



Minute taker: Noel Kelly

Time: 1:30-3:00PM

### **SIPRI Armament and Disarmament Cluster Meeting**

Solna, 22 May 2019

#### **Participants:**

Sibylle Bauer, Aude Fleurant, Mark Bromley, Pieter Wezeman, Petr Topychkanov, Tytti Erasto, Nan Tian, Diego Lopes, Alexandra Kuimova, Kolja Brockmann, Giovanna Maletta, Monica Chinchilla, Enzo Caponetti, Ugnė Komžaitė, , Martina Selmi, John Batho

#### **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)
- Concept notes/Grants updates
- Suggestions on possible issues to be covered by the EUNPDC paper series
- Report back from SMT/Sibylle
- Publications update (John)
- Report back on activity from other Clusters - Martina/ (Katja is away)
- AOB

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

### **AMEX report**

- The AMEX SIPRI Yearbook 2019 chapters are with the Editors.
- Nan and Diego are working on a UD 2019 project deliverable for SIPRI producing an ODA versus Non-ODA factsheet. The factsheet covering 1988-2018 offers an initial breakdown of military spending into ODA and non-ODA countries (developed vs. developing) to understand where the spending is rising and who are the main contributors. This factsheet is planned to be ready for internal AMEX and Cluster review by 12 June 2019 and following the external review in mid-August and editing process through early September, the target is to publish this work on 23 September 2019.
- Pieter and Alexandra have worked on a UD 2019 project deliverable for SIPRI producing a factsheet on milex and arms trends in the Gulf region. It is undergoing the editorial process and should be ready to be published shortly.
- Siemon at the time of this meeting is traveling to attend a workshop event titled '*Cultivating Turkey's NATO alliance alive: evolving relations and diverging priorities*', held in Ankara, Turkey. Siemon is a speaker and presenting on NATO milex with focus on the Black Sea region. Further details are in the clusterwiki calendar.
- On 2-3 May, Aude attended an international security event in Quebec City participating in a panel discussion on a broad topic titled '*A new arms race*'.
- On 6 May, Aude attended a combined arms transfers and military expenditure SIPRI data launch event at the Stimson Center in Washington.
- On 28 May, Diego will be in Boston attending a workshop titled '*The politics and economics of the global arms trade*'. The aim of this workshop is to analyze the political and economic forces driving the arms trade globally, and how it interacts with both domestic politics and with international geopolitics. Diego will be a speaker at the event and more details are in the clusterwiki calendar.
- On 17-19 June, Alexandra will attend the EuroMeSCo Annual Conference in Barcelona and present her paper 'Russia's arms exports

to the MENA region: trends and drivers' in the framework of the panel discussion on the role of Russia in the Middle East and North Africa: Strategy or Opportunism.

- On 24-26 June, Nan will attend the '*19th Jan Tinbergen European Peace Science Conference*' at The Hague, organised by NEPS, Nan will present his paper on '*measuring the cost of conflict in Africa*'.
- On 24-26 June, Nan and Diego will attend the '*Conference on Economics and Security*' in Madrid organised by Instituto Universitario General Gutierrez Mellado. Nan and Diego will attend and present a paper on '*measuring the cost of conflict in Africa*' and '*The Economic Costs of Nicaragua's Civil War*'.

#### **DUAT report**

- Different projects as previously referenced in earlier minutes are ongoing. The first phase of the EU-funded DIVERT Project on firearms trafficking in the EU which the Flemish Peace Institute is leading (for which DUAT is producing ten mapping case studies) is nearly completed. The next phase will involve a more in-depth study on firearms trafficking in one of the states covered by SIPRI's mapping studies. Giovanna and Mark will continue to work on this.
- The EXBS work that involves two background papers and two workshops with the first in June and second in September is proceeding. The first workshop in June is about investigations and prosecutions and the second in September is about inter-regime dialogue.
- The UD deliverables are moving along with the ATT database work being managed by Giovanna. The SDG 16.4 work involved hosting a session at the recent SIPRI Peace and Development forum and all went well and Enzo did the reporting on it. A background paper on arms flows and SDG 16.4 worked on by Mark, Marina Caparini and Alfredo Malaret has been circulated around the Clusters for those interested to comment and the deadline for feedback is Monday 27 May (OOB).
- On 15 May, Giovanna was in Brussels for the '*EU Perspectives on Remote Warfare Conference*'. Chatham House and PAX organized this event. This event was about remote warfare, the status of technology and ethical applications. It did involve small discussions about the European defence fund. Members of the Commission and civil society and other research centers attended it.

- On 16 May, Giovanna still in Brussels attended the annual COARM NGO Meeting. One of the main topics was on EU arms exports to the Middle East and specifically Saudi Arabia in light of recent events happening in Yemen. Another session referenced was on the EU defence fund. If you are interested in knowing more about these events please contact Giovanna.
- Giovanna is currently working on a topical backgrounder about the developments in general of the different EU member states policies for exports to Saudi Arabia and it will focus on court cases in Italy and UK. It is hoped to have a first draft ready by the end of May and reviewers organised in-house include the DUAT team, Pieter and Monica.
- Kolja will write a paper between November 2019 and February 2020 about The Hague Code of Conduct (HCOC) on Ballistic Missiles and the compatibility of this with the export control programmes under UNSCR1540 at the MTCR. The paper was commissioned by FRS in the context of an EU-funded project on the HCoC which FRS is implementing.
- Kolja received an official invitation by the Australia Group to present at their annual plenary in Paris on 6-7 June. The topic Kolja will present on is related to work done for the Bio Plus X project.

#### **EUNPDC report**

- The dates for the EU NDP Annual Conference were moved again. It will be held on 13-14 December. It will be preceded by a network members' meeting and a next generation meeting on 12 December.
  - The next big event is the *EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Consortium (EUNPDC) Annual Consultative Meeting*, on 10-11 June in Brussels. Tytti will participate as a speaker and Sibylle and Giovanna will participate as consortium representatives. Before the start of the Consultative Meeting, Sibylle, Giovanna and Nikos will participate in the EUNPDC Steering Committee Meeting and the EUNPDC Board Meeting.

Giovanna reported on upcoming EUNPDC papers and promised to include more details in the minutes of the cluster meeting (see below).

- *Papers under production:*

1) Becker-Jacob, U. (PRIF), 'Countering the Use of Chemical Weapons in Syria: – Options for Supporting International Norms and Institutions' (expected publication: June 2019);

2) Dokos, T. (ELIAMEP), 'The threat of nuclear terrorism: Is Europe prepared?' (expected publication: July 2019);

3) Himmel, M. (University of Hamburg), 'Emerging Dual Use Technologies in the Life Science - Facts, Challenges, Policy Recommendations' (expected publication: July 2019).

- Papers commissioned and/or under negotiations:

1) Unal, B. (Chatham House), 'Space capabilities in the Middle East and its implications for arms control' (expected publication, fall 2019);

2) Verbruggen, M. (VUB), 'Meaningful Human Control of Swarms' (expected publication, fall 2019);

3) Erästö, T. (SIPRI), Developments in the JCPOA and Iran missile programme (TBD), (expected publication, fall 2019).

The two papers that we published this year are:

- <https://www.nonproliferation.eu/2018-eu-salw-strategy/>

- <https://www.nonproliferation.eu/russias-nuclear-energy-exports-status-prospects-and-implications/>

*Suggestions on possible issues to be covered by the EUNPDC paper series*

- Giovanna asked for assistance from the Cluster to identify suitable authors and interesting topics to be addressed by the EUNPD paper series by the end of this year. In total there are 20 papers (to be published by the end of the project) to be delivered and currently there are 8 that were published or are under production (see above). The goal for the year is to have 10 in total, so if two more slots can be filled for this year it would be most helpful and also in the planning ahead for next year. Giovanna will check what is already commissioned with authors and topics and update a list given in previous minutes and circulate (see above).
- In terms of helpdesk there is a generous budget but the EEAS have not requested a lot of papers. Sibylle had a meeting with the CONOP Chair and the EU Special Envoy for Non-proliferation and Disarmament (Jacek Bylica) on these issues and requested to systematise this process a bit more.

### **Nuclear disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation report**

- There was large representation from SIPRI at the NPT Preparatory Committee in NYC during late April and early May doing various activities and all these are listed in the clusterwiki calendar. The Hiroshima report titled *Operationalizing Nuclear Disarmament Verification* was presented at a side event on the first day of the conference and towards the end of the Conference Tytti presented at another side event on the topic, *the Middle East a WMD free zone*. Sibylle presented at a EU side event and Vincent and Petr spoke at another side event co-organised by the Japanese Mission and SIPRI presenting the draft of the report '*mapping the impact of machine learning and autonomy on strategic stability and nuclear risk*'. Tytti has written a blog post on the conference, which will be published later during this week if people are interested in finding out more.
- For the EUNPD paper series Tytti has committed to writing on the JCPOA and will work on this shortly.
- The SIPRI project website needs major updating and Tytti is collaborating with Alexander M about this.
- Tytti reported *The Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament* are coming to visit Sweden during the summer. They would like to meet with representatives from SIPRI and are coming in late July or during early August. It will be raised at the SMT and discussed further.
- Petr reported on the final Carnegie project trans-regional workshop held on 8-9 May in NYC. It was highlighted during the feedback about the current challenge in bringing international guests for events to the U.S. For this event the organisers were unable to bring some guests from Russia or Pakistan due to visa issues. Guests from these countries who previously had visas were able to travel. During the event the first volume report on '*mapping the impact of machine learning and autonomy on strategic stability and nuclear risk*' edited by Vincent was published. Two other volumes are in the final stages of preparation. Lora Saalman will send the second volume based on the Carnegie workshop held in Beijing to the editors next week. The third volume edited by Petr will be sent next week for internal review and those interested to find out more are invited to contact Petr or Vincent.
- On 10-11 June, Petr will attend the Primakov Readings conference event in Moscow organised by our partner organisation IMEMO that will include issues on security challenges and of course arms control. Petr will participate at a side event during the conference in the unique

format of trilateral dialogue between India, Russia and the U.S. on security issues.

- On 21 June, a representation from the SIPRI nuclear team will attend a seminar event in Berlin titled '*Managing the collapse of the INF treaty*'. This event is being organised by SIPRI with the ELN (European Leadership Network) and sponsored by the Heinrich Böll Foundation.

### **Emerging Technologies**

- Sibylle reported as Vincent is away at a meeting in Berlin at SWP participating in the iPRAW (International Panel on the Regulation of Autonomous Weapons) of which he is a member. Vincent sent some good funding news today with regards to funding for his joint project application with ICRC titled '*Limits on Autonomy in Weapon Systems: Identifying Concrete Elements of Human Control*': the Swedish MFA have agreed to give their part of the funding, the Netherlands MFA are already committed, and funding from the Swiss is also in process.

### **Concept notes/Grant applications**

- An A&D Excel sheet containing known concept notes for project proposals in circulation and actual applications under process and in GAD as of May 2019 was circulated to the Cluster. The plan is to keep this document updated by the month and circulate before each A&D Cluster meeting. Feedback on this continuous working document was received and work will be carried out to improve this document for greater clarity. Cluster staff is once again asked to make sure they take some time to check the document once it is circulated again. The information contained is only as good as the information you share and feedback you give, so staff are encouraged to keep the Programme Coordinator informed of any updates or changes necessary. These sheets are active and one sheet is about concept notes (ideas that are floating) and one sheet is for concrete applications that have been submitted or are in process. A column for when applications are granted and work starts will be added.
- Petr reported the Norwegian grant application '*Development and Disarmament 2019*' was now submitted on 12 April and is part of a joint internal effort from SIPRI with input from Sibylle, Petr and Ian Anthony. Ian explained in detail about this application and process to the Cluster at our previous A&D Cluster meeting of 2 April.

### **SMT/Sibylle report**

- Many of the areas had already been covered. Sibylle did report back on the experience of her visit to Ypres and participation in the Ypres Peace Prize selection committee. One of the nominations that SIPRI had made did make it through to the final 5 names for consideration that was 'The Campaign to Stop Killer Robots'. There were 48 names and organisations in total before the committee for discussion before going down to the final 5 names. An interesting point reported on the process is that it is linked to a peace education project in Ypres. Those 5 names selected will be studied at all schools in Ypres now and they are trying to expand this initiative to other schools in Belgium. The kids at the schools will be able to vote for the candidate that gets the prize.
- The upcoming Governing Board meeting was discussed and the role of staff.
- It was flagged up and discussed at SMT that the procedure for funding proposals currently in-house is too often last minute. There will be a more formal in-house schedule and there will be an internal cut off deadline. In short, kicking off the process the week of submission won't be possible anymore.

### **Publications**

- Editorial are in constant open communication with us and no major issues with our Cluster currently.
- The nuclear forces data launch is on 17 June and this is also the date of the SIPRI YB launch.

### **Report back on activity from other Clusters - Martina/ (Katja is away today)**

- Martina reported back on the 2019 Stockholm Peace and Development Forum that was successfully delivered on 14-16 May. Participation was excellent and it was the busiest year so far with 800 at the open day and 386 at the first focus day. There were 43 sessions in all and feedback was positive and Swedish MFA was very happy. SIPRI had 21 official partners at the forum and institutions that contributed to bringing in participants from the global south. There was good participation between global north and south and good gender balance but age balance could be improved and the hope is to bring in more youth next time. Instant reporting was available for the first time and many of the reports have made it up in good time. Remaining reports will be up by the end of this week. See the reports here: <https://www.sipri.org/node/4814>



**AOB**

- Questions were asked on SSC 2019 – no further official updates today as Katja is away but we will try to get an update at our next Cluster meeting. Sibylle will be meeting with Luc following this meeting and will find out more for next time with regards the invitation process and agenda process.
- On questions about the SIPRI MENA Programme – we can discuss at the next cluster meeting when Katja is available. Sibylle has suggested she will invite Luc to come talk as well and speak about the SSC 2019 and MENA Programme at the next Cluster meeting primarily and then tag on AOB for our Cluster.

**Next meeting**

- The next A&D Custer meeting will be on Tuesday, 4 June at 9:30AM in the conference room.