

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

SIPRI Armament and Disarmament Cluster Meeting
Solna, 6 March 2019

Participants:

Sibylle Bauer, Aude Fleurant, Shannon Kile, Mark Bromley (Skype), John Batho, Vincent Boulanin, Pieter Wezeman, Siemon Wezeman, Petr Topychkanov, Tytti Erasto, Ekaterina Klimenko, Kolja Brockmann, Giovanna Maletta, Alexandra Kuimova, Alexandra Manolache, Ugnė Komžaitė

Agenda for A&D cluster meeting

- Report back from the Programme/Project Heads on recent/upcoming activities (please include in the report any updates on UD funded work)
- Report back from SMT/Sibylle
- Publications update (Joey)
- Website review/update A&D pages
- AOB

Report back from Programme Heads on recent and upcoming activities

AMEX

- The AMEX team are preparing for the new arms transfers data release on 11 March 2019 with embargoed material having been already sent to journalists on 4 March. On 5 March, AMEX presented the new data findings at an in-house SIPRI brown bag lunch. The arms transfers data launch garners a lot of media attention every year and the same is expected this year. All the team will engage with the media doing interviews or responding to questions in writing for information.
- AMEX is busy with the core work including YB chapter responsibilities and currently following up on deliverables.
- The EuroMeSCo sponsored policy brief paper by Alexandra Kuimova on Russian arms exports to the MENA region is ready. It will be published in March but after the data launch (Date TBD). Plans to write a blog piece about G5 Sahel States arms imports was referenced.
- A proposal has been prepared for the Finnish MFA looking at options for expanding SIPRI's work on conventional arms from arms transfers to arms procurement.
- Questions on UD 2019 deliverables and those outstanding from 2018 were raised. A Gulf militarization SIPRI Fact Sheet with Pieter as lead author and Alexandra is to be prepared and an agreed draft sent to editors on the 10 April 2019, with publication being planned for the second week of May. It was suggested during the internal review process to share this paper with those specializing in the region within the Cluster before sending a draft to the Editors. The point was made to inform reviewers and block their time. An editorial enquiry about the current status of UNROCA and AT SEA UD papers was brought up and Siemon has sent Joey a current status update.

The Nuclear Team

- As part of the UD grant, the team hosted an expert level workshop about regional security in North East Asia on 21-22 February here in SIPRI. One of the tangible takeaways from this meeting is SIPRI has established a network of European institutes and think tanks working on DPRK related issues. Moreover, there is willingness to share activities and keep in contact.
- Tytti attended and was a speaker at a workshop organised by Lund University on 26 February 2019 titled '*What anthropology can bring to the analysis of foreign policy*' about Iran and EU relations.
- Currently the YB deliverables are taking a lot of time but are moving along.
- Tytti, Petr and Ugne are working on the report for the Hiroshima Prefecture about verifying nuclear disarmament. The first draft will be ready by 13 March and the final version to the Editors will be ready on 26 March. There will be a side event held at the NPT PrepCom in connection with the Hiroshima Prefecture report on 29 April 2019. Before this there is a workshop coming up on 20 March 2019 in SIPRI to discuss the draft report. In addition, there will be an invitation only seminar on 21 March given by Bob Kelley, examining the lessons learned from the nuclear dismantlement of Iraq, South Africa and Libya and looking if lessons can be applied to the denuclearization of North Korea.
- Tytti has a blog post published today (6 March) on the compatibility of the 2017 Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) with the 1968 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).
<<https://www.sipri.org/commentary/blog/2019/npt-and-tpnw-compatible-or-conflicting-nuclear-weapons-treaties>>
- Tytti and Pieter are preparing an EUNPDC helpdesk paper on Middle East missile proliferation.
- Petr will attend the '*Carnegie Nuclear Policy Conference*' on the 11-12 March 2019 in Washington.
- On 21-22 March Petr will be in Brussels at an NATO event as part of a delegation of Russian researchers. Petr will visit the NATO headquarters and military command and a meeting is scheduled with Rose Gottemoeller current Deputy Secretary General of NATO.

Emerging Military and Security Technologies

- The most recent Carnegie project '*Mapping the Impact of Machine Learning and Autonomy on Strategic Stability and Nuclear Risk*' workshop was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on 25/26 February. Vincent, Petr and Su Fei attended. It was reported to have been a very good event with high-level participants. They are now entering the final phase and the third and final workshop will be held in New York on 8/9 May. Some participants from the Colombo workshop have been identified already as being ideal for the final workshop. Vincent has the lead and is working on this workshop and in parallel is finalizing the edited volume of papers returned from the Editors this week. The objective is to have it ready by the end of this month so this can be launched at the GGE meeting on autonomous weapons in Geneva at the end of March. Potentially at a side event if approved. The final report needs to be drafted too and ready by the time of the final workshop.
- Vincent's joint proposal with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on '*Limits on Autonomy in Weapon Systems: Identifying Concrete Elements of Human Control*' is being well received with the funding prospects very positive. To date there has been informal commitments from 3 states, the Netherlands, Sweden, and Switzerland. One of the main activities would be a workshop here on 18/19 June and to produce a report during the year.
- A project request with MSB for internal purposes on '*Cyberspace: Crisis Prevention and Management*' will include a workshop organised here in SIPRI on 24 May. This will include a paper produced by Lora Saalman and assisted with by Su Fei.
- Vincent has drafted a proposal that would initially be sent to the Future of Life Institute <<https://futureoflife.org/>> for a new database. The database would focus on monitoring the militarization of AI. This has been circulated to some of our Cluster colleagues for review and feedback is requested. It is suggest this would cover the work SIPRI are supposed to do on these technologies and potentially help raise funding for a research assistant to work fulltime on this subject.
- Vincent is trying to set aside one day (Friday) of the week to work on fundraising and if anyone is interested to meet and discuss a proposal or ideas are welcome to get in touch. Further to this, it was mentioned that the Norwegian MFA have shown some interest in tech issues. A wider discussion on Norwegian MFA funding applications took place. Two concept notes were previously sent: one on the future of arms control and one proposing to look at the China, India and Pakistan

nuclear triangle. The feedback received was expressing a broad interest in the tech angle but linking it to nuclear weapons.

- On 22 March there are plans for an informal seminar at SIPRI on AI with Renaud Bellais. Vincent and colleagues from AMEX will attend and others interested in the topic are invited. Vincent has agreed to send more information around the Cluster in due course.

DUAT

- Mark and Kolja are traveling to Berlin for 'Export Control Day 2019' organised by the German Federal Office for Economic Affairs and Export Control (BAFA) and the Center for Foreign Trade Law at the University of Münster (ZAR). Mark will be chairing a panel session on *'Export Control: Future in Europe and beyond'*.
- Among the different projects currently being worked on is the FCO funded project involving moving the ATT Assistance Mapping Database to a new platform (Drupal). This work will conclude in March. Giovanna is coordinating this work. Furthermore, Giovanna is working on a blog piece using the data in the database due to come out in time for the next ATT CSP PrepCom.
- The EXBS project involving two publications and two workshops here in Stockholm is moving along. The first workshop covering investigations and prosecutions will be held on 25/26 June and the second workshop on inter-regime dialogues will be held during September (date - TBC). The project on firearms trafficking in Europe for the Flemish Peace Institute is progressing. For this project they have agreed to write ten country case studies by the end of April.
- The YB chapter is being edited and going according to plan.

Bio Plus X project report

- On 14/15 of March Sibylle, Vincent, Kolja, Petr, Ugne, Filippa, Steph and Alexandra M. are all attending a conference in Berlin titled '2019. Capturing Technology. Rethinking Arms Control' and organised by the German Foreign Office. The German MFA has chosen four technology issue areas for this conference with four different institutes, each a thematic partner for a specific technology area: SIPRI for biotechnologies, the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) for cyber, the Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (SWP) for lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWs), and the Foundation for Strategic Research (FRS) for missile technology (hypersonics). For SIPRI this will be an opportunity to launch the Bio Plus X report

worked on by Kolja, Sibylle and Vincent. Sibylle, Kolja, Vincent and Filippa are in various moderating, presenting and rapporteur roles, Steph and Alexandra M are there in media contact/coordinator role.

- Kolja will speak at workshop by the Vienna Centre for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation in April. The workshop will be looking at export control and safeguards and focusing on the aspect of emerging technology. Kolja will present on the nuclear dimension of export controls on additive manufacturing. Kolja has previously written on this topic with Bob Kelley.

EUNPDC

- Sibylle and Giovanna will be attending and representing the EUNPDC at the '*Carnegie Nuclear Policy Conference*' on the 11-12 March 2019 where they will have an exhibition booth. In terms of publications the first EU Non-proliferation and Disarmament paper of this new phase is out. The paper is on Russian nuclear energy exports and authored by Névine Schepers from IISS. There is another upcoming paper on the new EU SALW strategy by Nils Duquet from the Flemish Peace Institute (FPI). They are keen to give this paper more visibility and the proposal is to have a small launch event in Brussels. We don't have funding but FPI propose to arrange logistics and invite people and are now trying to fix a date that either Sibylle or Giovanna can attend (in the meantime an agreement was reached on having the launch event on 4 April 2019, Sibylle will attend). There are papers either already commissioned or with agreed topics that now have to finalise a schedule. It is hoped to have these papers out before the next annual conference. Among the topics the forthcoming papers cover are:
 - The threat of nuclear terrorism on European security (Thanos Dokos – ELIAMEP);
 - The use of Chemical Weapons in Syria (Una Becker-Jakob – PRIF);
 - A paper on emerging dual-use technologies in the life-sciences (Mirko Himmel – University of Hamburg);
 - Space capabilities in the Middle East and how this could affect arms control (Beyza Unal – Chatham House).
- The actual date of the EUNPDC Annual Conference 2019 has yet to be determined but we will be informed as soon as known.
- On the issue of the helpdesk papers the Cluster is reminded to keep in mind there is a budget line attached that allows for the possibility of an oral presentation/briefings on certain topics to CONOP or COARM under request of the EEAS. Of course they would need to make room

in their agenda and they need to invite you but this is an opportunity that can be used once papers are ready. Keeping in mind there is also a visibility budget line in the consortium that has been used as an example for the Carnegie conference and that could be used to organise consortium side events at other international conferences. This is something we can think about more strategically for the rest of this year.

SMT

- The Stockholm Security Conference is scheduled for 2/3 October 2019 with a pre-opening on the 2nd and a full day on 3rd October 2019. The venue selected is Norra Latin – City Conference Centre Stockholm. Cluster staff is advised to block the first week of October and be available.
- The next RSC meeting is on Tuesday 19 March, and one of the topics on the agenda is a nomination for the Ypres Peace Prize. SIPRI has been asked to join the selection committee and Sibylle will represent. Nominations must be submitted by the 15 April for the peace prize that will be awarded in 2020. The Cluster has been asked to make some suggestions in advance of [the](#) next RSC on 19 March. This will make the process more efficient. You can then elaborate on any suggestions at the RSC. Siemon has sent around the link with more information about the prize.

[<http://www.vredesprijs-iper.be/vp/index.php/terms-of-reference-for-the-peace-prize-of-the-city-of-iper>](http://www.vredesprijs-iper.be/vp/index.php/terms-of-reference-for-the-peace-prize-of-the-city-of-iper)

- The next SIPRI lecture will be given by Ms Michelle Bachelet, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and held on 27 May. The King and Queen of Sweden will be in attendance.

AOB

Presentations and notes from the away day will shortly be available on the intranet in their own folder (more info to come – but notes up and ready by the next Cluster meeting). We also need to schedule a specific meeting to review and talk strategy and issues to take forward from our away day. For example, we want to do another fundraising workshop involving Lena where we will bring forward points raised in our grants/project management review process at the away day. The overtime and stress factor needs to be dealt with and discussed at Programme level and feedback given on any results or causality in the Cluster meeting.

We will have a standing agenda item for pending funding applications going forward in the future. An Excel document will be circulated with separate

sheets giving available information on concept notes prepared and applications currently in process before each meeting. This list will only be a good as the information you share with the Programme Coordinator, so please provide information when asked!

The next general Cluster meeting will be on Tuesday, 2 April 2019 at 9:30AM in the Conference Room.