

SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

22 May 2024

MINUTES

Participants

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

Absent

Joakim Vaverka

Note-taker

Sofie Waller Snygg

Format

In person

1. Minutes

- N/A

2. Report back

a. Sweden

- Next week, Caroline will present the Food Peace and Security work on conflict and hunger at the Swedish FAO committee meeting convened by the Swedish government.

b. International

- Jair was in Brussels last week to present the report on "Assessing the Effectiveness of European Union Civilian CSDP Missions Involved in Security Sector Reform" to the PSC-Ambassadors. Despite a delay in the publishing of the report, it was released at an opportune moment and received a positive response. A follow-up meeting to present the report to the EEAS in Brussels is scheduled for 29 May.
- On 20 May, Dan met with World Bank's Senior Managing Director, Axel van Trotsenburg, at SIPRI.
- On 21 May, Jingdong attended and spoke at a roundtable on the present and future of EU-China relations organized by the Jagiellonian University, Krakow.
- Barbara is currently in Poland for the Polish Institute of International Affairs's (PISM) Strategic Arc conference. On 24 May she will speak on a panel entitled "The Return of the Nuclear Fear: Winning the Global Nuclear Contest."
- On Friday 24 May, Katongo and Kheira will travel to Bukavu in the DRC for a Climate Security workshop hosted by FBA.

- Next week, Florian will be in Copenhagen speaking at an event hosted by the Danish Institute for Foreign Affairs (DIIS).

c. Relations with other organizations

- On 21 May, Dan met with the Qatari Ambassador H.E Nadya Al-Sheebi to talk about Qatar's engagement at the 2024 Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development and to discuss future cooperation.
- On 24 May, Farah and Stephanie will meet with the Head of the Nordic Office from the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung to explore joint interests and avenues for potential collaboration.
- There is notable interest from the EEAS to expand the European Network of Independent Nonproliferation and Disarmament Think Tanks (coordinated by SIPRI on behalf of the EUNPD Consortium) with research institutions in Southeast Europe and Eastern Europe and to strengthen engagement with research institutions in third countries, including China.

d. Outreach

- On 16 May, SIPRI hosted a public event with the Governing Board entitled "Gaza, Sudan, Ukraine, and Beyond: Charting the Course to Peace and Human Security." It attracted a significant turnout from the diplomatic community in Stockholm.
- On 29 May, the annual data from the Peace Operations and Conflict Management programme will be launched, with Claudia in the lead.
- On 17 June the Yearbook/Global Nuclear Forces data launch will go live, followed by the AMC Annual conference just after, on 18-19 June.

e. Operations

- Two new printers will be installed in the building to replace the old ones on the top floor and in the basement. The existing printer located at the entrance will remain.
- HR is exploring alternative Hostile Environment Awareness Training (HEAT) courses, with a preference for options located in Sweden.
- HR is also looking into developing a more structured risk analysis for high-risk travel. This includes evaluating the need for additional insurance and other safety measures. The SMT discussed the importance of engaging with staff members who frequently undertake high-risk travel to gather their input and insights. A workshop will be planned for this purpose.

3. Governing Board follow-up

- The SMT received a briefing on the recent Governing Board meeting, which was highly successful.
- The Board were happy with the interaction with staff and they conveyed their appreciation for the constructive dialogue and positive meeting with the Union representatives.

a. SIPRI Strategy 2024-2029

- The Board signed off SIPRI's strategy for 2024-2029, however, with some minor editorial adjustments and refinements needing to be made.

- SMT will discuss which sections of the Strategy should be made public at a later date.

b. Yearbook

- The Board has decided that SIPRI should continue to produce a yearbook in hardcopy, but it should be made shorter. The proposed length is 300 pages. The SMT will discuss this matter further.

4. Financial situation

- The SMT discussed the financial situation of SIPRI, recognising the need for raising more income as well as continuing to control spending carefully. The discussion focussed on strategies for moving forward.

5. Next RSC date

- The next Research Staff Collegium (RSC) meeting will take place on Tuesday 4 June, from 09.30 in the kitchen. The meeting is open to all staff and interns. It will still be possible to follow the RSC online but not to participate.

6. Stockholm Security Conference

- The SMT received an update on the progress of planning for the Stockholm Security Conference, which is being tailored to the available funding. The conference is scheduled for 22-23 October and will be held at the Dutch Embassy. The conference will consist of four panels with a focus on deterrence. Efforts are underway to secure high-level participants for the event. Plans include accommodating an audience of 60-70 individuals at the venue, with invitations extended to a targeted list of attendees.

7. HR issues

- Vongai's last day is today, 22 May.
- SIPRI's new Finance Manager, Karin Buzzi Donato, will start on Tuesday, 28 May.
- Ulla's last day in the office will be 5 June. She will continue with bank approvals as necessary over the summer until the handover is completed.
- The recruitment for the next Deputy Director is ongoing.

8. Project issues

- N/A

9. Due diligence

- The SMT discussed whether SIPRI should be open to receiving funds from Qatar. The SMT concluded that the matter should be revisited once more concrete opportunities and information are available.

10. AOB

- N/A

11. Executive Session

- SMT held an executive session.

Action Items:

- SMT to send their vacation dates to Sofie.
- Steph to prepare a draft outline of the yearbook and the length of the different sections.

Follow-up items:

- Delegation visits to SIPRI
- Use of Artificial Intelligence software
- Alternative HEAT courses
- Review of procedures for travel risk approval
- Potential programme on foresight
- Moving allowance
- PAD Talks
- Internships