

SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

2 October 2024

MINUTES

Participants

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

Sofie Waller Snygg (item 7 only)

Absent

Charlotta Sparre

Note-taker

Sepideh Soltaninia

Format

Hybrid meeting

1. Minutes

- SMT approved the minutes of the 18 September meeting and has yet to approve the minutes of the 25 September meeting.

2. Matters arising

- SMT noted the need to update the intranet. The Director's Office will work with IT to make some preliminary changes.
- Florian reached out to Uppsala University, who responded positively about SIPRI colleagues joining Masters or PhD level methods courses. He will liaise with Sibylle and Luc to determine next steps.

3. Report back

a. Sweden

- On 1 October, Steph met with other organizations who are part of *Giva Sverige* (the Swedish umbrella organisation of Swedish foundations accepting donations) to discuss fundraising. *Giva Sverige*, which supports private fundraising in Sweden, noted among others that they can support SIPRI with tax exemptions for donations from the US so that SIPRI does not need to have a US Internal Revenue Service 501(c)(3) designation as a not-for-profit organisation.
- On 9-10 October, SIPRI will host a scenarios workshop, co-organized with the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, on the US election and Nordic security.

b. Relations with other countries

- On 8-9 October, Florian and Simone will brief the German Parliament joint session of the Subcommittee for International Climate and Energy Policy and the Subcommittee for the United Nations, International Organizations, and Civilian Crisis Prevention.

c. Relations with other organizations

- On 2 October, Sibylle conducted a lecture and took part in a simulation exercise at the Asser Institute's training course on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction in The Hague, jointly organized by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. Most participants were government officials, including many from the Global South.
- The Sahel-West Africa programme is working on the final details of funding from UNDP.

d. Operations

- SIPRI was reimbursed some 441 000 SEK from Oxford University Press (OUP) for an invoicing error OUP made last year.
- Operations is looking into the building's energy consumption as the last few energy bills were very high. Staff are reminded to turn off the lights in their office, their hallway, meeting rooms and the kitchen before leaving the office.

4. Delegation visits

- N/A

5. SIPRI Finances

- SMT reviewed SIPRI's finances for the remainder of 2024.
- SMT discussed ongoing efforts to increase core, lightly earmarked and programmatic funding for the institute.

6. Development of an ecological security research theme

- To develop work, as indicated in the Institute Strategy, Florian put forth a proposal on an ecological security research theme at SIPRI, with the ambition to develop a programme on the topic in the future.
- It was noted that ecological security is an area where SIPRI has historical expertise as well as ongoing work, and where SMT believes there is interest from donors. Funding for this research theme would also contribute positively to the institute's wider funding situation.
- SMT agreed that the PD cluster can move forward with the proposal and noted that a section on the SIPRI's website should be created to assemble SIPRI's existing work on this theme.

7. Reporting on the Annual and Strategic grants

- SMT discussed the timeline and process for inputs to the Director and Deputy Director's report to the Governing Board, the narrative portion of the Annual Report, the Strategic Grant report. It was agreed that:
 - o The DoSes will submit inputs for the Director and Deputy Director's Report to the Director's Office;
 - o The DoSes will share with Sofie how they would like their cluster's inputs for the Annual Report collected;

- The Director's Office will ask for inputs for the Strategic Grant report directly from programmes funded through the Strategic Grant.
- SMT also discussed feedback from the auditor on last year's Annual Report.

8. HR issues

- N/A

9. Project issues

- N/A

10. Due Diligence

- N/A

11. AOB

- N/A

12. Executive session

- SMT held an executive session.

Action items:

- Director's Office to work with IT to make some preliminary changes to the intranet.
- Florian to liaise with Sibylle and Luc to determine next steps re SIPRI staff joining Uppsala University's methods courses.
- Florian to liaise with Outreach around a theme page on SIPRI's website to assemble SIPRI's existing work on ecological security.
- Luc, Sibylle and Florian to share with Sofie how they would like their cluster's inputs for the Annual Report collected.
- Charlotta to organize a lunch time seminar on working with the diplomatic community (from 25 September meeting).
- HR to include conversations with GAD and PMO on fundraising and project management as part of the onboarding process for incoming research staff (from 25 September meeting).
- Charlotta to liaise with FBA about the possibility of SIPRI colleagues joining some FBA trainings (from 25 September meeting).

Follow-up items:

- Potential programme on foresight
- Traineeship
- Legal expertise
- Intranet