



SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

12 February 2025

MINUTES

Participants

Sibylle Bauer, Stephanie Blenckner, Florian Krampe, Kristina Sandberg, Dan Smith, Charlotta Sparre

Absent

Luc van de Goor

Note-taker

Sofie Waller Snygg

Format

Hybrid meeting

AGENDA

1. Minutes

- SMT approved the minutes of the 29 January and 5 February meetings.

2. Matters arising

- Stephanie has signed a contract with a new media monitoring provider, Meltwater. Onboarding for the new provider is scheduled for 18 February.

3. Report back

a) Relations with other countries

- On 31 January, Stefan, Dan, Charlotta, and Sibylle attended a dinner at the Irish Embassy with members of the diplomatic corps in Stockholm to discuss support for SIPRI. The event was productive and may result in support for Global South participation at the Forum.

b) Relations with other organizations

- SIPRI is in discussions with the Swedish Red Cross and Swedish Doctors Against Nuclear War to approach the Japanese embassy to explore potential activities to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
- SMT agreed to move forward with two funding proposals for an Australian MoD call, prioritising applications from:

- a) the WMD/MILAP/China-Asia Security programmes on effective implementation of CSBMs and risk reduction in Southeast Asia; and
- b) the DUAT/China and Asian Security programmes on mapping and responding to recent developments in China's dual-use export controls.

c) Operations

- SIPRI's financial auditors, BDO, have reviewed the annual report and are expected to provide final approval soon. Once received, the final financial results will be communicated to all staff.
- BDO has approved SIPRI's databases as immaterial assets, which will positively impact SIPRI's financial results.
- The risk assessment of SIPRI's restructuring is ongoing with staff consultation presented by SIPRI's Safety Officers. The risk assessment will be further discussed.

d) Outreach

- The communications team has done a social media evaluation for 2024, led by Tristan.
- Progress continues on the arms transfers press release, which will be shared with Dan, Charlotta, and Sibylle on 14 February for feedback by 17 February at noon.
- A backgrounder on the Ukrainian arms industry is being authored by Lorenzo and Kateryna, with plans to publish before the anniversary of the Russian full-scale invasion of Ukraine on 22 February.
- The Forum received over 100 session proposals from old and new partners. These will be reviewed and narrowed down to 30 sessions.

4. Delegation visits

- N/A

5. Review of finances and strategic fundraising priorities

- SMT will continue to receive weekly updates on SIPRI finances.
- At the Governing Board meeting in December, the Board asked to receive financial updates every two months in 2025. The financial forecasting for 2025 is still in the early stages as the books for 2024 are not yet closed, but preliminary figures can be sent. For the first report to cover both January and February, it can be sent in mid-to-late March. Dan to speak to Stefan about how and when the Board prefer to receive the first update.
- SMT will add strategic fundraising priorities as a permanent item on the SMT agenda.
- Florian is organizing an initial meeting on 'Environment of War' in March and will invite interested colleagues.

6. Follow up on SMT priorities

- SMT reviewed the list of priorities they set in January and discussed how to move them forward throughout 2025 (see SMT minutes from 8 January). Sofie will update and organise them into a separate document, outlining each priority, the process and timeline, and who is responsible.

- It was confirmed that the Governing Board meeting in May 2025 will be held online. The in-person meeting is planned for early October, allowing time for the new Director to settle in before. SMT to check their calendars for international events that may conflict with proposed dates and Charlotta to check dates with Stefan.

7. Strategic Grant

- SMT discussed the budgeting and allocation to projects of the strategic grant for 2025. The discussion will continue at an extended SMT meeting on 26 February, from 10:00-15:00.

8. Next week's agenda

- Besides recurring items, SMT will discuss:
 - o Follow-up on 2025 priorities.

9. Due diligence

- N/A

10. HR

- N/A

11. AOB

- N/A

12. Executive session

- The SMT held an executive session.

Action items:

- Dan to discuss the modalities for the first financial report to the Board of 2025.
- Sofie and Priscilla to explore dates for an SMT away day
- Sofie to update SMT's list of priorities for 2025
- SMT to check their calendars for international events that may conflict with a Governing Board meeting in early October.

Follow-up items:

-