Mapping the work of the Armaments and Disarmament 'Cluster'

One-way to think about the work that we do in the cluster is to map the different policy issues that we are focused on according to:

i) The particular capabilities we are looking at. e.g.:

- Conventional arms
- Nuclear weapons
- Chemical / biological weapons
- Military forces
- Cyber-warfare
- Cyber-surveillance systems

ii) The particular stages in a weapon's 'life-cycle' we are looking at. e.g.:

- Development
- Procurement
- Transfer
- Deployment
- Posture
- Use

iii) Legal and normative standards and control mechanisms we are looking at. e.g.:

- Parliamentary oversight
- Export controls
- Arms control
- Confidence building measures
- Compliance with standards in IHL
- Compliance with standards in IHRL

Once we have mapped this out, we can think about the bigger questions that we are trying to address in the work we're doing. These could include:

- How does the application or absence of control mechanisms generate economic and security risks and opportunity costs?

    - What are the relationships between technological, political and economic developments?

- What is the relationship between the state and private sector when it comes to developing and implementing control mechanisms?

- How do these processes contribute towards greater public goods, such as economic development and reductions in organised violence?

Hence, the work I've done recently on cyber-surveillance would be about the 'transfer' of 'Cyber-surveillance systems' and how its governed under 'export controls'. The bigger question it is trying to address is about how the development of these control mechanisms generate economic and security risks and opportunity costs.