

SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

29 January 2025

MINUTES

Participants

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

Absent

Charlotta Sparre

Note-taker

Sofie Waller Snygg

Format

Hybrid meeting

AGENDA

1. Minutes

- SMT approved the minutes of the 8 and 15 January 2025 meetings but has yet to approve the minutes of the 22 January 2025 meeting.

2. Matters arising

- On 31 January, the Recruitment Committee will present its preferred candidate for the Director post to the SIPRI Governing Board.
- Clarisa is developing a crisis/emergency response protocol, and Kristina will follow up with SMT in due course.
- Finance will review the travel policy, and Operations will assess SIPRI's phone licenses once the 2024 books are closed. Kristina will provide updates as these reviews progress.
- SMT agreed that a briefing on the new Maconomy set-up would be beneficial. Kristina will coordinate with Fred and Nikos to schedule a session.

3. Report back

a) Sweden

- SMT discussed follow-up on Stefan and Steph's travel to Davos and the Swedish Lunch. SMT considered inviting Per Taube, SIPRI Distinguished Associate Fellow, for further discussions.

b) Relations with other countries

- On 31 January, Dan will meet with the Irish Ambassador to discuss plans for inviting members of the diplomatic corps in Stockholm to a dinner at the Irish Embassy to discuss ways of supporting SIPRI.
- Lauriane and Pauline are in Cameroon this week for the DUAT team's initial visit to the country for their project, "Strengthening Cameroon's annual reporting to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)."
- SIPRI has been invited to take the lead in convening a Nordic group to ensure continued communication and collaboration with Gulf peace mediation actors coordinated by Qatar. A first meeting on the Nordic side (think tanks from Finland, Norway and Sweden including FBA and UI as well as SIPRI) took place on 23 January and a joint Nordic–GCC meeting is foreseen at the Stockholm Forum in mid-May.
- SIPRI's application together with DGAP to the German Foreign Ministry was unsuccessful.

c) Relations with other organizations

- On 3 February, Dan will attend a workshop convened for authors of the Handbook on the Geopolitics of Sustainability.
- On 4 February, Dan will participate in a conference entitled "The Geopolitics of Sustainability" organised by Mistra Geopolitics.
- SIPRI has been approached by the OSCE Climate Section for a gender-climate-security study. The study will be an OSCE publication, co-published with SIPRI, and likely Adelphi. Florian and Luc to coordinate on how to move forward on this.
- The GIZ-ISS-SIPRI Think Piece on addressing fragility through integrated peacebuilding is set to be printed soon to ensure its availability for the Munich Security Conference.

d) Operations

- On 3-5 February, SIPRI's financial auditors, BDO, will be conducting their external audit of fiscal year 2024 and the Annual Report.
- SIPRI will be conducting radon measurements in the building. This is a requirement from the Swedish Work Environment Authority to ensure that employers monitor radon levels in areas where employees spend time. Radon detectors have been installed throughout the building and will remain for 60 days, before being sent for analysis.

e) Outreach

- SMT reviewed staff feedback on SIPRI's library subscriptions, assessing their relevance and usefulness. Steph will follow up with relevant staff to determine which subscriptions are essential for their work and why, ensuring an informed decision on renewals.
- SIPRI is facing significant challenges with its media monitoring system. The current supplier undertook an internal technical migration, which has drastically reduced the number of global media outlets SIPRI can track. Steph is actively investigating, including exploring alternative providers if necessary.

4. Delegation visits

- The Strategic Studies Center of the Qatar Armed Forces, led by H.E Major General Dr. Rashid Hamad Rashid Al-Nuaimi, will visit Sweden in April and has requested to visit SIPRI. Sofie to coordinate with relevant colleagues.
- A group of students and faculty from the U.S. Air War College has requested a meeting with SIPRI on 25 February 2025 as part of their Regional Security Studies course. Dan and Sofie will follow up on this.

5. Review of Finances

- Finance is in the final stages of closing the books for 2024. Current indications suggest there will be no negative surprises. The final figures will be presented to SMT at the meeting on 5 February.

6. Trump taking office

- SMT discussed the implications for SIPRI of Trump taking office and decided to hold a strategic discussion on fundraising in response to this development at the SMT meeting on 5 February.

7. Nobel Peace Prize 2025

- SMT followed up on SIPRI's invitation to nominate a candidate for the 2025 Nobel Peace Prize. Dan will remind staff to send him their suggestions, as the nomination must be formally presented to the Norwegian Nobel Committee by midnight CET on 31 January.

8. Follow-up on action items from the all-staff home day

- SMT followed up on action items from the all-staff home day. Sofie and Dan to revise the action plan and share it with staff.

9. 2025 annual plan and calendar session

- SMT reviewed the 2025 Annual Plan and agreed to follow up in next week's meeting. Sofie and Priscilla will refine and populate the plan in preparation for the discussion.

10. Next weeks agenda

- SMT discussed the agenda for the extended SMT meeting on 5 February. Besides the weekly recurring items, the agenda will include the following items:
 - Follow up on SMT's Zondera survey results
 - Follow up on finances
 - Strategic fundraising priorities
 - 2025 annual plan and calendar session

11. Due diligence

- SMT reviewed a potential collaboration with NTU-international for an EU-funded Expert Support Platform for Resilience. SMT approved moving forward with the collaboration.

- SMT reviewed a potential collaboration with the Young Professionals Network (YPN) in Albania for a grant application to the Swedish Institute. YPN and SIPRI aim to use this funding for a session at the 2026 Forum. SMT approved moving forward with the collaboration.
- SMT approved a collaboration to publish through Control Arms, an NGO monitoring the Arms Trade Treaty.

12. HR

- The French MFA is willing to fund a guest researcher in the European Security programme for a two to four year period. As part of this, Barbara, Charlotta and Luc have interviewed a candidate.

13. AOB

- SIPRI will receive new artwork from Statens Konstråd soon, which will be displayed throughout the institute.

14. Executive session

- The SMT held an executive session.

Action items:

- Kristina to schedule a Maconomy briefing for SMT with Karin, Fred and Nikos.
- Sofie and Dan to revise and share the all-staff home day action plan with staff.
- Sofie and Priscilla to finalize the 2025 annual plan. SMT to populate the plan with relevant items for their clusters/departments.
- Sofie to follow up with relevant colleagues on the request from the Strategic Studies Center of the Qatar Armed Forces.
- Steph to follow up with staff on library subscriptions and renewals.
- Dan and Sofie to follow up on the U.S. Air War College visit request.

Follow-up items:

- Dates for the next Governing Board meetings