

SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

30 October 2024

MINUTES

Participants

Florian Krampe, Kristina Sandberg, Dan Smith, Charlotta Sparre, Luc van de Goor

Absent

Sibylle Bauer, Stephanie Blenckner

Note-taker

Sepideh Soltaninia

Format

In-person meeting

1. Minutes

- SMT approved the minutes of the 16 October meeting but has yet to approve the minutes of the 24 October meeting.

2. Research Staff Collegium

- SMT discussed the recent RSC meeting on 24 October and appreciated the open and honest/candid conversation about the financial situation. To continue the conversation, SMT decided that an additional RSC meeting in November would be beneficial. An RSC meeting will be scheduled for 12 November from 14:30-16:00 and will cover the state of SIPRI and how we move forward.

3. December Governing Board meeting

- SMT discussed the draft agenda for the Governing Board meeting and feedback received thus far from staff. Staff are encouraged to share their comments and suggestions by 6 November.

4. SIPRI Strategy

- SMT noted five areas where further work and/or staff development is needed so the institute is in a position to realize the five-year strategy. SMT discussed the first two in detail and noted steps being undertaken or needed; SMT will return to the other areas in future meetings. The five areas are:

- a) Fundraising: This includes sharing ideas about what works, outside the box thinking, lessons learnt on the components of a good application, budget and time planning, how to figure out the right level of ambition, etc.

- SMT noted that the Fundraising Coordination Group is already working on this and that GAD plans to host a fundraising lessons learnt lunch-time seminar before the end of the year.
- b) Project implementation and management: managing project finances, keeping up with additional donor requirements, etc.
 - SMT noted that a discussion on this with PMO is needed to identify what areas can be improved and how to concretely support staff to manage projects.
- c) T-shaped expertise and 360° view of security: Understanding better what we mean by T-shaped expertise; developing and understanding the relationship between a broad view of security and specific research we are undertaking, emphasizing intersections (e.g., AI and climate), designing research accordingly that is interesting to donors, etc.
- d) The three research headlines (battlefields, peacefields and geopolitics goes local): Understanding the possible benefits in grouping themes and problems like this, identifying their role (if any) in designing projects and programmes.
- e) The technical section: Working out next steps in setting up a section to provide statistical support across the institute

5. HR issues

- N/A

6. Project issues

- N/A

7. Due Diligence

- SMT agreed, via email on 25 October, that SIPRI can join a consortium to send a proposal to the EU Commission under Horizon Europe funding. Other members of the consortium include:
 - Netcompany-Intrasoft
 - CENTRIC (University of Sheffield)
 - Euro-Arab Foundation (FUNDEA)
 - SCENOR (SCientia ENim ORbis terrarum)
 - University of Portsmouth
 - ITI-CERTH (Centre of Research and Technology)
 - Nordic Institute for Interoperability Solutions
- SMT agreed that the CCR Programme can work with Center for International Law and Policy in Africa (a Sierra Leone based NGO) to provide a brief paper summarizing existing research in support of Burkina Faso at the International Court of Justice.

8. AOB

- N/A

9. Executive session

- SMT held an executive session.

Action items:

- N/A

Follow-up items:

- Potential programme on foresight
- Traineeship
- Legal expertise
- Intranet
- Remaining areas of work for realization of the strategy