



Minute taker: Noel Kelly

Time: 9:30-11:00PM

SIPRI Armament and Disarmament Cluster Meeting

Solna, 4 June 2019

Participants:

Sibylle Bauer, Luc Van Der Goor, Ekaterina Klimenko,, Aude Fleurant, Shannon Kile, Mark Bromley, Pieter Wezeman, Siemon Wezeman, Petr Topychkanov, Tytti Erasto, Nan Tian, Kolja Brockmann, Giovanna Maletta, Diego Lopes, Alexandra Kuimova, Monica Chinchilla, Martina Selmi, John Batho, Lena Kappelin.

Agenda for next A&D cluster meeting;

- Information from the Operations team point. (Lena)
- Conflict and Peace Cluster update on 2019 SSC
- Conflict and Peace Cluster update on MENA Programme/Project
- Report back from the Programme/Project Heads on recent/upcoming activities/meetings (including current UD work updates
- Concept notes/Grant Applications Excel - any updates?
- Report back from SMT/Sibylle
- AOB

Information from the Operations team. (Lena)

Normal service will be available most of the summer **except** week 29 (**15 July – 19 July**) when all the Finance Department is away. No payments or service that week!

Staff are asked to plan ahead for invoices before going on vacation – please let the Finance team know when you are going to be away.

If one needs help from the Financial Department and in particular with budget planning from Lena, one needs to plan ahead and notify. Lena is off the week after mid-summer but back in the office for the first two weeks of July. During August, the Finance team are undergoing training on a new financial system. This will involve two days a week of full time training for several weeks. For dates of non-availability ask Lena.

Communications and Editorial. (Steph)

There is one week in July when no one from communications is in the building **week 29 (15 July – 19 July)**. Unless something urgent and this will be handled by email internally.

Conflict & Peace Cluster update - 2019 Stockholm Security Conference.

Luc informed this A&D Cluster meeting on the current planning progress for the 2019 Stockholm Security Conference. It will be a one-day event on 3 October with 150 participants. The Conference will focus on continuing to examine the relationship between conflict and technology. There are plans for an opening plenary and closing plenary and six breakout sessions throughout the day.

******TBC (tentative list)**

- Do we see a renewal of proxy wars?
- Human control and technology. (Vincent)
- Social media and conflict – the role of social media before conflict and during conflict.
- Emerging trends and technologies in the Sahel region and Horn of Africa. (Gregory)
- The de-escalation of cyberspace. (Together with MSB /Vincent has lead)
- Technology and the protection of civilians. (Ian Anthony)

Please note again, this programme is only tentative and ideas on breakout sessions are still under discussion and to be cleared by SMT/the SSC committee. More information about these sessions and the programme will be sent out in due course, once management takes decisions.

The SSC is also an opportunity to arrange meetings around the event and take advantage of participants already in town and with whom you may have interest to work with further. On the other hand, if one has a project travel budget it may also be an opportunity to arrange a project meeting in Stockholm around the same time and possibly include your project partners as participants in the Conference. Think constructively and think ahead!

Conflict and Peace Cluster update on MENA Programme/Project.

Luc reported on the current status of developing a MENA Programme within SIPRI. Time was invested in thinking through a concept of what a MENA Programme could be at SIPRI with consultant Johan Schaar leading this work. Johan Schaar has written a report and this will be published shortly. What emerged has not really been an internal mapping exercise but such an exercise would be fruitful for making some decisions at this point on developing a MENA Programme in SIPRI. SMT considered the option of hiring a Senior Researcher to initiate and develop a MENA programme but the thinking now is to hire a more junior person. This individual would help with our current work in the MENA region but also map the research work being carried out Institute wide on the MENA region. Management are taking a pragmatic approach and once the Institute mapping is done the MENA Programme can develop further from there. Recruitment may start over the summer and it is already planned for in this year's budget. If we can use MENA as a testing ground for linking the thematic and regional interests within SIPRI it would be a very useful exercise.

Report back from the Programme/Project Heads on recent/upcoming activities/meetings.

Any updates since last A&D meeting – see minutes from 22 May for full Programme reports.

AMEX

Nothing further from AMEX as project work continues and summer staff vacation is planned and being taken over the summer months.

Nuclear disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation

Staff is reminded there is a closed SIPRI in-house meeting with IISS (London) on 18 June, in the Boardroom, with 14 participants in total. The meeting is looking at the case experiences with denuclearization of Iraq and South Africa and how that could be applied to future situations in the Korean Peninsula. Shannon will report back at the next Cluster meeting.

DUAT

EXBS workshop planning continues for both the first workshop on 25/26 June about investigating and prosecuting violations of dual-use and arms export

controls, and the second on 10/11 September about inter-regime dialogue. Other project work continues and summer staff vacation is planned and being taken over the summer months.

Emerging military and security technologies.

Vincent is on vacation and nothing further to report since the last meeting.

Concept notes/Grant Applications Excel - any updates?

The A&D Excel sheet containing known concept notes about project proposals in circulation and actual applications under process and in GAD as of June 2019 was circulated to the Cluster. Cluster staff is once again asked to make sure they take some time to check the document once it is circulated again.

New calls!

The DoS has sent information to the PDs' about the latest Norwegian call <<https://grants.mfa.no/#call/1461>>. If anybody has interest, please note an application will need to be submitted by 27 June. This needs to be coordinated with Lena and Vitaly has expressed an interest, so please coordinate accordingly. *Note – Lena is on vacation from 14 June and back in the office on 24 June. There is no decision yet on SIPRI's previous Norwegian application.

SMT – Sibylle

SMT had a discussion about what to send into the MFA for the next UD grant. The ambition is to have a 3-year grant application but this is not certain at the moment. By mid-September, the application will be with UD and close coordination is needed over the summer with the PDs' to prepare properly. There are two processes happening now in parallel. The first is about the big strategic priorities being given to UD, dealing very broadly on issues about increasing transparency and accountability that SIPRI work on. The second process requires that we do more detailed work internally and work with Lena on the budget planning. We need to know and make sure that whatever we promise can be delivered.

A Cluster strategy will be finalised over the summer. The Governing Board requested detailed Cluster strategies as an annex with basically a two-page document from each of the Clusters with a five-year vision but of course this can be annually updated. This task is to be completed by mid-August. The DoS will coordinate with PDs' before finalising.

AOB. Next Cluster meeting is 12 August at 1:30PM.