

## SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

11 December 2024

### MINUTES

#### Participants

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

#### Note-taker

Sepideh Soltaninia

#### Format

In-person meeting

#### **1. Minutes**

- SMT approved the minutes of the 27 November meeting but has yet to approve the minutes of the 4 December meeting.

#### **2. Report back**

##### **a. Sweden**

- SIPRI hosted the EUNPD introductory course on WMD, non-proliferation and disarmament from 2-5 December. This course for students in technical or natural science disciplines, went very well.
- On 10 December, the PD cluster organized a lunch-time seminar on 'Environment of War'. The seminar was well attended.
- Also on 10 December, the PD cluster hosted a small roundtable with Abdihakim Ainte, the Special Advisor on climate and food security to the Prime Minister's Office in Somalia. Colleagues from SIPRI, FBA, Sida and the Swedish MFA were in attendance, including Gunilla Carlsson, Chair of the Sida Governing Board.
- The annual project with the Japanese Embassy is moving forward, led by the China-Asia programme.
- The European Security programme's application for funding from the US Embassy was rejected. The programme is continuing project fundraising with the US government's Minerva Research Initiative and the Canadian government's MINDS programme.

##### **b. Relations with other countries**

- Timo and Jair were in Berlin from 2 to 4 December to discuss the future of the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy and the New Geopolitics of Conflict Management project with German government officials.

- Sibylle was also in Berlin on 9 December for meetings with the German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO) to discuss funding. GFFO's budget will not become clear until after the German elections but colleagues are encouraged to develop project proposals with GFFO desk officers so that they can be funded once the budget is announced.

**c. Relations with other organizations**

- On 10 December, Sibylle presented at the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung's internal arms control and disarmament strategy day.
- Sibylle and Wilfred will be in Wilton Park all next week for the annual conference on the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (*Supporting NPT diplomacy towards the 2026 Review Conference*).
- Dan has been asked to brief an internal NATO staff workshop on NATO and environmental security on 10 January.
- SIPRI is in discussions with GIZ to partner on a German Federal Government call related to climate resilience and the green transition.
- The CCR programme is in discussions with the German Council for Foreign Relations to bid for German government funding on climate and security.
- The Swedish Police and the Gender Unit of the UN and the Comprehensive Planning and Performance Assessment System (CPAS) are interested in working with SIPRI.

**d. Outreach**

- The arms industry data launch was covered by over 3,500 media outlets, an all-time record for this data launch.
- Outreach is moving forward with a PayPal link on SIPRI's website for donations.
- Outreach is also testing a request for donations when one first opens any page of the SIPRI website.

**e. Operations**

- SIPRI's interim audit, which was performed on 14-15 November and concluded with SIPRI receiving their report on 5 December, went very well. SIPRI received high marks in almost all categories and is in discussions with its auditors on the one area where they had some concerns.
- Operations is working on the closing of the books for October, the 2025 budget and the Annual Report.

**f. Dan's recent travels**

- Japan:
  - o Dan was in Nagasaki on 2 December to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with Nagasaki University and give a lecture at the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum.
  - o In Tokyo on 3 December, he met with senior officials at the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the International Peace Cooperation Headquarters in the Cabinet Office of Japan, and the Director General of the Arms Control and Disarmament Division of the Japanese Foreign Ministry.
- South Korea:
  - o Dan travelled to Seoul from Tokyo where, on 4 December, he provided a lecture at PeaceMomo, a youth-led peace organization.

- On 5 December, he spoke at the World Emerging Security Forum, which SIPRI supported the South Korean Foreign Ministry (ROK MoFA) in organizing. Wilfred and Jingdong also moderated panels at the conference. ROK MoFA is interested in partnering with SIPRI again on the forum.
- On 6 December, Dan had meetings at ROK MoFA with the Director General for International Organizations and Nuclear Affairs and the Director General for International Security. He also met with senior staff at the US Embassy.
- Qatar:
  - Dan was in Doha from 7-9 December for the Doha Forum and the Qatar Mediation Forum. He was also joined by Stefan and Alaa in Doha.
  - While in Doha, Dan and Stefan met briefly with Espen Barth Eide, Foreign Minister of Norway, to discuss potential funding to SIPRI. Dan is following up with Minister Eide's Chief of Staff.
  - Dan and Stefan also met with Chris Elias, President of Global Development at the Gates Foundation. Dan will follow-up on the discussion with the Gates Nordic Office in Stockholm.
  - Dan met with Javier Colomina, Acting Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs and Security Policy and the NATO Secretary General's Special Representative for the Southern Neighbourhood, NATO.
  - Dan also met with Majed Al-Ansari, Advisor to the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Official Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Qatar. They discussed a partnership between SIPRI and the Doha Forum and SIPRI leading the Nordic side of a GCC-Nordic dialogue on mediation.
  - Dan and Alaa met with the Doha Graduate Institute, which is interested in doing joint work with SIPRI's MENA programme.
  - SIPRI also organized a panel on 'The Crisis of Arms Control and Multilateralism' at the Doha Forum. The panel was moderated by Dan and Stefan was a speaker.

### **3. Review of finances**

- SMT reviewed the latest financial figures for 2024 and draft budget for 2025. These will be shared with staff during the 12 December RSC meeting and with the Board during the 16-17 December Governing Board meeting.

### **4. Yearbook**

- SMT discussed the possibility of further reducing the costs associated with the Yearbook.
- Steph will explore with Joey what flexibility SIPRI has in publishing the Yearbook itself online, without Oxford University Press.

### **5. 2025 Stockholm Forum**

- SMT continued its discussions on various options related to the 2025 Stockholm Forum.

### **6. Delegation visits**

- N/A

### **7. HR issues**

- N/A

**8. Project issues**

- N/A

**9. Due Diligence**

- N/A

**10. AOB**

- N/A

**11. Executive session**

- N/A

**Action items:**

- Steph to explore with Joey what flexibility SIPRI has in publishing the Yearbook itself online, without Oxford University Press.

**Follow-up items:**

- Traineeship
- Legal expertise
- Intranet
- Improving concept notes
- SSC and proposed ambassadorial roundtables
- Ideas raised during the November 2024 RSC