

SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

6 November 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 24 and 30 October meetings.

2. Report back

a. Sweden

- Charlotta will share an email and survey today with all staff on the holiday get-together.
- The Secretary General of Swedish Physicians against Nuclear Weapons has been in contact with Dan about working with SIPRI on the commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the bombings of Nagasaki and Hiroshima next year.
- On 1 November, Dan met with Daniel Wolvén, Head of the Department for Asia, Pacific and Latin America at the Swedish MFA to discuss SIPRI's possible partnership with the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) at the Nanyang Technological University in Singapore.
- On 18 November, Dan will meet with the Irish Ambassador to discuss future funding for the Stockholm Security Conference. The Irish Embassy also reached out to Steph's team asking for SIPRI experts on women, peace and security to speak at an event they are organizing in January for St Brigid's Day.
- SIPRI will invite its Sweden-based Distinguished Associate Fellows to an informal discussion on European Security with SIPRI staff on 19 November at 16.00. Further details will be shared once the Director's Office hears back about the availability of the Distinguished Associates.
- On 11 November, Charlotta will meet with Diana Janse, State Secretary to the Minister for International Development Cooperation and Foreign Trade, to discuss SIPRI's work on peace and development, and the Strategic Grant application.
- Dan and Charlotta will meet with Ann-Sofie Nilsson, Sweden's Ambassador for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation on 12 December.

b. Relations with other countries

- On 1 November, Dan, Florian and Barbara met with the Finnish OSCE chair. The CCR programme is expecting that it will receive a grant together with the Finnish Institute of International Affairs to prepare a policy brief on climate security in the OSCE and possible entry points for Finland.
- Charlotta will be in Copenhagen on 15 November for a meeting with the Political Director of the Danish MFA and other Danish MFA colleagues working on Denmark's upcoming UN Security Council term.
- The Dutch MFA is willing to pay for access to SIPRI's data on peace operations. The POCM programme and GAD are discussing the details with the Dutch MFA.

c. Relations with other organizations

- Sibylle was in China from 28 October to 1 November. The Shanghai Institutes for International Studies (SIIS) and the China Arms Control and Disarmament Association (CADCA) are both interested in further engagement with SIPRI. Steph and Sibylle will discuss bilaterally on how these organization can help disseminate the Chinese translation of the Yearbook.
- On 30 October, SIPRI and the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung co-organized a side event at the UN Biodiversity Conference (COP16) in Colombia. The event was well attended and included remarks by Sida's Regional Director for South America.
- While in Colombia, Stephanie and Caroline also met with the Swedish Embassy and the Organization of American States.
- Florian was in Berlin on 4-6 November to attend the Berlin Peace Dialogue. While in Berlin, he met with the German Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety; the German Council on Foreign Relations; the World Food Programme's Berlin Office; GIZ; the Bosch Foundation; and the Böll Foundation.
- Barbara is in Berlin from 6-9 November for a talk on European security at a German-Polish Track 1.5 meeting as well as meetings with potential project funders and partners.
- Timo will be in Brussels with Barbara and Jair on 14 November for a workshop on the civilian dimension of the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy.
- Fei and Lora will also be in Brussels from 19-21 November for briefings on their research on cybersecurity and on China.
- Charlotta will be in Rome from 22-28 November for the Rome MED Dialogue and a conference on Ukraine, co-organized by Chatham House and Istituto Affari Internazionali.

d. Operations

- The alarm went off on Saturday, 2 November but nothing was stolen.
- Following negotiations with SIPRI's landlord, Sagax, SIPRI will now receive a 1,6 million SEK discount on its rent this year and a 2,1 million discount for next year. This is a full discount and not a rent holiday as previously noted during the last RSC.
- Sagax is also looking for companies to rent two of its building, which could each house some 80-150 employees. If anyone knows of a company that would be interested, please reach out to Kristina as SIPRI would receive a further discount for helping Sagax find tenants.

e. Outreach

- Caroline was interviewed onsite at COP16 for an episode of the science programme *Klotet* on Sveriges Radio.
- Caroline will be interviewed by Colombia's leading newspaper *El Tiempo* on the Outcome of COP16 and the situation on biodiversity and conflict in Colombia.

3. Delegation visits

- In addition to delegation visits noted in previous minutes, the following visits were discussed:
 - o 14 or 15 November, time TBC: Visit of the Crisis Response Department of the Ministry of Unification, Republic of Korea
 - o 19 November, 13.30 – 15.00: Visit of the Dutch Ambassador
 - o February (date and time TBC): Visit by Disarmament and Non-proliferation department of the Swedish MFA

4. SIPRI finances

- SMT discussed salaries covered this year by the Core and Strategic grants, including those covered as a result of fundraising gaps by various research programs.

5. 2025 Budget

- SMT discussed draft figures from the 2025 budget. SMT will hold an extraordinary meeting on 14 November at 13.00 – 15.00 to discuss a more finalized version of the 2025 budget and make decisions about the allocation of the Core and Strategic grants.

6. Research Staff Collegium

- SMT discussed the upcoming RSC, scheduled for 12 November from 14:30-16:00. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss how to get through the difficult financial situation SIPRI, and many similar organizations, are facing. This includes exploring new ideas, new ways of working and new kinds of activity that may provide different funding possibilities.

7. HR issues

- Charlotta, Kristina and Timo are continuing to work with Stefan and the Governing Board's recruitment committee on the recruitment of a new Director.
- Luc, Dan and Barbara are interviewing a candidate for the position of seconded researcher who will support the European Security programme, funded by the French MFA.
- The following in-person interns for the first half of 2025 were noted:
 - o The European Security programme will have an in-person intern from 20 January till the end of May. The intern will also support the Forum team.
 - o The Governance of AI programme will also have an in-person intern through the Talos Fellowship programme.
 - o The Forum team will have two interns from January till June.
 - o Communications will have two interns from January till June.
 - o The PD cluster will have an intern from December/January till May/June.
 - o An intern from the Korea Foundation will join SIPRI (programme TBD).
- Sepideh will check with IT about the availability of laptops in case SIPRI would like to host more than eight in-person interns (the maximum as per the Internship Policy).

8. Project issues

- SMT agreed to move forward with exploring a SIPRI Foresight programme, where participants would pay to take part in scenario workshops organized and hosted by SIPRI.

9. Due Diligence

- N/A

10. AOB

- N/A

11. Executive session

- N/A

Action items:

- Steph and Sibylle to discuss bilaterally on how SIIS and CADCA can help disseminate the Chinese translation of the Yearbook.
- Sepideh to check on the availability of laptops for additional interns with IT.

Follow-up items:

- Traineeship
- Legal expertise
- Intranet
- Remaining areas of work for realization of the strategy