



January 2025

## SIPRI Attribution policy

### Purpose

This memo serves as a brief guide to attribution as it pertains to SIPRI publications.\*

### Compact between authors *before* writing

It is important that all authors agree to their contribution and the related attribution for SIPRI publications before beginning the process of writing, so that there is no misunderstanding when the publication is complete. This can be accomplished through a simple email between all contributors—proposing division of labour and associated attribution (using the guidance below). **If this is agreed by all contributors, then this email serves as a compact and should be forwarded to the line manager of the lead author.** Of course, as the work develops, the contribution and, therefore, attribution may change—this should be amended with another email and agreement by all contributors. If there are disagreements over attribution, the line manager(s) will ask to see this compact between authors.

### Guidance for attribution

When determining whether a contributor will be listed in the author credit line or the acknowledgements of a publication, the following criteria apply:

- All of those who contributed more than a page of text (or more than 5% of the total volume of the publication, whichever is higher) that appears in the final published version of a written work shall be named as authors;
- The order of authors' names shall be determined in accordance with a principle of attribution for both quality and quantity of work:
  - unless otherwise explicitly agreed, the lead author shall be listed first based on contributions (described below), the second author shall have contributed the second highest contribution, and so on;
  - the volume of work contributed should be one criterion—more work should be acknowledged with higher listing in author order;
  - the quality of work contributed should be another criterion. Quality is highly subjective, and this guidance cannot realistically

weigh every feature of quality, however, examples of quality contributions include: original idea for the paper, overall narrative and main argumentation, organization and structure, hypothesis development and model testing, editing/revising/restructuring, summaries and main points;

- A paper is not simply the words that finally end up being on a page—it is also the process of submitting through internal or external (academic) publication processes—authors' contributions to the submission process as corresponding author, editing and revisions, may affect attribution (which would then be amended in an email);
- Where authors agree that they have contributed equal work, in both substance and quantity, they shall resolve order of authorship among each other, as alphabetical ordering is an outdated concept;
- For cases in which the contributing individual's text does not appear in the publication, but s/he contributed research and/or worked on the execution of related events, they shall be included in the acknowledgements section or, if this is unavailable, a footnote or endnote.

### **Decision modalities in the case of disputes**

In the event that there is a dispute that does not fall within the above criteria and contributors are unable to come to a compromise, the issue, the email compact and related evidence should be referred to the direct line manager(s) of the individuals involved, with the potential for reference to the Director(s) of Studies.

*\*We acknowledge that these rules only apply for publications issued by SIPRI and that other outlets apply their own attribution rules.*