

SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

24 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

In-person meeting

1. Minutes

- SMT approved the minutes of the 10 and 17 April meetings.

2. Matters Arising

- SMT agreed that, until further notice, SIPRI will, in general, only accept in-person interns who are part of a university internship program or are fully funded. SMT agreed to return to this issue at a future meeting.

3. Report back

a. Sweden

- State Secretary Jan Knutsson will speak on the opening plenary of the Stockholm Forum. State Secretary Diane Janse will participate in a closed lunch on the first day of the Forum.
- The Director's Office is working on scheduling a visit to SIPRI by Sweden's Minister for International Development Cooperation and Foreign Trade, Johan Forsell.
- African Ambassadors based in Stockholm attended a workshop at SIPRI on 23 April. The workshop was well received.
- Wolfgang Ischinger, former SIPRI Governing Board Member and the current President of the Munich Security Conference Foundation Council, will attend the Board dinner on 16 May.
- SMT discussed potentially establishing a foresight programme or group. The idea will be discussed at a future SMT meeting.

b. International

- Dan was in Norfolk, Virginia on 17-18 April for a presentation to NATO- Allied Command Transformation (ACT). Colleagues from ACT will likely visit SIPRI in June.
- On 18 April, Joakim and Luc met with the Hungarian Minister of State for Security Policy, Péter Sztáray, and the Hungarian Ambassador.

c. Relations with other organizations

- SIPRI is moving forward with a consortium led by the European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS) for funding from the European Commission.
- Steph and Barbara K met with the Konrad Adenauer Foundation on 19 April to discuss a potential dialogue project on security in northern Europe.
- Sibylle spoke at the Responsible Quantum Technologies Workshop in Karlsruhe on 17 April. She will set up meetings and explore joint funding proposals with potential partners to work on quantum and peace and security.
- Katongo has been selected to receive the Award for Early Career Contribution in Environmental Peacebuilding of the Environmental Peacebuilding Association, to be awarded at the upcoming Third International Conference on Environmental Peacebuilding the Hague from 19-21 June.

d. Outreach

- The MILEX data launch has so far been covered in over 5400 media articles already. Coverage in Western and Eastern Europe has been particularly intense. There was also a lot of pre-engagement with NGOs ahead of the launch.

e. Operations

- Finance has closed the books for the first quarter of 2024 and is preparing the financial report and forecast for the Board, together with the PMO and Grants Acquisition and Development team.

4. Employment from abroad

- Kristina will explore the costs of an Employment of Record company. For now, SIPRI will continue to employ colleagues based abroad on consultancy contracts.

5. Next Strategic Grant application

- Luc will lead on the preparations of the next Strategic Grant application, with support from the Director's Office.

6. HR issues

- Simon is now employed at SIPRI and no longer a consultant.
- SMT has finalized the guidance note on the promotion process. It will be sent to the Cooperation Group and posted on the intranet.
- SMT discussed contracts that are expiring and will return to the conversation.

7. Project issues

- CCR signed contracts with NUPI and ROK for funding of the climate peace and security factsheet project.
- Kheira secured a contract with IOM for the second phase of the project in Somalia.
- The Governance of AI programme has received preliminary confirmation for a 2.5 million SEK contract with the German MFA on AI bias.

8. Due diligence

- N/A

9. AOB

- N/A

10. Executive session

- N/A

Action items:

- Stephanie and Sibylle to explore a potential presentation of SIPRI's military spending data to political-level MFA officials (from 10 April meeting).
- Operations to prepare budgets for all departments and clusters (from 10 April meeting).
- Kristina to look into if SIPRI can be included on the list of organizations that can receive tax-exempt donations in Sweden (from 10 April meeting).

Follow-up items:

- Finances
- Foresight
- Moving allowance
- Yearbook
- PAD Talks
- Internships