

Minute taker: Noel Kelly  
Location: The Conference Room  
Time: 9:30-11:00

### **SIPRI Armament and Disarmament Cluster Meeting**

Solna, 16 January 2019

#### **Participants:**

Sibylle Bauer, Mark Bromley, Shannon Kile, Joey Fox, John Batho, Vincent Boulainin, Pieter Wezeman, Petr Topychkanov, Siemon Wezeman, Nan Tian, Kolja Brockmann, Giovanna Maletta, Tarja Cronberg, Martina Selmi, Ugnė Komžaitė

#### **Agenda for A&D cluster meeting**

- Report back from Programme Heads on recent/upcoming activities (please include in the report any updates on UD funded work)
- Publications update (Joey)
- Report back from SMT (Sibylle)
- Planning agenda for A&D away day 2019
- AOB

## **Report back from Programme Heads on recent and upcoming activities**

### **DUAT**

- DUAT are working on the YB chapter and finalising two projects at the moment. One being the FCO funded project and the second UNSCAR funded, both related to ATT assistance database. (See A&D cluster notes from 6 December for more information).
- Work is starting with the Flemish Peace Institute on a project about illicit firearms trafficking in Europe. Currently working on devising a template for country mapping covering 28 countries in total with the DUAT team responsible for mapping 10 countries. The work will be carried out between February and April.
- The DUAT team are starting to work on the next part of the EXBS project that is looking at firstly, investigations and prosecutions of export control violations, and secondly, export control regimes and how they coordinate and deal with evolving technologies. This work will run from now until October 2019.
- As part of the UD grant work DUAT are working on a report about SDG 16.4 measuring the illicit trade in arms. Alfredo Malaret, who previously worked as a remote research assistant will come back and do a remote consultancy with SIPRI and contribute to the SDG 16.4 work and ATT assistance database work.
- In terms of upcoming events, there is a Preparatory Committee Meeting for the Arms Trade Treaty Fifth Conference of States Parties, to be held on 29 January -1 February in Geneva. It is planned for Giovanna to attend this event.
- A new intern will join the DUAT team at the beginning of February and his name is Enzo Caponetti. A guest researcher will join DUAT from April to July called Mónica Chinchilla, a PhD student from Spain working on dual-use export controls.

### **Bio Plus X project report**

- This project is progressing and the scope is expanding with the team now in discussions with the German MFA who have approached SIPRI for further contributions. This includes participating in an international conference being organized on emerging technologies in March with the BIO Plus X project team having been asked to be a

topical partner on bio issues. The German MFA has chosen four technology issue areas for this conference with four different institutes each covering a specific technology area, apart from SIPRI working on bio, the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) on cyber, the Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (SWP) on lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWs), the Foundation for Strategic Research (FRS) on hypersonics. This will be an opportunity to launch the Bio Plus X report being worked on by Kolja, Sibylle and Vincent. More broadly the team will pitch in with regards to participants, the composition of the sessions, a gallery walk and a side event where the Bio plus X study will be presented. Sibylle and Kolja will be in Berlin at the German MFA for a planning meeting to discuss the project, conference, and collaboration efforts on 18 January.

## **EUNPDC**

- The EUNPDC conference and the annual Network meeting held in Brussels on 17-19 December was reported on. From SIPRI, Sibylle, Giovanna, Pieter, Tytti, and Vincent all attended. The network meeting on the 17 December was an opportunity to go over the activities implemented since the new contract was signed in May 2018. It also explored suggestions for who could join the network from EU countries not covered. After the Conference, two more meetings were held: one between the members of the Consortium and the EU (Commission and the EEAS) which was followed by a meeting of the Board of the Consortium. The meetings examined the priorities for the next activities of the Consortium. For example, it was agreed that one of the priorities should be to involve in the Network institutes from all EU member states and fill existing regional gaps. In addition, it was discussed what are the priorities in terms of seminars that can be arranged or papers that can be published. The 2019 Carnegie Nuclear Policy Conference (11-13 March 2019) was discussed because the Consortium will have an exhibition booth there and Sibylle and Giovanna will be attending along with two other consortium members.
- It was reported that since this meeting a number of institutions from countries that have not yet joined the Network expressed an interest in doing so. It is reported that a Croatian institution (The Institute for Development and International Relations – IMRO) and the Bulgarian Center for the Study of Democracy (CSD) institutes have expressed interest in joining. In addition, the Odessa Centre for Non-Proliferation (OdCNP) has expressed an interest and this is also under discussion. The EEAS have now clarified that think tanks from EU partner countries are also eligible to join and provided specific language for this.

## Nuclear Team

- SIPRI Associate Fellow, Lars-Erik Lundin at the behest of the Swedish Government and it is stressed independently from SIPRI is releasing a report on whether the Swedish Government should be joining the Nuclear Ban Treaty. Any media inquires should be passed along to communications.
- The team has been working on the Yearbook and Shannon has been collating the contributions.
- The nuclear team is working on the latest report for Hiroshima Prefecture scheduled to be ready as a first draft at the beginning of February 2019. There will be a workshop at SIPRI at the beginning of March (date TBD) with the aim to bring here associates from Europe and anyone from A&D that is interested in the issue of nuclear disarmament verification. A draft paper of the report will be sent to all participants in advance to get feedback preferable before or if not at the meeting. Petr leads the authors' team in a report about the verification of nuclear disarmament. This is being prepared in connection with the NPT PrepCom held in New York at the end of April/ beginning of May 2019. Hiroshima Prefecture will have a side event and the findings of the report will be presented.
- Tytti has a grant application for a longer-term project on Iran's missile programme with The Rockefeller Foundation and is waiting to hear back. Discussions are ongoing with the European Leadership Network about having a seminar on the INF Treaty. There is interest from The Heinrich Böll Foundation but no further details at the moment.
- The nuclear team's intern Ugnė Komžaitė is extending her stay at SIPRI for a further two months.
- Tarja reported on being in Iran for 14 days at the beginning of December where she interviewed politicians, especially in the parliament, decisions makers and ambassadors, to help understand the domestic political situation. The situation in Iran is quite dramatic and many foreign companies are leaving with the economy in a downturn. The Iranians are claiming they are going from engagement to resistance. Leaving the NPT has been talked about but it is not a widely supported proposal. There is going to be conference on the 13-14 April in Warsaw organized by the US and Poland together with more than 70 countries invited and its objective is to create a coalition against Iran. The Iranians have not been invited. If you are interested in wanting to know more on these topics, please contact Tarja.

## **Emerging Military and Security Technologies**

- The next Carnegie project event on artificial intelligence and nuclear risk will be held on 25/26 February in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Petr has the lead in organizing this event. The final event will be in May in New York and is under discussion. On further Carnegie project activity Vincent is putting together an edited volume of papers that should be ready in time for the GGE on autonomous weapons being held in Geneva during March.
- Vincent has prepared a proposal and sent a concept note to SMT for consideration on a new project concerning autonomous weapons systems. It is hoped to be a collaborative project with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

## **AMEX**

- Currently the AMEX team are working in the main with data collection and input for both arms transfers and military expenditures.
- A guest researcher called Michael Lebacher, a PhD candidate at Munich University will visit SIPRI and be hosted by AMEX during week 5 (29 January to 1 February). He is working on papers concerning developments in arms flows.
- On 17 January Aude will be in Uppsala to give a lecture to students on work done by AMEX.
- Alexandra is away with Dan and Tytti in Beirut for the launch of the Arabic translation of the SIPRI Yearbook 2018.
- Reminders for AMEX data launches 2019: the arms transfers data launch on 11 March 2019; the milex data launch on 29 April 2019.
- On 16 January 2019, Nan and Su Fei will send to editorial the Chinese Insights paper on arms industry.
- Work is being carried out on the two chapters for the yearbook with deadlines on 18 February.
- The milex database work is in progress. Once the data collection is finished and the calculations are carried out this information will be sent to the developers. It will be uploaded to the test server and checks will be carried out to see if the new database is fully operational. The

developers will then finish the front end and hopefully have it ready by 29 April.

### **Away-day agenda discussion**

In preparation for planning the A&D away day the cluster was asked for input and ideas.

**In summing up, there is broad agreement for the following structure for the away day:**

- **Part one** - A morning session would be divided among the 4 branches of the cluster with each Programme/Project head initiating a discussion with what they think are the big ideas to be worked on.

The second part of the day is to have an open discussion on lessons learned regarding drafting/Preparing and implementing/managing projects. What can be improved and is best practice going forward? Do we have the necessary expertise? Where could we ask for more support systems in terms of training, software, information flows, etc?

- **Part two** - Grants applications, lessons learnt.
- **Part three** - Project implementation and project management, lessons learnt.
- **Part four** - Work environment, an opportunity for suggestions on improvements and discuss problem areas.

### **Publications**

- Mostly moving along for this cluster. Reminder – authors are supposed to be getting internal feedback before forwarding to the editors and this is a clear expectation.
- Ian Davis has circulated the chronology for the YB. If there are developments in your field that you want particularly noted feedback is welcome.

## **SMT**

### **\*REMINDERS – PUT IN YOUR CALENDAR**

- NIS will visit SIPRI for a lunch on Monday, 28 January at 12:00 noon follow by presentations from A&D Programme Directors.
- The Swedish Crown Princess Victoria is visiting SIPRI at 9:30AM on 31 January. A small group including Sibylle will brief the Crown Princess on SIPRI's work. Sigrun is in the lead for organizing this visit.
- We may have a visit from the European Security Department from the Swedish Foreign Ministry; date still TBC but possibly 12 February in the morning. Luc and Sibylle will meet with them but others from the cluster may be asked as well, so try to be available.
- SSC Conference 2019 – is still in a discussion phase and no firm date is decided yet. It is agreed the focus would start where we ended from the last security conference, which was the future of armed conflict and arms control as impacted by technologies. The lead will be in the Conflict and Peace cluster but working closely still with the A&D cluster in providing input. The cluster are advised in terms of fundraising for SSC 2019 and as the budget is still being pieced together, fundraising is needed and one could propose to use the conference itself as a launch event for a deliverable and this could be built into future budget planning. Alternatively, one could fundraise specifically for one particular session as was done last year for Bio Plus X where the German Foreign Ministry funded the speakers' travel and follow up work. There are different ways to contribute to the overall budget and to use this opportunity to reach a big audience.

## **AOB**

- Next meetings: Armament and Disarmament cluster away day – 7 February, 9:00-5:00.

**Location: van der Nootska Palace, Sankt Paulsgatan 21 in Södermalm.**

- Next A&D regular cluster meeting is on 6 March at 9:30AM.