

Armament and Disarmament Cluster Meeting – 28 August 2018

Note taker: Giovanna Maletta

Location: Conference room

Time: 09:30 – 10:30am

Attending: Ian Anthony; John Batho, Sibylle Bauer; Kolja Brockmann (Skype); Mark Bromley (Skype); Tarja Cronberg; Tytti Erästö; Emma Fredriksson; Quitterie de Labbey; Giovanna Maletta; Alexandra Kuimova; Anna Regner; Nan Tian, Petr Topchkanov, Peter Wezeman.

Agenda:

- Report back from Programme Directors;
- Report back from SMT;
- Stockholm Security Conference 2018;
- AOB;
- Date of next meeting

Report back from Programme Directors

1) AMEX

- **Pieter** informed the cluster that Aude is away and she will be back next week. AMEX does not have any particular updates a part from the regular work on the Yearbook and the databases.
- **Alexandra** received an invitation from one of the researchers she met during her last trip to Morocco to attend an Experts Workshop on "Security Challenges and Prospects in the Maghreb" on 19 September 2018 in Tunis, Tunisia. The workshop is organised by the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung office of Tunisia. Alexandra will present her thoughts on the Russian role in the Maghreb. Travel costs, transfers, accommodation, and meals will be covered by the FES. This event is also related to the EuroMeSCo project Alexandra is involved and that is led by a group of research institutes with a focus on issues related to the MENA region.
- **Nan** was planning to go to China to the Institute of Defense Economics and Management at Central University of Finance and Economics as a guest researcher in September but had to renounce due

to problems with his visa. Siemon is still planning to go there as a guest researcher at the end of September. Nan is also working on two papers, one with Diego on off budget military spending and one journal article to be published next year.

2) DUAT

- **Mark** was in Tokyo from 20-24 August to attend the fourth Conference of State Parties to the ATT. He was involved in two side events: (a) one on international assistance organized by Small Arms Survey where he presented on the ATT database and its current expansion to cover the MENA region (which is part of the work funded by UNSCAR); (b) one on diversion organized by UNIDIR where re-export and re-transfer controls were discussed. Diversion was one of the main themes of CSP4. Mark said that to attend the conference was also an occasion to talk with a lot of people about the work SIPRI is doing on the database and to collect relevant information from representatives of states from the MENA region. This will also feed the background paper DUAT is currently drafting on ATT-related assistance activities in the MENA region. The paper will be finalized in October. Mark is also preparing a blog piece on the issues emerged at CSP4 which he will send to Harri today. Other ATT-database work involves the re-build of the back-end of the database through the funds from the FCO grant.
- **Kolja** met with Mirko Himmel, from the University of Hamburg, last week to discuss issues related to the 'Bio plus X' project funded by the German MFA. Kolja previously met him in Geneva during the BTWC MX2 in August. Giovanna joined the meeting to talk about the EUNPDC project (the University of Hamburg is part of the Network) and Mirko already reached out suggesting ideas for a possible paper for the publication series. Kolja also informed the cluster that he and Mark will go to Ispra in November for a meeting of the Network of Universities on Strategic Trade Control. This is a follow-up to a seminar on export controls and academia that Kolja attended in April 2018 and organized by the University of Liège – Chaudefontaine group. Also, Kolja will probably attend again the CSIS Pacific Forum on strategic export control in Taiwan.

3) EUNPDC

- **Giovanna** reported on the meeting with Mirko Himmel where she gave him updates on the further developments of the Consortium project and the possibility to contribute to the publication series (see above). Giovanna will attend the next Annual Consortium Consultative Meeting on 4-5 September in Brussels. Tarja and Quitterie will also join as participants, while Tytti will participate as a speaker on the

JCPOA panel. She also reminded the cluster to submit ideas for the publication series, both for authors and topics. In addition, last week she circulated an email where she mentioned the possibility to join the visit in Brussels for the UN Disarmament Fellows that VCDNP is organizing as part of their work for the Consortium. On 18 September, as part of the visit, there will be a roundtable with representatives from the Consortium who are invited to talk about their institutes' work on non-proliferation, disarmament and arms control and also about their specific area of expertise. Giovanna urged the cluster to inform her if someone is interested in attending as soon as possible so that she can inform the colleagues of VCDNP.

- **Sibylle** suggested to save the date of the EUNPDC Annual Conference (18-19 December, Brussels) and that of the Peace Forum in Paris (11-13 November). The Consortium will be represented in Paris and will have a proper stand and also Sibylle will attend under the Consortium 'umbrella'. (*Note: This has changed since the cluster meeting: the Consortium will not have a booth.*)

4) Disarmament, Arms Control and Non-proliferation

- **Petr** didn't have many updates on the Carnegie project apart from the seminar in China next week. He also reported that he got in touch with a fellow researcher working in the Peace Research Institute in Oslo (PRIO) which lately received grants to do some work on nuclear issues. In this context, he was informed that there will be a meeting in London on 21 September with UNIDIR and Chatham House and coordinated by PRIO, to discuss possible cooperation in this area. Sibylle was invited but cannot attend as this would clash with the SSC and the PRIF conference straight after. She suggested alternative dates but she did not hear back from them yet.
- **Tarja** is planning to go to Iran in October. She would be interested to know who in the cluster is working on China issues considering consequences on oil sanctions in Iran.
- **Tytti** is preparing for the panel on JCPOA for the EUNPDC Consultative meeting. She has no news on the meeting on the INF to be arranged together with ELN. Finally, she will present her paper on the WMDFZ in the Middle East in a brown bag lunch on 26 September.

5) European Security Programme

Ian reported on the project on risk reduction in the Baltic sea region. On 10 October there will be a meeting at SIPRI to discuss whether there is any value in military to military contact as a risk reduction measure. The goal of the whole project is to help the Swedish MFA to give an answer to this question and inform their decision on the issue.

Ian is also working on 3 papers: on options for verification of a future European conventional arms control agreement, on protection of civilians as a paradigm for arms control and on the feasibility of applying arms control to nuclear-armed sea-launched cruise missiles.

Report back from the SMT

Sibylle reported on her trip to Hiroshima where she attended the Hiroshima roundtable on nuclear disarmament. She informed the cluster of the interest from the Governor of Hiroshima to initiate and co-fund a network of think tanks on nuclear disarmament. In addition, Hiroshima Prefecture agreed in principle to fund a project on nuclear disarmament verification but the budget still needs to be agreed. Sibylle also raised the issue of interns planning and asked who was planning to have interns this year and early next year. AMEX and the nuclear team will not have any. DUAT would like to have another one after Quitterie (she will stay until mid-December). On this topic, Sibylle said that after the entry into force of the GDPR there will be some restrictions on the information we can share among us on internship applicants and, therefore, it will be possible to access applications only on a need-to-know basis.

Sibylle also shared some feedback on the second round of training for line managers: the training was focused on the Swedish labour law and also addressed the issue of workload and stress reduction, an issue within the cluster and the institute in general. This is something which should be considered when drafting funding proposals, as sometimes these include a very demanding (self-imposed) timeline. In this regard, it would be good to have your proposal “peer-reviewed” by someone else who could check and give an opinion on this. This issue could be addressed at the next budget and fundraising workshop.

Sibylle also informed the cluster that some programme managers would like the PAD meetings to be held earlier than last year. It would be good, then, to start planning those.

Sibylle asked if someone was planning to attend the UNGA First Committee in New York in order to coordinate with other colleagues participating. Petr is planning to go as UNIDIR would like to host a panel on nuclear risk reduction together with SIPRI on 16 October. Sibylle also reminded the cluster of the event to celebrate the 25h edition of the Russian version of the SIPRIYearbook, organized by IMEMO on 18 October in Moscow. Finally, Jan Eliasson has been invited to speak at the OSCE Forum for Security Cooperation in Vienna on 17 October, during the Swedish Chairmanship of the FSC.

Report on the SSC updates

- **Sibylle** shared the last version of the agenda, not to be circulated externally. Sibylle noted that it was challenging to find speakers for the opening plenary on Day 1 (Patricia Lewis, Izumi Nakamitsu, Angela Kane were all invited but were not available). Therefore suggestions on how to fill this and the other missing slots (indicated in the agenda) are more than welcome and should be submitted as soon as possible. Emma and Sibylle also shared more details on the lunch seminar on hypersonic organized on the first day of the Conference by the MSC. The MSC defined the agenda, the panel and the participants in consultation with SIPRI. The MSC will send separate invitations to attend the lunch and SIPRI will also send suggestions for invitees, therefore, if someone is interested it should flag it to Emma and Sibylle.
- **Petr** suggested Rose Gottemoeller, NATO Deputy Secretary General, could be a good speaker for the arms control panel (Closing Plenary). He also asked if the Conference was open to the public and how much can be shared through social media.
- **Emma** said that there won't be live streaming and it was agreed to have the Chatham House rule. Nevertheless, Sibylle will raise again the issue during the SMT checking if the Chatham House shall apply only to the breakout sessions.

Date for the next meeting: 26 September, 9.30, Conference room.