

Concluding remarks – A&D Cluster Away Day - 7 February 2019

– Sibylle

- Last year cluster staff was asked for feedback and suggestions on our proposed draft cluster strategy following a review on how one would suggest framing it. Moreover, following the presentations and discussion held it is clear we are going in the direction we wanted to head. It was nice to see many of the big issues we want to deal with come through in the presentations. Sibylle has suggested she would send around again the cluster strategy that people commented on last year and noted there are many different ways of structuring, not that one way is better than the other. If the cluster strategy is sent around and consolidated into one document then one needs to invest time to review and comment because it is a time investment. The suggestion was made to circulate the consolidated strategy documents in the post-YB and data launch period with June proposed as the month for review.

Each team was asked to mention their main take way and next priority.

AMEX

- There are many good ideas mentioned AMEX can eventually implement but capacity is limited at moment. The main priority for AMEX is to deliver the core work. From October to April is it difficult to take on extra work and they actually cannot at the moment. However, from 1 April, Diego Lopes will be employed by SIPRI and working for AMEX. In 2020, maybe AMEX can take on more tasks or if they expand the data (procurement) this can be incorporated into the core work. The development of the milex database is another priority for this year – it is on target to be delivered in 2019. Realistically fundraising and putting in another position is the way to go for AMEX.

The Nuclear Team

- The away day discussion, particularly on the substantive side was a useful way of learning about what others are doing in the cluster. Especially learning ways further possible synergies are possible on what the Nuclear Team have coming up and others are doing. The idea of pursuing an umbrella project on the future of arms control is one where the different elements within the Cluster can come together. The other takeaway was the response and comments on the issue off the nuclear numbers and there is broad agreement that something needs to be done. This will need to be discussed further:
 - Who is going to do this work?
 - Developing a methodology.
- There were useful and practical tips on grants applications and this was appreciated.

Emerging Tech

- Vincent felt it was important we took a day to go over these issues and appreciated the sharing of experiences and identifying ways of cooperation. Vincent is happy to facilitate the conversation on the issue of technology going forward and knows there is a lot of interest at SIPRI for this to happen. Vincent enjoys fundraising and offers to help others where possible.

DUAT

- Agree with what was already said. DUAT found the day very helpful and liked how the away day was structured. DUAT highlighted in their presentation what sort of cooperation they might be seeking from other Programmes/Projects and Clusters and there is a lot of interest to take this forward. A lot of lessons have been learnt in terms of planning and now the hope is to take these lessons forward too. There is a need to find right balance in terms of funding and improving professionally as researchers (**Research work is not race**). Going forward getting larger grants where DUAT can build in more time and flexibility would be very welcomed.