook.
- SMT to investigate if SIPRI should have a framework agreement with the Folke Bernadotte Academy.
- HR to look into insurance for in-person interns (from the 31 January meeting).

Follow-up items:

- Strategic Grant application
- Yearbook
- PAD Talks
- Internships