Preparation notes for the Armament and disarmament cluster half away-day

Note prepared 10 Jan. 2018 to prepare for the A&D cluster half away day of 11 Jan. 2018 and amended based on discussions during the away-day

Main observations 7 months after the first A&D cluster strategy

- The starting point for AMEX is a need to adjust the May 2017 version of the cluster strategy, as it does not include AMEX core work. Mostly
    - AMEX's expertise and interests are not made obvious, notably reducing it too much to issue of technology, but military expenditure and arms transfers are more extended and comprehensive than technology;
    - The cross-cluster linkages between AMEX and other parts of the cluster (and vice-versa) should be better taken into account;
    - An important part of the military expenditure project involves improving transparency, perhaps this should be integrated as every year we have at least 2-3 publications on this topic and improvements on the database.

- Overarching question 1 of the first version of the A&D cluster strategy of May 2017
    - The first question of the strategy should be broader than "technology", which we recommend should be replaced by armaments, which includes military technologies, but is more comprehensive;
    - **Suggested possible rephrasing**: "Developments in military expenditure, arms transfers, arms productions and military technologies (conventional and otherwise), and their control mechanisms; Identification of current trends and their drivers, analysis, and when relevant, policy recommendations.
    - AMEX suggests adding confidence building measures to point 2 of the strategy (Possibly add transparency here).

- There are now two groups of **cluster research topics**. Suggestion of adding a 3rd group, possibly titled 'Assessing, monitoring and measuring armament and militarisation trends and patterns', including the following draft ingredients:
    - 3.1 Assess and support transparency and accountability in military expenditure, arms transfers and arms production data, in decision-making on security and military issues at national, regional and international levels;
    - 3.2 Establish stronger cross-cluster links with research questions such as, for example, conflicts and weapons imports (which AMEX does in the context of the black sea project with Neil); another example, calculating opportunity costs of military expenditure or procurement spending, etc. Links to conflict and development would be useful.
    - 3.3 Focus data collection on a specific topic, e.g. military spending on peacekeeping
    - 3.4 Expanding the scope of the monitoring of conventional armament and militarisation developments: arms transfers database to an arms procurement database; disaggregate military expenditure data;
    - 3.5 Military expenditure and opportunity costs
    - 3.6 Continuing and renewed interest in nuclear weapons and delivery systems

3.7 Agree with what was mentioned by Mark that technology development can be independent of policy and due to spill over from commercial aspect.

In addition, there is a need to include a clear reference on research on security/defence/foreign policy and military doctrine and how it impacts on the other aspects of the cluster research and vice-versa how developments in other cluster fields impact on policy and doctrine. Preferably that field and the links should be included in the overall research questions.

Other issues of possible relevance to Research Cluster Strategy

- Some thoughts on dissemination and outreach which could be of impact on the Cluster strategy, in particular if the strategy is to take into account target groups.
    - SOCIAL MEDIA
        - look at social media another way, fund more 'punchy' ways to present things online via social media;
        - If possible, having a better understanding of the cluster target audience;
        - Possibility of an A&D cluster YouTube channel?
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    - YEARBOOK
        - AMEX is unsure of the value of the YB; it is limited in availability (few printed) and accessibility (not freely available on the SIPRI website), and gives for AMEX data and basic analysis no additional value over the data launches and online databases;
        - We feel there is a needs to discuss possible alternatives, or arguments for and against its publication.