

SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

6 May 2025

MINUTES

Participants

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

Note-taker

Sofie Waller Snygg

Format

In-person meeting

AGENDA

1. Minutes

- SMT has yet to approve the minutes from 23 and 30 April.

2. Matters arising

- Dan confirmed that the KPI draft has been updated, ready to be shared with the Governing Board.
- A presentation on the cluster finances from Karin and Nikos is scheduled for the SMT meeting on 21 May.

3. Report back

a) Relations with other countries

- On 30 April, Dan met with the Director of the International Security and Cyber Affairs Division at the ROK MFA, Wooseoong Yang, to discuss SIPRI's participation in the World Emerging Security Forum (WESF) on 8 September.
- On 6 May, DUAT hosted a webinar for Australia Group participating states funded by the EUNDPC. The event focused on outreach to new actors in the life science sector and included a presentation of a new EUNDPC brief, authored by Kolja and Lauriane, and a moderated discussion.
- This week, SIPRI is hosting a Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Diplomatic Training course for the MFA of Saudi Arabia. The course has this far gone very well and the group is very engaged.

b) Relations with other organizations

- On 5 May, Charlotta attended a dinner with the ICRC, Sida, MFA migration experts, and others. The discussion focused on global developments, particularly the Middle East and Ukraine, and how these affect humanitarian needs.
- On 5-6 May, SIPRI hosted a DPRK–European Union Dialogue on ‘Northeast Asia security trends under Trump 2.0’ at Steninge Slott.
- On 8-11 May, Barbara will attend the Polish EU Presidency Think Tank Forum.
- Virginie will be in Stockholm next week, before travelling to Brussels to meet with the European Commission about the continuation of the RECAP project. She will also present on the Islamization of the Sahel to the French military and on preventing violent extremism in coastal West Africa.
- SIPRI has received an invitation from UN Women to attend a Women, Peace and Security conference in Cairo in June. Either Charlotta or Gretchen will attend, depending on availability.

c) Comms

- Work is ongoing for the Multilateral Peace Operations data launch, planned for 26 May at 10:00. No embargo will go out ahead of the launch.

d) Operations

- Following the recent radon measurement, Kristina has been in contact with a radon expert and a representative from SIPRI’s occupational health provider, Falk, to discuss appropriate next steps. The main mitigation measure will be to improve ventilation in the basement. A follow-up radon measurement is planned for the autumn, as seasonal conditions currently make it difficult to obtain an accurate reading.

4. Delegation visits

- N/A

5. Review of finances and strategic fundraising priorities

a) Review

- SIPRI’s liquidity remains tight but is being monitored closely.

b) Fundraising

- The Swedish MFA has expressed interest in supporting SIPRI’s work on civilian Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), building on a previous project led by Timo. The proposed grant is SEK 750,000 to be used before the end of 2025. Luc is following up on this.
- SMT noted that this is the second recent opportunity related to CSDP and may warrant strategic consideration of SIPRI’s engagement in this area.

c) Due diligence

- SMT approved the participation of Scania in an upcoming business lunch on climate-resilient investments. Scania is not a funder, and its involvement is deemed acceptable within SIPRI’s due diligence framework.

6. Review of SIPRI's policies: First batch

- SMT held a discussion about the updated version of the SIPRI policy on ethical Due Diligence on financial sponsorship. The updated draft of the policy is under silence procedure until Friday, 9 May, at 12.00.
- The Anti-Corruption Policy is still being revised. Sofie to share the revised version with SMT ahead of the meeting on 21 May.

7. May Governing Board meeting: Final check-in

- SMT received an update on final preparations for the May Governing Board meeting and discussed the session that will be open to all staff. Based on staff feedback, the session with the Board will focus on "*Navigating SIPRI's path in a changing world*", guided by the following questions:
 - o How do we stay relevant?
 - o What are we missing?
 - o How do we balance breadth and depth?
- Each Board member will begin by sharing a brief reflection (approximately four minutes), followed by an open discussion.

8. 2025 Stockholm Forum: Final check-in

- SMT received an update on final preparations for the Forum.

9. Schedule before summer

- The final SMT before the summer break will be held on Wednesday, 18 June.
- The final Monday morning meeting before the summer break will be on Monday, 23 June.
- During the summer period, no regular SMTs or MMMs will be scheduled.
- The first Monday morning meeting after the summer is tentatively scheduled for Monday, 11 August.
- The first SMT after the summer break is TBC, pending confirmation on SMT's summer leave dates.
- SMT members to send summer leave dates to Priscilla, who will compile a schedule to support planning for meetings, signatures, and core operations. A reminder was made to check availability of key teams (e.g. IT, finance, outreach, PMO) and ensure signatory coverage during the summer.

10. Staffing / HR

- Charlotta reported back from the Cooperation Group meeting on 7 May, which included a follow-up to a workshop held in April on "Cooperation at SIPRI". A one-pager has been prepared to identify what is working well, where there are gaps, and what needs an action plan.

11. Next SMT agenda (26 May)

- Institute finances
- Cluster finances
- Report back from the Governing Board meeting to SMT
- Policies

- Anti-Corruption and Whistleblower Policy

12. AOB

- SMT noted the need to have more frequent cleaning and maintenance of the office during major events and visits to SIPRI.

13. Executive session

- N/A

Action items:

- Sofie to revise and circulate the updated draft of the Anti-Corruption Policy and the current Whistleblower Policy
- SMT to send their summer leave dates to Sofie and Priscilla
- Carried over from last week's minutes:
 - Karin to meet with DoSs regarding cluster finances

Follow-up items:

- SMT to revisit the date of the June away day (pending any information and even a possible decision on an event with UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi during his visit)
- Strategic fundraising discussion