

SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

21 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

Hybrid meeting

AGENDA

1. Minutes

- SMT approved the minutes from 23 April, 30 April and 6 May.

2. Matters arising

- SMT confirmed 3 June (09:30–13:00) as the new date for the SMT away day. The meeting will be held at SIPRI. The agenda will be discussed at the SMT meeting on 28 May.
- SMT members were reminded to send their summer leave dates to Sofie and Priscilla.
- SMT decided to cancel the plans of organising a public event together with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, due to scheduling challenges in June. Instead, Stephanie will follow up and propose that a joint interview with Dan and Filippo Grandi is organized.

3. Report back

a) 2025 Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development

- SMT members noted that the Forum generated several productive bilateral meetings and follow-up opportunities.

b) Sweden

- On 23-27 June, Charlotta will attend the Almedalen Week, which is a large Swedish political event which takes place every year on the island of Gotland. Colleagues are

encouraged to flag to her any events or themes where her participation might be valuable.

c) Relations with other countries

- The Diplomatic Institute of the Qatari Ministry of Foreign Affairs has expressed interest in having SIPRI organize a training course for diplomats, similar to the disarmament and non-proliferation course held in cooperation with the Saudi MFA on 5–8 May 2025.
- A Saudi participant from the recent diplomatic training course expressed strong interest in continued engagement with SIPRI. Among other things, they have proposed that Sibylle give a lecture in Riyadh in September at the MFA, as well as a lecture at local universities to talk about the EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Consortium and on disarmament and non-proliferation.

d) Relations with other organizations

- On 12 May, SIPRI signed an MoU on cooperation with the Doha-based Centre for International Policy Research (CIPR). CIPR is considering possible support to the SIPRI initiative on the humanitarian imperative.
- Also on 12 May, the EU Council adopted Decision (CFSP) 2025/889, launching Phase V of the EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Consortium (EUNPDC) (2025–2028), with €4.5 million in funding. SIPRI was reappointed as consortium coordinator and leads several of the nine project components. Sibylle presented the new phase at recent Council Working Party meetings, where SIPRI received positive feedback.
- On 15 May, Charlotta attended the Alva Myrdal Centre for Nuclear Disarmament (AMC) board meeting (of which she is a board member). At the meeting, they were introduced to Lisa Hultman, who will be taking over as the next Director of AMC from 1 June. Erik Melander, who has led the centre since its inception, will start in a new role at Försvarshögskolan.
- On 23 May, Sibylle will attend an Arms Control Negotiation Academy event in Reykjavik. The event will bring together a diverse group of people and will include contributions from high-level speakers, including the former President of Iceland, Guðni Th. Jóhannesson.
- UN Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Izumi Nakamitsu, will be in Stockholm in June ahead of her keynote at the AMC conference on 13 June and has informally expressed an interest in visiting SIPRI. Sibylle will follow up on this.
- As mentioned in previous minutes, SIPRI has received an invitation from UN Women to attend a Women, Peace and Security conference in Cairo in June. It has now been decided that Abeer will represent SIPRI at the conference.
- SIPRI has been invited to join an internal seminar hosted by *Framtidssmedjan Elders*, a cross-party dialogue group chaired by former State Secretary Ulf Dahlsten. The group consists of senior Swedish public officials; it organises regular public and closed-door discussions on long-term policy issues. The upcoming seminar will focus on global developments over the next 50 years. Barbara MT will attend on SIPRI's behalf and give a presentation on climate security.
- Dr Azza Karam, former Secretary-General of Religions for Peace and currently a member of the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Advisory Board on Effective

Multilateralism, will be in Stockholm in late August. SIPRI will host a small roundtable meeting on 20 August in connection with her visit.

- SMT decided to nominate Caroline as SIPRI's representative on the Swedish Committee of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2027.
- SIPRI has received a request from a major Lebanese news outlet to contribute to a summer training for journalists on nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. If this goes ahead, it may be an interesting output to integrate into the strategic grant deliverables.
- SIPRI has been asked to nominate participants for a UN Youth and Disarmament event in September. Nominations will include candidates from the EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Consortium and SIPRI's armament and disarmament summer school.

e) Comms

- Preparations for the launch of the Multilateral Peace Operations data launch are ongoing, which is scheduled for 26 May at 10:00.
- The SIPRI Yearbook is currently with the indexer, and preparations are ongoing ahead of the launch on 16 June.

f) Operations

- SIPRI's application for a 90 account has been approved. This account is a formal quality label that allows public donations and is a requirement for applying to become a beneficiary of the Swedish Postcode Lottery. The organisation providing the 90 account (Svensk Insamlingskontroll) will announce SIPRI as a new member with such an account, and Steph will engage with them ahead of their forthcoming press release, which SIPRI will share on our channels.
- The elevator is currently marked as out of order due to a faulty door photo sensor, which requires replacement. However, the elevator remains operational, and repairs have been requested.
- A fire drill is scheduled for Monday, 26 May. Fire safety procedures have been communicated to all staff.
- The books mistakenly sent by Oxford University Press (OUP) have still not been returned and Kristina is finding it hard to find anybody at OUP to show any interest.

4. Delegation visits

- A delegation from the National Assembly Research Service (NARS) of the Republic of Korea will visit SIPRI on 2 June. Fei is coordinating the visit.

5. Review of finances and strategic fundraising priorities

a) Review

- SMT received a financial update based on the same material presented to the Governing Board on 19–20 May. An all-staff presentation will be held at the RSC on 27 May, 10:30-12:00.

b) Cluster finances

- The item was postponed to the SMT away day on 3 June.

c) Fundraising

- N/A

d) Due diligence

- N/A

6. Report back from Board meeting

- SMT received a report back from Dan and Charlotta on the Board meeting, held virtually on 19–20 May from 14:00–17:00 each day. All staff will receive a presentation on the key outcomes at the RSC meeting on 27 May.

7. Review of SIPRI's policies: Anti-corruption and Whistleblower

- Ahead of the meeting, Sofie had circulated the updated draft of the Anti-Corruption Policy and the current Whistleblower Policy. The revisions to the policy mainly pertained to the reporting procedures in the policies, and SMT discussed how to best make them more robust. SMT decided to put the drafts under silence procedure until Friday, 23 May, COB. Once the revised policies have been approved, Sofie will upload the updated versions to the SIPRI intranet.

8. Staffing / HR issues

- The MBL process has now been formally concluded, and all individual cases have been finalised. If anyone has any questions, they are welcome to reach out to HR.

9. Next SMT agenda (26 May)

- Besides the weekly recurring items, SMT will also discuss the agenda for the SMT away day on 3 June.

10. AOB

- N/A

11. Executive session

- N/A

Action items:

- SMT to send their summer leave dates to Sofie and Priscilla
- Comms to engage with Svensk Insamlingskontroll regarding the announcement of the approved 90 account.
- Silence procedure review of Anti-Corruption Policy and the Whistleblower Policy.
- Communicate Caroline's nomination as SIPRI representative to the FAO Committee.
- Sibylle to follow up on meeting with Izumi Nakamitsu.
- Charlotta to follow up on proposal for training course for Qatari diplomats.

Follow-up items:

- Strategic fundraising discussion