

**CLUSTER MEETING
NOTES
3 October 2017**

Present:

Ian Anthony, Steph Blenckner, Su Fei, Richard Ghiasi, Noel Kelly, Alexandra Manolache, Katerina Monsour, Gregory Chauzal, Aurelien Tobie, Zoe Gorman, Kate Sullivan, Vitaly Fedchenko, Lora Saalman, Timo Smit, Ekaterina Klimenko, Lina Gripp, Harry Thomas, Jenina Katajoki, Jujoung Lee, Jair van der Lijn (via Skype), Neil Melvin (via Skype).

Agenda

Report from the SMT

Updates from the research programmes

AOB

Report from the SMT

(Lora)

- Reminder that the deadline for the session proposals for the Forum is 6 October 2017
- IT guidance and acquisition document is being finalized and SIPRI is moving the procurement or the next year.
- Guidelines on transition to tenure is being drafted and discussed
- The MFA has confirmed that they are looking at the proposal on military capabilities and common security in Europe that has been submitted by Ian Anthony
- SIPRI event in October with the Government of Kazakhstan has been postponed
- SMT discusses the list of think tanks in India for potential engagement on Asian affairs.
- In general all the proposals for the 2018 MFA grant has been submitted to SIPRI management, but there is no guarantee that all of them will be included. SIPRI management will review them
- Job Descriptions are nearly finalized
- JDs and Strategy document for the Africa programme are under revision.
- Future Stockholm Security Conference structure and contents is also being discussed

Comments and questions:

What is the status of the Asia and the Middle East?

Middle East: the will be an exploratory visit to the Middle East (Dan Smith and Pieter Wezeman).

Asia Programme: the discussion is ongoing regarding the programme, particularly the division into regions of NEA and South Asia. There is feeling that SIPRI has stronger expertise on NEA.

Updates from Research Programmes

European Security (Ian, Lina, Vitaly, Jenina)

European Security Programme currently has 3 focus points of the research

1) Explore the future generations of conflict and confidence building measures. The starting point is to understand the tendencies in international security environment. SIPRI will work with European Leadership network on this project.

2) European regulations on firearms control (Lina): looks at illegal weapons in Europe and terrorist access to weapons. It is research based projects and involved a number of partners such as Small Arms Survey; Flemish Peace Research Institute. Lina is also working with the research on violent extremism with the Swedish office against violent extremism to explore violence in the Swedish cities and how extremism fit into that framework. Jenina is working with Lina on municipal level of integration of migrants in Sweden

3) Black Sea illicit trafficking of the nuclear materials (Vitaly): the research will look at the change in nuclear security regimes after the annexation of Crimea. The project timeline is until September 2018. Currently working on identifying and talking to relevant organizations and stakeholders. April 2018 there will be conference in Romania which will bring identified stakeholders. The programme is funded by Carnegie funding. Jujoung Lee is working with Vitaly on this

Future proposals include the following:

- Radicalization and security in South East Europe and the Western Balkans
- Urban security – mapping analyzing local level projects to reduce urban security risks
- Application to Nordforsk – Nordic strategies to prevent violent extremism: national and cities responses.

Mali Programme (Gregory, Aurelien, Zoë, Katerina)

On current Mali project: next activities in Bamako focusing on gender issues. The conference will bring 36 women activists from across the country, who are currently doing the field research, distributing questionnaires in different communities on gender and security issues. The questionnaires will be discussed during the Bamako event that will be followed up by an academic research on the issues identified in the questionnaires. Next year will focus on the White Book on peace and security, it will be submitted by mid-2018.

On new projects: launch of Niger and Chad projects. In Mid-October there will be a meeting in Niamey to identify partners on the ground and set up network for the region of Niger. In March, the project will start in Chad. This is project run by DCAF and EU together with French Ministry of Interior and Justice.

Future proposals: a proposal on 2 Central regions of Mali focusing on justice and security issues.

Africa programme: there was a meeting with SIPRI staff doing research on African issues, where a draft strategy has been presented. Currently the work is ongoing on identifying objectives to address in the pr, drafting the project outline

Gregory Katerina and Aurelien are working on a number of on policy briefs with

Comments from other programmes:

Jair: Peacekeeping team hopes to meet with Africa programme in 2 weeks to discuss possible cooperation

Kate S.: Marina should be kept in the loop on peace and justice questions as she has expertise on the issues as well as relevant contacts

Neil: starts working on the Horn of Africa security, particularly on the questions of militarization of the region and consequences for the security situation in the region.

Peacekeeping Programme (Timo and Jair)

- 1) The new stage of the New Geopolitics of Peacekeeping project (NGP III) will focus on non-traditional security challenges (terrorism, crime, migration, environmental change and piracy). Finnish funding, GE conversation on finances, NL and Canada looking at it
- 2) Great progress on improving our multilateral peace operations database, long and difficult process, with help of KTH students
- 3) Sex-disaggregated work (women participation in peace operations) is expected in the MFA proposal, and FBA proposal to go more into detail
- 4) Setting up research line on police in peace operations with Marina, for which we are planning a seminar with stakeholders in Stockholm

Smaller projects: Jair is giving a Lecture at Omani Defence Academy

South Sudan scenario update in process of finalisation (difficulties in South Sudan)

Finalizing this years progress piece (NL) on sexual exploitation and abuse

The programme will make use of Addis meeting for looking for collaboration and funding within the African Union community

And we were invited to present on the future of peace operations in Africa at the Dakar security meeting

Jair will be at SIPRI on October 16

Neil will be at SIPRI most likely from October 23-27

Lora suggested that each sit with the Africa team for a wider discussion on future initiatives

Comments from other programmes:

Lora: Timo and Zoe could explore common area of work on gender issues

Kate: the gender dimension would be interesting to the Peace and Development cluster as well

Asia programme (Lora, Richards, Su Fei)

Currently there is funding for 3 projects:

- Maritime Silk Road. 9 months project funded by FES. Three regional workshops are planned: Manila, Yangon, and Shanghai. The main focus is looking at how the Silk Road is going to impact new interest in South Asia and South East Asia: access to Far East, transit routes.
- In December 2017: 1 day workshop on Japan-Europe-US: Integrating Cyber Security and Norms into Critical Infrastructure. The project is funded by Japan MFA.

- Emerging technologies and nuclear risks. It is mostly within A&D cluster, however, still worth mentioning here. The project will look at nuclear arms states Russia, China, India, Pakistan, France, UK as well as DPRK & autonomous weapons and machine learning development). It is a transnational 2 year programme.

Lora traveling to Madrid to talk about DPRK and talk about role of China.

Other projects/proposals Richard is working on:

- KAS is also interested in working on OBOR
- Consultancy for the International Council for Swedish Industry assessment of how the OBOR impacts business policy throughout Asia: Myanmar, Belarus, Uzbekistan
- Facilitating dialogue between stakeholders in Afghanistan

Fei is working on a number of proposals:

NEA security issues for Korea Foundation

Domestic policy and regulations inside DPRK with provincial government in China

Comments from other projects

Ian: participates in Korean Global Forum. The discussion will be on European experiences and how they are relevant in implications of the US being vulnerable to attack by the DPRK; European experience and US commitments to Europe and whether US will be willing and able to provide this kind of commitments to Korea/Seoul.

Ekaterina: suggestion to look at the Northern Sea Route as part of OBOR

Lora: a Chinese guest researcher working on nuclear issues is now at SIPRI, feel free to chat with him.

Russia and Eurasia

Black Sea Project (funded by MFA), working together with AMEX team Siemon Wezeman and Alexandra Kuimova. Two types of deliverables of the project:

- Papers. Policy briefs on military posture, exercises, defence policies of the Black Sea states. Background papers on security dynamics in the region (Neil) and protracted conflicts in the region (Ekaterina)
- Workshop 7-8 December *Shifting Black Sea Security Dynamics*. The workshop will bring together experts from Black Sea states to discuss security and defense trend in the Black Sea, the policies of NATO, Russia, Ukraine, South Caucasus states in the region; future challenges and opportunities for the regional security

AOB

The questions on the process for the proposals going to the MFA. Lora will send the document she currently has.

Upcoming events in the cluster

NGP III meeting in Addis Ababa

October 2017: Mali project event in Bamako

11-14 November 2017: First Maritime Silk Road Workshop in Manila

7-8 December, 2017: *Shifting Black Sea Security Dynamics* Black Sea Project workshop, SIPRI, Stockholm

18 December, 2017: Workshop *Japan-Europe-US: Integrating Cyber Security and Norms into Critical Infrastructure*, SIPRI, Stockholm

April 2018 - Black Sea project conference Vity, Romania

May 2018 - *Emerging technologies and nuclear risk*, first event in Northeast Asia

December 2018: Mali project, Civil National Forum in Bamako, Mali