

SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

9 October 2024

MINUTES

Participants

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

Note-taker

Sepideh Soltaninia

Format

Hybrid meeting

1. Minutes

- SMT approved the minutes of the 25 September and 2 October meetings.

2. Report back

a. Sweden

- On 2 October, SIPRI hosted a delegation from the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of China (Taiwan). The delegation included the Deputy Minister of Defence.
- On 2-3 October, Charlotta participated in the Alva Myrdal Centre (AMC) retreat and board meeting at Uppsala University. AMC leadership expressed their great appreciation for the collaboration with SIPRI.
- On 3 October, SIPRI and the Embassy of France co-hosted a successful event featuring Lieutenant General Bertrand Toujouse, Commander of the French Land Forces and Commander for French Land Operations in Europe.
- Also on 3 October, Dan met with Stefan in part to discuss SIPRI's finances. Stefan will travel to Norway to discuss funding with the Norwegian MFA. He will also attend the dinner at the SSC and provide the closing remarks on the second day of the conference.
- On 7 October, Florian hosted a lunch-time seminar on AI in Research, which featured a presentation by Diego.
- The German Embassy would like to host another lunch with SIPRI's German speaking research staff to discuss SIPRI's ongoing work. Steph is in touch with the Embassy to organize the lunch.

b. Relations with other countries

- N/A

c. Relations with other organizations

- Dan will be in Berlin on 14 October to give the keynote speech at the Jeju 4.3 Peace Foundation's International Symposium. He will also meet with colleagues at the German Federal Foreign Office.
- Sibylle will be in Shanghai on 31 October to 1 November for meetings at the Shanghai Institute for Strategic Studies.

d. Outreach

- SIPRI was mentioned in 2100 articles worldwide last week. Over 600 of the articles were on Dan's comments on the announcement of the Nobel Peace Prize. Over 1400 covered Zain's topical backgrounder on 'How top arms exporters have responded to the war in Gaza'.

e. Operations

- Charlotta and Kristina will be meeting with SIPRI's landlord, Sagax, next week.
- SMT discussed potentially sub-letting part of the office to an appropriate organization or company.

3. Delegation visits

- SMT noted the following upcoming delegations:
 - o 10 October, 14.00 – 15.00: Ministry of Defence of Colombia
 - o 11 October, 13.00 – 15.30: Shanghai Institutes for International Studies (SIIS)
 - o 1 November, 10.00 – 11.30: Finnish MFA colleagues working on Finland's OSCE Chairpersonship
 - o 6 November, 17.00 – 18.00: Centre Party in Solna
 - o 12 November 13.00 – 14.00: Social Democratic Party women's section
 - o 28 November, 16.00 – 17.00: Students from Upplands-Brogymnasiet
- A visit by the Swedish MFA's Diplomatic Academy is yet to be scheduled.

4. SIPRI Finances

- Operations is working on a 2025 budget for the Core Grant, which will be presented to SMT for decision.
- Sibylle mentioned the following from the recent AD cluster meeting:
 - o Colleagues are concerned about the financial situation, particularly plans to continue spending on direct costs (e.g., major events) in 2025.
 - o Colleagues requested to receive the slides from the 30 September all staff meeting on the financial situation. Kristina will share these with all staff.

5. Feedback on the Monday morning all staff meetings

- SMT discussed feedback from the clusters and departments on the Monday morning all staff meetings. It was agreed that, starting on 21 October:
 - o A lunch-time discussion will be organized on Mondays on a current event that will be announced straight after the morning staff meetings, on the basis of suggestions made at the Monday morning meeting. Interested colleagues are encouraged to join the lunch-time discussion.

- Each month, a different research cluster will host a lunch-time discussion on a date of their choosing to discuss ongoing or recently published research. The Director's Office will share a schedule of which cluster is responsible for which month.
- Reporting on upcoming events and major developments will continue. Notes from this report will be shared with all staff by the Director's Office following the meeting.

6. HR issues

- Applications for a Director will close on 13 October. The first round of interviews with Stefan, supported by Charlotta, Kristina and Timo, will take place virtually at the end of October.
- SMT discussed staffing for the Forum. This will be discussed again at next week's SMT meeting.

7. Project issues

- N/A

8. Due Diligence

- SMT approved (via email prior to the meeting) potential funding for the DUAT programme from the Swedish Export Control Society.

9. AOB

- Operations will explore a PayPal and credit card payment option/link for donations via SIPRI's website.
- Olle is in touch with former SIPRI employee, Richard Guthrie, about potentially sending files from SIPRI's chemical and biological weapons work to the University of Sussex for archiving.

10. Executive session

- N/A

Action items:

- Kristina to share slides from the 30 September all staff meeting on the financial situation with all staff.
- The Director's Office to share a schedule of which cluster is responsible for a lunch-time seminar on which month.
- Operations to explore a PayPal and credit card payment option/link for donations via SIPRI's website.

Follow-up items:

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