

SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

10 September 2025

MINUTES

Participants

Sibylle Bauer, Stephanie Blenckner, Luc van de Goor, Karim Haggag, Florian Krampe, Kristina Sandberg, Charlotta Sparre

Note-taker

Priscilla Frimpong Boateng

Format

Hybrid

AGENDA

1. Minutes

SMT approved the minutes of the 3 September meeting.

2. Report back from clusters

a) Sweden

- It was suggested that Dr Elisabeth Sköns, SIPRI Associate – and former staff member - would be invited sometime during the autumn to share history of SIPRI, in preparation for the 60th anniversary.
- SIPRI is currently coordinating with the Swedish MFA climate security focal point to host a series of targeted briefings for key personnel, timed with our upcoming Strategic Grant publications.

b) Relations with other organizations

- Sibylle, Fei and Michal (SIPRI Associate on Quantum technologies) were in Seoul for the World Emerging Security Forum organized by the ROK, MFA in cooperation with SIPRI. In addition to the WESF, there was a meeting with the Swedish Ambassador to ROK, Karl-Olof Andersson.
- New possible partnerships: Florian is having conversations with the German Ministry of Defense on green procurement (potentially bridging CCR and arms trade expertise) and climate defense nexus and the Dutch Government on water security in Ukraine. Both are interested in follow-ups, including a potential scenario exercise.
- Munich Security Conference (MSC):
 - SIPRI has received strong interest from both the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the German MoD to co-host events or place climate security on the agenda at the next MSC.
 - The German Center for International Peace Operations (ZIF) is interested in having a side event with SIPRI on the margins of the SMT.
 - The possibility of SIPRI holding a session on the MSC main agenda.
 - MSC to be further discussed at upcoming SMT.

c) Relations with other countries

- Florian informed that Katongo is in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and he had a meeting at the Swedish Embassy.
- Steph and Luc attended the National Day Celebration of the DPRK on Saturday.

d) Comms

- On 9 September the United Nations Secretary-General released a new report – to which Nan has contributed very substantially - warning of the dangers of rising Military Spending. The report cites SIPRI's latest figures showing that global military spending reached an unprecedented \$2.7 trillion in 2024.

e) Operations

- Operations is moving ahead with the temporary solution for GAD. A risk analysis on the internal move is being conducted with the safety officers. In parallel there are ongoing negotiations with the unions.

3. Looking forward

- On 18 September, Karim and Charlotta will have courtesy visits with the State Secretary for Foreign Affairs and the State Secretary for Development Cooperation. SMT colleagues are to share bullet points of topics to discuss at the meeting.
- The Governing Board meeting will take place on 6-8 October. All board members except Radha Kumar will be attending.
- On 29 September to 1 October, Charlotta will be in Doha to participate in a meeting on mediation in the Arab world.
- On 2 and 3 October, Charlotta and Sibylle will attend the AMC Retreat taking place in Uppsala.
- Karim received an invitation to the Wilton Park dialogue on 'NPT Diplomacy Towards the 2026 Review Conference on 15 December.
- The training course for the Saudi MFA is to take place the week of 8 June 2026.
- The Qatari MFA has reached out to SIPRI for a training course in the first quarter of 2026. The agenda and budget for the training course is yet to be discussed.

4. Upcoming SIPRI events

- Martina briefed SMT on the upcoming events pipeline and the division of labour. This plan included all events currently confirmed as of 10 September 2025. In case new events be added during the September–December period, they would fall outside the scope of the Events team's current responsibilities and require separate planning and staffing.

5. Delegation visits & invitation to meetings

- SMT discussed the agenda for the visit by the Foreign Affairs Committee. The agenda for the visit by the Foreign Affairs Committee. The agenda will focus on European Security and also to show the breadth of SIPRI's activities. SMT to send blurbs on the different sessions to Charlotta.
- SMT discussed the invitation to the Aswan Forum organized by CCCPA and possible SIPRI attendance.

6. Preparation for the Board meeting

- SMT briefly talked about the upcoming Board meeting. Topic to be addressed next week.
- Kristina to give an update on the financial reporting to SMT 17 September prior to the 18 September RSC meeting.

7. HR issues and staffing

- SMT approved the memo for the recruitment of a Research Assistant to support the project with the Gates and Human Security Trust Fund, provided that the applications are approved.
- SMT approved the memo for the recruitment of a Research Assistant for the Food, Peace and Security team
- SMT approved the one-year sabbatical stay of a Japanese scholar who works on peacebuilding
- Małgorzata Burchard-Dziubińska, from the Uniwersytet Łódzki in Poland will visit SIPRI from September 22nd to October 1st. She is interested to deepen her knowledge and skills in estimating the ecological impacts of armaments and warfare, including estimating GHG emissions.

8. Due diligence

N/A

9. Next week's SMT agenda

- Board meeting
- Financial reporting

10. AOB

- Spanish Catalan translation of the yearbook.

Action items

- SMT colleagues to share bullet points of topics to discuss at the meeting with the MFA and Development Cooperation State Secretaries. Luc and Florian to share a tracker of the strategic grant related deliverables with Karim prior to the meeting.
- SMT to have a discussion during the SMT follow up meeting on Friday on the possibility of SIPRI organizing a session on the main MSC Conference.
- Karim to delegate the invitation to the Wilton Park event on 15 December
- SMT to have a briefing on MSC at the SMT follow up meeting on Friday

Follow up items

- SIPRI's 60th anniversary