



SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

14 August 2024

MINUTES

Participants

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

Absent

Kristina Sandberg

Note-taker

Sepideh Soltaninia

Format

Hybrid meeting

1. Minutes

- SMT approved the minutes of the 19 June meeting.

2. Matters arising

- Dan will review the list of Associate contracts for renewal and come back to SMT with any queries before liaising with Noel

3. Report back

a. Sweden

- Dan will meet with the Qatari Ambassador on 15 August.
- Stefan and Sepideh will meet with the Japanese Ambassador on 16 August to discuss a funding proposal related to the G7 Hiroshima Vision on Nuclear Disarmament.
- The Armament and Disarmament Summer School, co-organized by SIPRI, the Alva Myrdal Centre for Nuclear Disarmament and the Odesa Center for Nonproliferation will take place on 26-30 August at SIPRI and Uppsala University. Rebecca Jovin, Chief of the UNODA Office in Geneva will provide the opening speech.
- On 27 August, SIPRI will host a breakfast discussion, co-organized with the US State Department on 'Tools and Approaches to Address Water, Climate, and Peace' with Special Envoys in Stockholm for World Water Week. The State Department will provide 1300 USD to cover breakfast and taxi costs.
- Dan and Sibylle have received many responses to their request for feedback on the SIPRI Yearbook. Sofie will compile the feedback and share it with Dan, Sibylle and Stephanie.
- The Japanese Embassy has expressed interest in organizing another event with SIPRI in November/December.

- Planning for the Stockholm Security Conference, scheduled for 22-23 October, is moving forward. The former Dutch Minister of Defence, Kees Ollongren, will speak at the conference. SIPRI has received financial support from the UK Embassy (5000 GBP) and the Irish Embassy (10 000 EUR), as well as in-kind support (the venue) from the Dutch Embassy.

b. Relations with other countries

- Dan will travel to South Korea, Japan and Qatar in late November/early December for a series of conferences and talks in the three countries.

c. Relations with other organizations

- On 13 September, Sibylle will speak on an arms control panel at the Xiangshan Forum in Beijing.
- The MENA programme and the Middle East Council are organizing a workshop in Doha on 8-9 September on security and defence cooperation between MENA and Asian countries as part of the MENASIA initiative. FBA will fund travel for SIPRI staff for the workshop.
- SIPRI will host an in-person roundtable with the Shanghai Institutes for International Studies on 11 October.
- On 14 October, Dan will provide the keynote speech at the Jeju Forum's Berlin Symposium.

d. Outreach

- Outreach is finalizing the date of the data launches for 2025.
- Outreach is working on a list of talking points/answers to difficult questions that staff may be asked about SIPRI, such as how independent SIPRI is when we receive money from China or the USA.
- Stephanie will share a schedule of upcoming events and publications in 2024 with SMT ahead of the next SMT meeting.

4. SMT Home Day

- SMT discussed the agenda for their Home Day on 23 August.

5. All Staff Home Day

- An All Staff Home Day will take place on 3 September. It will include a substantive discussion followed by lunch and a social event. SMT discussed the agenda for the substantive discussion.

6. PAD talks

- SMT discussed the PAD talk process for this year.

7. HR issues

- Recruitment for two Research Assistants in the MILAP programme and a Senior Researcher in the Sahel-West Africa programme is ongoing.
- Farah will leave her position at SIPRI on 25 August.
- Amal will leave her position at SIPRI on 31 August.
- Pauline will return from parental leave on 2 September.

- Florian will serve as Director of Studies for the Peace and Development research cluster (no longer acting DoS) starting on 17 August.

8. Project issues

- N/A

9. Due diligence

- SMT agreed to proceed with fundraising with Qatar.

10. AOB

- N/A

11. Executive session

- SMT held an executive session.

Action items:

- Dan to review the list of Associate contracts for renewal and come back to SMT with any queries before liaising with Noel.
- Sofie to compile feedback received on the Yearbook and share this with Dan, Sibylle and Stephanie.
- Stephanie to share a schedule of upcoming events and publications in 2024 with SMT ahead of the next SMT meeting.

Follow-up items:

- Potential programme on foresight
- Internships