

Notes  
6 November 2017

Agenda

- Report back from SMT
- Report back from each programme (i.e. current and future projects, grants and funding proposals, issues to take back to SMT)

*On update from the SMT*

The work on the MFA strategic grant proposal is ongoing. Lora will send the parts of the MFA grant proposal to the cluster. The significant focus of this grant is on mediation, security mapping and dialogues.

The work on finalizing the Africa and Asia programmes is also ongoing.

*Peacekeeping operations programme*

Jair and Timo are currently in Addis Ababa for the first dialogue meeting in the context of the NGP III initiative and meetings at the African Union, and next Monday-Tuesday; they will be participating at the Dakar Forum on Peace and Security.

A background paper on peace operations and terrorism/violent extremism will come out this week. Jair will also publish his monitoring paper on scenarios for South Sudan 2020 later in November.

*China and Global Security Programme:*

Current project looks at the maritime part of OBOR. Future funding ideas include research on Chinese investments and initiative in Latin America. The programme will talk about this with a number of potential donors.

The second direction of funding will be aimed at supporting the work on Afghanistan. At this point there is no concrete proposals, however, we will look at it in the future.

Lora will host the Cyber Security event in December funded by the Japanese MFA.

*Africa programmes*

The team was in Niger last week to meet with potential partners and sign partnership agreement with institutions. On 20-26 November 2017, planned visit to Bamako focusing on the 1325 UN resolution. Further travel will include visit to Chad to meet with possible partners for the Chad project

The team continues the recruitment process.

Lora on future of the Africa programme, the idea now is discussing the possibility to merge Neil's project on the Security Dynamics in the Horn of Africa and Gregory's projects into one programme. The other option is to merge Neil's project with Jair's programme on peacekeeping

An update from Neil on the Horn of Africa Project. The project will be focusing on particular theme intersection of the international security with the security situation on the Horn, particularly the role of China, India, the USA and how their influence is reflected in more local and regional dynamics. One of the directions of the research will be looking at the militarization by external actors, e.g. presence of military bases

Turkey, Japan, and China. The project will also look at the arms trade in the Horn of Africa, which is often informal arms trade by arms dealers.

#### *Russia and Eurasia Project*

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.

Ekaterina is also finishing the consultancy for the SEI on the analysis of the Russian media on the Arctic. She will present the results of her research at the conference on December 6.

#### *European security*

Vitaly is currently working on the Black Sea Programme