



Minute taker: Noel Kelly
Time: 9:30-11:00

SIPRI Armament and Disarmament Cluster Meeting
Solna, 2 April 2019

Participants:

Sibylle Bauer, Ian Anthony, Aude Fleurant, Shannon Kile, Mark Bromley, Vincent Boulanin, Pieter Wezeman, Petr Topychkanov, Tytti Erasto, Nan Tian, Kolja Brockmann, Giovanna Maletta, Monica Chinchilla, Ugnė Komžaitė, Ekaterina Klimenko, Martina Selmi, Joey Fox, John Batho, Lena Kappelin, Elin Elmgren

Agenda for A&D cluster meeting

- Report back from the Programme/Project Heads on recent/upcoming activities/meetings (please include in the report any updates on UD funded work)
- Grants/Concept notes - Lena
- Report back from SMT/Sibylle
- Publications update (Joey)
- Website review/update A&D pages
- AOB

Report back from Programme Heads on recent and upcoming activities

Concept notes/Grant applications

Prior to the meeting an Excel sheet containing known A&D concept notes or project proposals in circulation and actual applications under process and in GAD as of April 2019 was circulated to the Cluster. The idea is to keep this document updated every month and circulate it before each A&D Cluster meeting. The list will only be as good as the information shared and staff are requested to keep the Programme Coordinator informed of new concept notes, proposals or applications in process so information can be added to the Excel and shared internally.

Concept notes/Grant applications

Nuclear Disarmament, Arms Control and Non-proliferation Programme

- Ian Anthony explained about an application to the Norwegian MFA as part of their disarmament and development funding call for 2019. SIPRI's intention was to submit more than one application but our Norwegian interlocutors requested one large application with several parts rather than several separate applications. Therefore, the need to coordinate closely on this in-house and currently with two project parts involved led by Ian and Sibylle.

Ian's project part is focused on examining recent developments with the Chemical Weapons Convention. The project will have several parts with one part of this already applied to the Swedish MFA and seen as a preparatory exercise. It will involve a legal analysis of decisions taken in 2018 and a discussion of how these might impact the general work of OPCW with a preliminary engagement with India and South Africa. It is hoped to be supported by the Swedish MFA but is linked to the bigger Norwegian MFA proposal.

Petr has prepared a concept note titled: '*Assessing Nuclear Deterrence Risks and Challenges: China - India – Pakistan*' that will form the basis of his part of the Norwegian MFA application.

The deadline for the application to the Norwegian MFA is on Friday 12 April.

Not on the concept Excel but information shared:

- There has been contact with Carnegie Europe about doing a workshop on '*Missiles in the Middle East*'. The idea is to

- “discuss this topic and the German MFA may be interested in funding. To be discussed further!
- An application with the Rockefeller Foundation ‘Addressing Concerns about Iran’s Missiles: Europe as an Engine for Regional Dialogue?’ listed as under process in the Excel is now off. The idea can still be taken further and perhaps funding sought elsewhere.

Concept notes/Grant applications Emerging Technology

- The concept note ‘*Keeping track of the militarization of AI*’ has been sent to Sibylle for internal review and is awaiting feedback.
- An application that should be in the on-going application list is for a project with the ICRC. The prospects for full funding are positive. Already half the budget has been secured from the Dutch MFA. It pays for the workshop and some salary. Support from the Swedish MFA and Swiss MFA is also hoped for and the Irish MFA are also interested in the project.
- The idea is highlighted about exploring the possibilities on the use of AI for arms control security purposes, including verification, and could include the export control dimension as something that could be explored with other funders. Vincent proposes advancing this idea further with Mark.

Concept notes/Grant applications DUAT

- DUAT are busy until the end of the year but they are waiting to hear back on the three project proposals submitted to the JRC (Joint Research Center) as part of a consortium led by Liege University. See the A&D concept notes and on-going applications Excel sheet - March 2019 already circulated for more information.

Concept notes/Grant applications AMEX

- The Finnish MFA are potentially interested in funding a pilot project that would examine the possibility of expanding work on milex spending and arms transfers to include actual arms procurement data. If successful, the project would start end of summer 2019 and run until summer 2020.

Report back from the Programme/Project Heads on recent/upcoming

DUAT reporting –

- Mónica Chinchilla was introduced by the DUAT Programme as a Guest Researcher, and will be here in SIPRI until July 2019. Mónica is a PhD Candidate in the International Public Law Department, at the University of Navarra in Spain. The aim of her PHD is 'to identify and examine the mechanisms available in International Law to prevent violent non-state actors from acquiring Weapons of Mass Destruction.'
- The DUAT YB chapter is done. Various projects referenced in recent minutes are ongoing. The FCO funded ATT Database project is done and the final report being prepared in the next couple of weeks to be submitted by the end of April. Further work on the ATT Database is being carried out and funded under the UD grant that lasts until the end of the 2019. The plan is to keep updating and expanding the focus to cover both SALW control activities and arms transfer control capacity building activities. Further UD grant work is on SDG16.4 that Mark is doing with Alfredo and Marina. A background paper will be published in June and an event held at the Stockholm Forum. The DIVERT Project with FPI on firearms trafficking looking at ten case studies is being done and will be completed by the end of April. Organising work for the EXBS project involving a workshop on investigations and prosecutions to be held on 24-26 June in Stockholm is underway.
- On 27 March SIPRI published a blog piece by Giovanna titled: '[Coordinating arms transfer and SALW control assistance: What role for the Arms Trade Treaty](#)'
- Kolja travels to Vienna for an event on 4-5 April, '*Emerging Technologies: Challenges for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Export Controls*' organized by the Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation (VCDNP). He will present about his recent work on export controls on additive manufacturing in the context of nuclear weapons and nuclear enrichment. The event brings together experts from the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), the IAEA, and topical/technical experts on emerging technologies, export controls and safeguards.
- On 29 March the DUAT team visited the NIS office in Stockholm for a meeting. The discussions were interesting and they expressed much interest in emerging technology work, as well as Phase IV of the EXBS project on export control regime dialogue and coordination.

Bio Plus X project report

- The Bio Plus X has been well received and as a result Kolja received an official invitation by the Australia Group to present at their annual plenary in Paris on 6-7 June.
- Between 29 July and 9 August there will be a Bio Weapons Convention Meeting of Experts on science and technology. SIPRI have been asked to attend by ISU and the German MFA to do a side event and this is being planned. Kolja and Sibylle and Dr Filippa Lentzos will attend on behalf of SIPRI.

EUNPDC

- On 11-12 March, Sibylle and Giovanna attended the Carnegie Nuclear Policy Conference 2019, in Washington DC to represent the EUNPDC. The EUNPDC had an exhibition booth at this event where people could ask about the project and they handed out some publications and material. It was a useful way to advertise the project, in particular to a U.S. audience.
- During April, the EUNPDC will publish a paper authored by Nils Duquet, '[The 2018 EU SALW Strategy towards an integrated and comprehensive Approach](#)'. On the 4 April, Sibylle will represent the EUNPDC at the Flemish Peace Institute in Brussels at the official launch of this report.
- The EUNPDC Conference date was moved to the 4-6 December 2019. The network preliminary meeting will be held on the 4 December along with perhaps a next generation workshop. This will be followed by the Conference on 5-6 December.

AMEX reporting

- THE AMEX team are working on finishing the YB chapter sections and following up on second drafts.
- Currently UD work is being edited, including the arms transfers on South East Asia policy paper and UD UNROCA Factsheet.
- The EuroMeSCo sponsored policy brief paper 'Russia's arms exports to the MENA region: trends and drivers' by Alexandra Kuimova was reported by Aude to be well received.
- The UD project factsheet paper about milex and arms imports to the Gulf region is currently a work in process led by Pieter.

- Preparations for the SIPRI 2019 milex data launch on the 29 April are underway.
- Aude travels on 1 May to Canada to attend a forum event titled '*A new arms race?*' on 2-3 May at Laval University, Québec City. Aude will attend as a panel participant.
- On 6 May, Aude will be in Washington DC for an event organised by the Stimson Center that presents a combined SIPRI arms transfers and military expenditure data launch presentation and discussion.
- On publications, Nan reported the Chinese arms industry insights paper is with an external reviewer and awaiting comments back. The Venezuela topical backgrounder is back with Harri and John B for final edits.
- The development of a new milex database is ongoing and left to do by the developer is the front end. However, more time is needed to carry out all checks and this new database won't be ready for this year's launch.
- Pieter has been invited as speaker to the annual conference of the Al Jazeera Center for Studies, being held on 27-28 April in Doha. The topic of his presentation will be on armaments developments in the Middle East.
- Diego Lopes da Silva has joined SIPRI and is working with the AMEX programme. Diego is working remotely at the moment but arrives from Brazil to work in SIPRI office from 2 May.

The Nuclear Team

- The YB chapter work that includes nuclear forces, and nuclear arms control, are proceeding and work is near completion.
- Tytti and Pieter Wezeman have prepared a EU helpdesk paper on '*Missile Proliferation in the Middle East*'. This paper is for internal EU use only but the work can be used as the basis for other activities going forward.
- A publication that Tytti was lead author on, with co-authors Ugne and Petr titled *Operationalizing Nuclear Disarmament Verification* is to be published this month. <<https://www.sipri.org/publications/2019/sipri-insights-peace-and-security/operationalizing-nuclear-disarmament-verification>>. This paper will be presented at a side event organised by the Hiroshima Prefecture at the upcoming 2019 NPT Preparatory

Committee in NYC on 29 April. Pursuant to this, on 20 March, the Nuclear Team held a small verification workshop in SIPRI bringing in experts from the Swedish community and Senior SIPRI Research Associate Bob Kelley. Bob gave a small seminar on 21 March in SIPRI, presenting on the lessons learnt from the dismantlement of Iraqi and South African nuclear programmes and to what extent these lessons can be applied to the denuclearization of North Korea.

- IISS have approached Shannon about co-organizing a workshop here in SIPRI on 18 June looking at the dismantlement of South Africa, Libya and Iraq's nuclear programmes and lessons to be applied to North Korea. They have funding and will do several workshops and the first is hoped to be here in SIPRI. Further information to come as Shannon remains in talks with IISS.
- The SIPRI annual nuclear forces data launch will take place on [17 June](#).
- A seminar on the INF organised by SIPRI with the ELN (European Leadership Network) and sponsored by the Heinrich Böll Foundation will happen in Berlin on 21 June. The working title is: '*Managing the collapse of the INF treaty.*'

Emerging Military and Security Technologies

- Currently planning toward the final Carnegie project trans-regional workshop being held on 8-9 May in NYC. A first draft of the report '*mapping the impact of machine learning and autonomy on strategic stability and nuclear risk*' will be presented along with findings and conclusions from the previous regional workshops for this project held in Beijing, Stockholm, and Colombo. There are plans for a side event on 7 May, at the NPT PrepCom, and sponsored by the Japanese Mission. From SIPRI, Vincent, Petr, and Lora will attend and it was reported that a representative (Chris King) from UNODA might attend.

SMT

- For the Stockholm Forum on P&D, Gary has requested volunteers and in particular to host dinners for a select group with a theme TBC.
- On Friday 5 April, Sibylle will have a meeting with the Chair of the EU Working Party on Non-Proliferation (CONOP).

AOB

- The Finance team will be changing their financial system and are currently starting to run tests with the new system from now. It is

hoped to go live with the new system in October. Be ahead of time when requesting help from the Finance team.

- Clusterwiki calendar - reminder to all A&D staff to keep updating the wiki with information on any upcoming events they are planning to attend.

Next meeting

Meet A&D cluster meeting on 22 May at 1:30PM.