

Minute taker: Noel Kelly

Time: 9:30-11:00AM

SIPRI Armament and Disarmament Cluster Meeting

Solna, 11 December 2019

Participants:

Sibylle Bauer, Joey Fox, Aude Fleurant, Pieterer Wezman, Nan Tian, Diego Lopes, Alexandra Kuimova, Vincent Boulainin, Moa Peldán Carlsson, Mark Bromley (via Skype), Kolja Krockmann, Giovanna Maletta, Shannon Kile, Tytti Erästö, Jenny Mildton.

Agenda circulated for A&D cluster meeting 11 December 2019:

- Update from Sibylle (SMT discussions, MFA Strategic Grant)
- Heads up - new Cluster meeting format from [January 2020](#) (Read the vision 2020 and we can discuss further at the Cluster meeting)
- Update from Programmes
- Funding applications (A&D funding applications Excel will be sent in advance of our meeting)
- Publication and outreach updates (Joey/John/Alex)
- Updates from other Clusters (Katja/Martina)
- 2020 Away Day (we will discuss this at the Cluster meeting)
- Cluster-wiki 2020
- Cluster input for next SSC 2020

Emerging military and security technologies – report

- In terms of meetings all the information is updated in the A&D cluster-wiki. Moa and Tytti attended the EUNPDC ad hoc seminar titled '*Security, Safety, Sustainability: Promoting Good Behaviour in Outer Space*' organised by FRS. The seminar provided many different perspectives and mapping of the field of the weaponization of outer space. Following this meeting Moa circulated seminar notes and also a backgrounder on the topic.
- Vincent reported on an event related to the topic for the Carnegie project on '*the impact of artificial intelligence on strategic stability and nuclear risk*'. The event was co-organised with the UN Library in Geneva and held on 3 December. Dan Smith was there as moderator with a panel that included among others, the Deputy Secretary of CAGDA (China Arms Control and Disarmament Association), the Indian Ambassador to the Conference on Disarmament, a representative from CSIS (Centre for Strategic and International Studies) and Vincent from SIPRI. The event was attended by about 40 persons in total and described as a good event to flag the work SIPRI is doing on this issue.
- Vincent reported on attending another seminar event '*Promoting International Cooperation around Artificial Intelligence*' on 3-5 December in Geneva. This was related to track 2 dialogue activity between the US and China on AI. Vincent was invited along with other international experts as observers. The entire topic of the meeting was the same as the SIPRI project funded by Carnegie related to AI and strategic stability. Vincent presented the conclusions of the report from the Carnegie project and this was well received and very timely. The Norwegian Government funded this seminar and for future reference it was suggested we could approach the Norwegians in the near future for funding related to topics to AI and emerging technologies or space.
- Regarding a possible project idea to Carnegie Vincent/Moa and the Nuclear team have met and will meet further to discuss doing something on 'space' and will follow up in January. We will include this open call from Carnegie for project ideas in the agenda of our next Cluster meeting on 15 January.
- In terms of outreach Vincent and Moa are working on making a film that is part of project work on autonomous weapons.

Nuclear disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation – report

- Presently in process of trying to complete the application for a German MFA grant for a project on '*Assessing Nuclear Deterrence Risks and Challenges in South Asia*'. See the A&D Excel sheet circulated in December for further details. The team are also busy working on putting together their SIPRI Yearbook chapter contributions.
- SIPRI and the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs organised a two-day Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) on 27-28 November 2019 here in Stockholm. The meeting followed an expert meeting, which SIPRI had convened in September to generate actionable proposals for operationalizing the Swedish Stepping Stones

Approach (SSA) in the context of the Stockholm Initiative. The Initiative was launched in June 2019, involving 16 non-nuclear weapon states. There will be a Ministerial follow up meeting held in Berlin during February 2020.

AMEX – report

- Pieter Wezeman attended ‘*The New Military Dynamics in the Mediterranean*’ Conference organized by the German Marshall Fund of the USA on 26-27 November 2019, in Naples, Italy. The meeting brought together senior officials and prominent researchers and analysts to discuss how the proliferation of weapons, the advent of new technologies and the modernization of conventional forces are influencing the strategic environment and conflict dynamics in and around the Mediterranean.
- On the occasion of its 40th anniversary, GRIP organized four conference-debates, Wednesday November 27, 2019, at IHECS, and Thursday November 28, 2019, at the City Hall of Brussels, Gothic room. In total, some 200 people participated in these four round tables, dealing respectively with:
 - The question of armaments in the media
 - Peacekeeping in Africa
 - The dynamics and contemporary challenges of the arms trade and its regulation
 - Why European defense?
- Aude attended and was part of a panel where Quitterie de Labbey (Researcher with the Flemish Peace Institute) presented project DIVERT on 28th November on the topic of “Research for peace and disarmament, a common good to promote”. In a panel on the dynamics and challenges of arms trade and regulation, Quitterie introduced the research team’s preliminary findings on firearms diversion within the European Union before getting into the discussion with further speakers Aude Fleurant (SIPRI) and Maria Camello (GRIP) and the public.
- The Swedish Institute of International Affairs (*Utrikespolitiska Institutet (UI)*) launched an initiative to create a MENA network. On November 6, Dylan and Alexandra held an in-house meeting with Rouzbeh Parsi, the Head of the MENA Programme at the UI, and his team, regarding the UI idea to develop a MENA network in Sweden. As a follow up, Alexandra was invited to attend a brainstorming meeting at the UI as a SIPRI researcher working on the MENA issues, to discuss how to take the idea of the MENA network forward. The meeting brought together representatives from Universities and Research Institutions from across Sweden.

Main takeaways:

- MENA Network – a network of researchers working with issues related to MENA in Sweden.

Purpose: To create an interdisciplinary community that identifies and explores common themes of research interest, and provides analysis of current events.

The aim of the Network:

(a) Bring relevant researchers and institutions in Sweden together in order to generate new research.

(b) Reach out to practitioners, business communities, and governmental bodies.

(c) Translate existing and on-going research for the public and practitioners.

- On [November 27](#), Alexandra gave a lecture to a senior group of 31 people working with national/regional security and PfP/NATO-related issues, either in their MoD or MoFA, at the Swedish Defence University. The lecture was about ‘Security issues in the Black Sea Region - case study – Russia’.
- Giovanna and Alexandra were among the researchers at SIPRI approached by Sigrun and Stephanie to give lessons on relevant topics to groups of students from Solna Gymnasium and Ulriksdalsskolan. The lessons will be in a format of ‘fika meetings’ and will take place at SIPRI during 2020.
- Siemon was at a conference titled '*(Dis) Information and threats of Hybrid Warfare*' on 18-20 November in Taipei, Taiwan. The organiser was the Institute of International Relations, National Chengchi University, the Association of International Relations, and the Taiwanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Siemon participated with presentation on recent developments in the means for the sharp end of hybrid warfare in Europe and East Asia and as a panellist. Aude will ask Siemon to do a brief report and share.
- Presently the AMEX team are busy working on core deliverables. The new arms industry data launch was released on 9 December and media coverage is going well. The priorities now are to complete millex country data entries for this year and populate the arms transfers database with new data collected. Systematic the company employed to upgrade the millex database have missed a recent deadline to present an external version of the database to the team but are currently in communication.
- Pieter suggested that the AMEX team would host a brown bag lunch in early February 2020 to present preliminary findings for arms transfers data. The idea is to have a discussion following the presentation and collect feedback.
- AMEX outreach updates (publications, commentary, events, media) include:

-The Off-budget topical backgrounder (Nan with Diego) will be out on [16 December](#).

-The Chinese arms industry insights paper draft came back from the editors and Nan and Su Fei are working on edits to be ready for launch on [27 January](#).

-The Background paper on ODA and military spending (Nan with Diego) is undergoing final revisions before sending to editorial - end January for +-4-6 week until launch (early [March 2020](#)).

- Alexandra, Diego and Nan were invited by the UNODA to provide an occasional paper on military spending and SDGs'. A draft will be sent to UNODA by 31 December.

Dual-use and Arms trade Control

- Events and project proposals involving the DUAT team are up to date in the wiki and the A&D Excel sheet for concepts and applications. If people have any questions about the proposals sent in or events in the wiki, they are welcome to contact Mark and the DUAT team. Proposals highlighted in this meeting include two submitted to the German MFA, one about post-shipment/end-use controls and one on the future of the Arms Trade Treaty. There is hope to get something signed for the project on post-shipment/end-use controls quite soon and if successful this would start in 2020. On the potential ATT project, a revised version of the proposal will be submitted in January or February but there is definite interest by the Germans on this topic. Kolja has a proposal for a project about AI and export control also with the Canadian MFA. They seemed interested but with the forming of a new Government they are working out their priorities and Kolja is waiting to hear back. This project proposal is also part of a larger project proposal that Kolja along with Vincent, Mark and Sibylle is working on for the German MFA.
- Mark reminded the Cluster that back in August on behalf of DUAT, along with Aude and Pieter from AMEX, they met with Noelle Pourrata, a representative of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, here in SIPRI. There was an open invitation to send one-page project ideas. DUAT and AMEX have not provided anything yet, but Mark suggests something could still be sent and it would need to be very soon. Let Mark know if anyone is interested in being involved. Whatever does go into the proposal, it is important to communicate with others in-house and Sibylle requested that people let her know in advance. It is agreed that something should be sent in January.
- Mark reminded the Cluster about the dates for calls from Vetenskapsrådet (VR - the Swedish Research Council) in 2020 are now out and asked for interest? So far only Ian Anthony is following up but Mark is thinking about putting something together.
- Giovanna was invited by a representative of the EU P2P (Partner to Partner) export controls programme to two seminars in Manila, the Philippines, in January 2020. The first seminar is focussing on implementation of the ATT in the Philippines and will be a two-day event with representatives from different agencies working on the implementation of the treaty. The second event is a regional seminar still regarding the implementation of the ATT but gathering together representatives from countries in the region (South East Asia). Giovanna will update this information in the cluster calendar wiki in due course.
- At the end of January Kolja will be attending a conference in Germany speaking about AI and export controls in Germany. Former Sipriot Andrea Viski, received a large grant from the US DOD to work on a project looking at export controls and emerging technologies, including AI and export controls. Andrea will be organising a series of workshops and the first is tentatively going to happen in Washington DC during February and Kolja will most likely be invited to attend.

EUNPDC publications:

- In December 2019, a new EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Paper has been published: Verbruggen, M., 'The Question of Swarms Control: Challenges to ensuring human control over military Swarms', EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Papers, no. 65, December 2019 (available at: <https://www.nonproliferation.eu/the-question-of-swarms-control-challenges-to-ensuring-human-control-over-military-swarms/>);
- Upcoming papers:
 - (a) Kulesa, L., 'The crisis of nuclear arms control and its impact on European security' – to typeset;
 - (b) Bondaz, A., 'From critical engagement to credible commitments: a renewed EU strategy to the North Korean proliferation crisis' – second round of editing;
 - (c) Erästö, T., 'The arms control-regional security nexus in the Iran nuclear issue' – first draft due by 31 January 2020;
 - (d) Van der Meer, S., 'The EU and nuclear risk reduction: How to prevent nuclear weapons being used' – first draft due by 29 February 2020.

SMT/Sibylle- report

*17 January 2020: Submission of a first cluster draft from the DoSs to the Deputy Director (DD) (with Elin in cc).

- Sibylle reminded the Cluster on an important task as SIPRI starts to prepare the final report to MFA SE about the Strategic Grant for 2019. Each programme is asked to send a report on their UD deliverables, preferably before Christmas. It is the same format as last year and Sibylle can send around your sections again to PDs or Project Leads.
- The SIPRI 3 Year MFA Strategic Grant proposal document was circulated in the reminder and agenda for this meeting to the A&D Cluster. The feedback from the MFA is positive but there won't be any formal decisions before February. We are advised to plan and start doing things already from January, otherwise it will run too late. Again, we are reminded that while this is a 3-year grant we have to spend by year and from January to December and avoid doing everything just in the second half of the year. There is a request for each Lead working on issues involved in the Strategic Grant proposal to prepare an internal funding application - planning what one would like to do and achieve with this grant and with a rough budget plan. This information should be sent to Sibylle by mid-January or sooner – if back from holidays after 7 January then send something by 9 January or latest 13 January to Sibylle for consideration. Nikos has also offered to provide a further template specifically for this.

Publications updates (Joey)

- Joey provided a document showing current work on-going and forthcoming Yearbook deadlines for 2020 and is in communication with Cluster staff as necessary.

Peace and Development Cluster

- Martina reported on developments towards 2020 Stockholm P&D Forum. The deadline for session submissions has passed. In total, 70 submissions were received with 14 being from SIPRI. Of this 14 there will be 1 from this Cluster but there are other submissions that Martina said they would like to draw expertise on from the A&D Cluster. There will be more follow up in January.

2020 Away Day

- We would like the new Programme Director of AMEX, Dr Lucie Béraud-Sudreau to be here for the away day. Lucie arrives on 17 February and consequently late February or early March would seem like the most like time period. We will set up a doodle with date options in January.

Annual MFA NIS Visit

- MFA NIS will visit SIPRI on Tuesday [21 January](#) between 10.00-13.00 (including lunch). Not everybody needs to be here but every Cluster needs to be represented and Programme Directors should be here.

Cluster-wiki 2020

http://clusterswiki.sipri.org/index.php/Main_Page

- A new Cluster calendar-wiki for 2020 has been created - the Cluster is reminded to start entering information for already scheduled upcoming meeting events in 2020.

Future Cluster Meetings

- The Cluster is reminded to prepare for the meeting and come with a bullet list addressing the points given in our agenda.

Stockholm Security Conference

- No final decision has yet been made either about the topic or the timing. The decision will be made soon and maybe before Christmas and this will be on the agenda for the next SMT happening on 17 December. The Cluster is invited to make suggestions to Sibylle as soon as possible either at this meeting or by email. Already many ideas were brought forward at the Governing Board meeting and some initial discussions at the SMT but nothing definite yet. The German Government will have a major conference on a technology topic in November 2020 that plan to cover the topics of, AI, Space, missiles/hypersonic missiles. It is suggested to keep this in mind when considering our topics and timing for the event. However, it is already hoped that there will be strong

involvement from SIPRI and this Cluster at the German Conference just discussed in 2020. For the next SSC, a number of topics have been speculated on including cyber but we also have limited capacity on this topic in-house at this moment in time. We need to think about the resources and capacity we actually have in-house when thinking of coming up with a topic. Learning from last year we need to do a better job of getting people involved earlier and a better connection between the topic and people working in-house and what we bring to the conference. There is a suggestion to push this onto 2021 (March 2021 suggested) and take the time to prepare properly by thinking about it – come up with a concept and involve existing SIPRI expertise from our core topics in coming up with this concept. We should aim to organise an event that is of direct benefit with a topic we actually think is giving us something. There is broad consensus for this approach within the Cluster.

AOB

Next cluster meeting

- 15 January at 9:30 AM