SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING
24 September 2025

MINUTES

<u>Participants</u>
Sibylle Bauer, Stephanie Blenckner, Luc van de Goor, Karim Haggag, Florian Krampe, Kristina Sandberg, Charlotta Sparre

<u>Note-taker</u>
Priscilla Frimpong Boateng

<u>Format</u>
Hybrid

AGENDA

1. Minutes
- SMT approved the minutes of the 10 September meeting.

2. Discussion on Strategic Grant
- SMT had a discussion with Nikos on the Strategic Grant and the need to shift funds between projects. SMT agreed in principle to shifting some Strategic Grant funds but stressed that this must be tied to concrete deliverables and aligned narratives. Key considerations include identifying savings, clarifying direct costs, and ensuring the Strategic Grant remains dynamic.

3. Stockholm Forum 2026
- Based on background information provided by Claire and Martina, SMT discussed a potential 2026 Stockholm Forum. FBA and Sida have indicated their continued interest to be partners of the 2026 Forum. The MFA has also expressed positive interest. The Gates Foundation and UN Human Security Trust Fund are also committed to organizing two sessions at the Forum.
- SMT considered two sets of dates for the Forum (25–27 May or 6–8 October). It was decided to proceed with May. Several considerations were made including on aligning expectations and ambitions (particularly in light of the 60-anniversary year) and the need for efficient project management to ensure adequate time and resources are set aside for planning. The importance of using the Forum strategically was stressed. For this, clear internal communication with staff will be essential.

4. Preparation for the Governing Board meeting
- SMT discussed the upcoming Board meeting. Charlotta will share the updated agenda with SMT.
- The meeting will include a workshop with staff. Karim is working on this, and details will be shared with staff ahead of the Board meeting.

5. 2026 Munich Security Conference
- SMT agreed to move forward with the two co-hosted side event applications, one with the International Crisis Group and another with ZIF.
- SMT also discussed whether SIPRI should aim to be included in the main agenda at MSC, which could potentially significantly raise visibility. Advocacy for this with MSC requires careful assessment of staff time, preparation, and overall costs.
- In addition to the sessions with Crisis Group and ZIF, the Green Climate Fund had expressed interest in partnering with SIPRI. SMT agreed that Florian could continue to explore a possible partnership with the Green Climate Fund, provided they would have funding for an event. A review of last year's costs, time investment, and participant engagement was recommended to better evaluate the value of MSC involvement.

6. Report back from clusters
- The training course for the Saudi Arabian MFA is now planned for the week of 15 June 2026.
- Florian will be traveling to Canada and USA the last week of October/first week November. During the visit he is also planning to have specific outreach to major donors, including Carnegie Corporation, Rockefeller Brothers, Humanity United, Ford foundation. Given that several colleagues in house across clusters have different engagements with various of these donors Florian would appreciate good coordination ahead.

7. Due Diligence
- N/A

8. Next week's SMT agenda
- Engagements with the SEB bank
- Follow up discussion on Strategic Grant

9. AOB -
N/A

Action items
- Nikos to share options for budget relocation and next steps for the Strategic Grant with SMT
- Florian and Luc to look into the projects in the Strategic Grant and give an estimate on the direct costs remaining.
- Priscilla to complete an assessment of the financial costs and time spent in preparation for the MSC with Karim and Charlotta.
- Karim to initiate a conversation with Helga Schmid and Benedikt Franke regarding SIPRI's participation on the main stage of the MSC.
- Charlotta to share the updated agenda for the Governing Board meeting with SMT.