

SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

20 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 has yet to approve the minutes of the 13 November meeting.

2. Report back

a. Sweden

- Sida has informed SIPRI that they will not be able to provide core financial support for the 2025 Stockholm Forum. FBA has confirmed that they will provide 2 million SEK.
- SMT discussed the need for a repository of SIPRI's contacts in different government ministries and organizations.
- SMT also discussed the benefits of cross-cluster programmes attending donor meetings together.
- On 15 November, Luc, Simone and Caroline met with Carl Björkman, Head of the Gates Foundation Nordic Office. The Gates Foundation showed particular interest in potential foresight activities, roundtables with relevant stakeholders and SIPRI's work on data gathering as well as ecological security.
- On 18 November, Dan met with the Irish Ambassador, Barbara Jones. Ambassador Jones would like to host a dinner in January with other ambassadors to discuss how embassies in Stockholm can support SIPRI. She will also liaise with Dublin on potential financial support to SIPRI.
- On 19 November, Florian and Luc met with the Swedish MFA's desk officer for Somalia to discuss SIPRI's potential support to the Somali government during their upcoming UN Security Council term. The Somali government counterpart with whom SIPRI has been discussing this may visit Stockholm in December.
- SIPRI hosted an informal discussion on European security with its Stockholm-based distinguished associates on 19 November, followed by a mingle. The event went well and was well attended.

- On 22 November, Steph will take part in a workshop for Communications Directors of organizations that are part of Giva Sverige.
- On 6 December, SIPRI will host a small, closed roundtable with Stephan Klement, EU Special Envoy for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation and Special Advisor on the Iran Nuclear Issue.
- All staff are invited to a seasonal gathering in the library, with the Governing Board, on 16 December from 17.00 to 18.00. Traditional warm spiced wine “glögg” (both alcoholic and non-alcoholic) and seasonal treats will be served.

b. Relations with other countries

- Charlotta was in Copenhagen on 15 November for a meeting with the Political Director of the Danish MFA and other MFA colleagues working on Denmark's upcoming UN Security Council term and EU presidency. Denmark noted their interest in particular on climate (an agreement is about to be signed) and on the Women, Peace and Security agenda. They also highlighted the importance of Nordic-Baltic cooperation.
- On 18 November, Luc and Timo met with the European Centre of Excellence for Countering Hybrid Threats and a colleague from the Dutch Ministry of Defence. SIPRI will explore opportunities for project funding with the centre and the Dutch MoD.

c. Relations with other organizations

- SIPRI's workshop on the civilian dimension of the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy on 14 November in Brussels went well.
- 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

- SIPRI's new rental contract with Sagax for 2025-2035 was signed last week.

e. Outreach

- Outreach hosted a media training on 19 November, which went well.
- Outreach and the MILAP programme are working on the material for the arms industry data launch. The embargoed data will be shared on 25 November and the launch will take place on 2 December.

3. Delegation visits

- N/A

4. HR issues

- N/A

5. Project issues

- Internal discussions on a potential application for funding from MSB are ongoing.
- SIPRI's application for funding to the OSCE was unfortunately unsuccessful.

6. Due Diligence

- N/A

7. AOB

- N/A

8. Executive session

- SMT held an executive session.

Action items:

- DoSes to discuss and select a research headline they would each like to lead (from 13 November meeting).
- Luc to discuss a potential technical section with Shourjya (from 13 November meeting).
- All SMT members to comment on the ideas shared at the 12 November RSC meeting (from 13 November meeting).
- Steph and Sibylle to discuss bilaterally on how SIIS and CADCA can help disseminate the Chinese translation of the Yearbook (from 6 November meeting).

Follow-up items:

- Traineeship
- Legal expertise
- Intranet
- Improving concept notes
- Ideas shared at 12 November RSC meeting
- SSC and proposed ambassadorial roundtables