



SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

22 January 2025

MINUTES

Participants

Sibylle Bauer, Dan Smith, Kristina Sandberg, Charlotta Sparre, Luc van de Goor

Absent

Stephanie Blenckner, Florian Krampe

Note-taker

Sofie Waller Snygg

Format

In-person meeting

1. Minutes

- SMT approved the minutes of the 18 December 2024 meeting but has yet to approve the minutes of the 8 and 15 January 2025 meetings.

2. Matters arising

- Clarisa is developing a protocol for responding to crises/emergencies and will share this with Kristina and Charlotta once it is ready. It will then be brought back to SMT for next steps.

3. Report back

a. Sweden

- On 17 January, Charlotta briefly discussed the strategic grant with Helen Eduards, the MFA's Director General for Development Cooperation.
- On 20 January, Charlotta and Luc met with the Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA) to discuss a SIPRI-FBA MoU on MENA-related issues.
- On 24 January, Charlotta will meet with the Swedish MFA-UN department to discuss the strategic grant and the Stockholm Forum.
- An initial contact has been established with the Swedish MFA Diplomatic Training Programme regarding a visit to SIPRI during the spring.
- The Swedish Armed Forces has contacted SIPRI to schedule the annual visit from the Defence Attaché Training Programme.

b. Relations with other countries

- On 21 January, Charlotta met with the Qatari ambassador, H.E Nadya bint Ahmad Al-Sheebj, who reiterated Qatar's (and Doha Forum's) interest in the 2025 Stockholm Forum, including a possible visit by H.E Dr Mohammed Al-Khulaifi, Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, depending on the level of participation at the Forum.

c. Relations with other organizations

- During the week of 13 January, Sibylle lectured at and attended the 62nd International School on Disarmament and Research on Conflicts (ISODARCO) winter school, held on the topic of technology, war and nuclear stability in an age of conflict. ISODARCO was established in 1966 and is associated with the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs. The course served as an interesting opportunity for dialogue.
- As part of the New Geopolitics of Conflict Management, Jair and Gretchen will prepare a report and organize a FES-funded meeting in Berlin in the run-up to the Peacekeeping Ministerial in May.

d. Operations

- The process of the salary review is moving forward.

4. Delegation visits

- N/A

5. Review of finances

- Finance is working on closing the books for 2024.
- SIPRI's financial auditors, BDO, have suggested that the databases can be classified as immaterial assets. Operations are currently assessing the valuation with help from Programme Directors. Kristina will get back to SMT with more information.

6. Trump taking office

- Due to a lack of time, SMT decided to push this discussion to the SMT meeting on 29 January.

7. Nobel Peace Prize 2025

- SIPRI has been invited to nominate a candidate for the 2025 Nobel Peace Prize, to be awarded on 10 December 2025. The nomination must be presented to the Norwegian Nobel Committee by midnight CET on 31 January. It was agreed to raise it at the RSC meeting on 23 January to gather input from all staff and to revisit this topic at the next SMT meeting on 29 January.

8. HR issues

- SMT approved high-risk travel for Kheira to Somalia in February and a workshop at AAIA in collaboration with IOM as part of the IOM project.

9. Due Diligence

- N/A

10. AOB

- SMT discussed the agenda for the SMT meeting on 29 January. Besides the weekly recurring items, the agenda will include the following items:
 - o Trump taking office
 - o Nobel Peace Prize 2025
 - o Follow-up on the all-staff home day and staff development
 - o 2025 annual plan and calendar session
- SMT will hold extended meetings on 5 and 26 February, from 10:00-15:00.
- An additional SMT meeting is scheduled for 13 February, from 13:00-15:00.

11. Executive session

- SMT held an executive session.

Action items:

- Charlotta and Sibylle to develop an agenda for the UD NIS visit
- Dan and Sofie to revise the SMT action plan on ideas raised at the 11 November RSC meeting and share with staff
- Kristina to notify the Environmental Policy working group that the policy has been finalized and upload it to the intranet.

Follow-up items:

- Dates for the next Governing Board meetings
- Protocol for responding to crises/emergencies
- Travel form
- SIPRI's phone licenses
- New Maconomy set-up
- SIPRI's capacity for trainings