

Minute taker: Noel Kelly

Time: 1:30- 3:00PM

**SIPRI Armament and Disarmament Cluster Meeting**

Solna, 19 February 2020

**Participants:**

Sibylle Bauer, Lucie Béraud-Sudreau, Pieter Wezman, Siemon Wezeman, Nan Tian, Diego Lopes, Alexandra Kuimova, Kolja Brockmann, Giovanna Maletta, Tytti Erästö, Petr Topychkanov, Tarja Cronberg, Lena Kappelin, Jenny Mildton, Joey Fox, John Batho, Emma Zetterström,

**Agenda circulated for A&D cluster meeting 19 February 2020:**

Update from Programmes

Funding applications and report from Grants, Lena or Jenny (A&D funding applications Excel)

Publication and outreach updates (Joey/John/Alex)

Updates from other clusters (Not attending - Katja/Martina)

Update from Sibylle (SMT discussions)

Stockholm Security Conference 2020

2020 Away Day (Discuss agenda)

Cluster-wiki 2020

AOB

## **Grants Management Info - Funding Applications Excel**

- The auditors for the Swedish MFA projects are here during week 9 (24-28 Feb) and Lena is preparing for this and will receive the necessary information that we sent from our Cluster via Sigrun.

An invitation to new staff was sent out for an operations and outreach information meeting coming up and these will be held once a month.

Nothing new to report from the A&D applications Excel sheet for this month.

## **Dual-use and Arms trade Control**

### Main activities

- The team are working on the SIPRI YB chapter and this due back to the Editors on this date (19 February). Mark and Giovanna are finalising a report for the *Flemish Peace Institute* about firearms trafficking in Sweden. Mark is also busy finalising the report for the previous UD grant on reporting instruments. Giovanna has been busy with recent EUNPDC publication work. Kolja is working on a Hague Code of Conduct paper about missiles proliferation that FRS (Fondation pour la recherche stratégique) will publish and in March Kolja will be writing a book chapter for PRIF (Peace Research Institute Frankfurt) on AI and export control.

### Fundraising

- Mark and Kolja are helping Vincent with a proposal for a project on the subject of AI, risk and responsible innovation being submitted to the German MFA. There is a component in this project on export controls and if funded Kolja and Mark will work on this.
- The team are in discussions with the export controls division of the German MFA about two projects on end use controls and the future of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). It is hoped full proposals can be submitted shortly.
- Lena and Mark both circulated the call from UK Government for the counter-proliferation work bid. One idea was pitched for work on AI and export controls, but this did not fit with the call on this occasion. Perhaps others in house may apply from SIPRI?
- The AI and export controls ideas has also been pitched to NIS at the Swedish MFA. This is being circulated and they will contact back if funding is available to support it.
- The budget for the project work being planned under the UD grant for 2020-22 about strengthening small arms and light weapons (SALW) controls through development assistance is being revised.

## Outreach updates

- Mark informed the cluster about blog he had published about surveillance technology for <https://aboutintel.eu/>, read the blog here:<<https://aboutintel.eu/surveillance-export-control-eu/>>. If others are interested in publishing, Mark can get other submissions from SIPRI and email him directly if you want contact details or know more.

## Away-day

- The DUAT team had an away day on 22 January where the team had useful discussions and set goals. Key takeaways and action point are currently being written up.

## Travel

- In this meeting Mark highlighted a forthcoming trip at the end of March to Honolulu, Hawaii for the ISA (International Studies Association) Annual Convention on 25-28 March. Mark will present one the papers from his PhD which is about export controls and surveillance technology.
- Kolja highlighted some forthcoming trips to Berlin for the Exportkontrolltag 2020 on 20-21 February. Then on 28 February Kolja and Sibylle will be in Berlin for a workshop on '*Rethinking Arms Control*'. They will talk about topics such as missiles, space, and great power rivalry between China-Russia-USA. Kolja further highlighted a trip on 10-11 March to Washington DC for a dialogue workshop on '*Addressing the strategic trade implications of artificial intelligence technologies*'. See clusters-wiki calendar for more details on upcoming or past travels.

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

- Currently there are two main activities within the Programme with one of them related to Hiroshima Prefecture project and the second a project on South Asia and China. The Hiroshima Prefecture research report on assessing the increased salience of nuclear weapons is being prepared for reviewers. On 2 March there are plans for a reviewer meeting here in SIPRI. Anybody interested is welcome to join.
- The project related to South Asia and China <*Assessing nuclear deterrence risks and challenges in South Asia*> sponsored by the German MFA and specifically first activities is now being redesigned with Lora. It was mentioned that the publications are related to the calendar of events. It was agreed to draft texts with 3 in total under this project, before the event and based on the event to enhance and prepare for editors.
- Lena has sent two recent calls from the Swedish agency and another from the UK Foreign Office, but the team will not try the Swedish call but the UK is being considered and a decision will be made soon.

- Following the Hiroshima work activity Tytti will work on a EUNPDC paper about the arms control security nexus in the Middle East and comments both external and internal have already been received. See clusters-wiki calendar for more details on upcoming or past travels.

## **Arms and Military Expenditure – report**

### Main activities

- The main activity at the moment for the team is preparing material including a factsheet and press release for the arms transfers data launch on 9 March. Work on the SIPRI Yearbook chapters is in progress, the military expenditure chapter will be ready for an internal review on 3 March and the work on arms transfers chapter is in progress. There is also work continuing on military spending and ODA paper

### Fundraising

- The two main project activities on going include from the UD grants for the China military defence spending project, and from the Finnish MFA for a scoping study seeking to expand the database with arms procurement data.

### Travel

- See clusters-wiki calendar for more details on upcoming or past travels.

### Outreach

- As mentioned, the team are preparing for the AT data launch but in terms of other deadlines the ODA paper is in the pipeline.

## **Outreach and Publications**

### Publications

- No particular updates with regards the publication schedule. Editorial are in the process of revising the style guide, which will also give more clear guidance on the review process.
- One noticeable problem highlighted is papers are increasingly coming in overlength. This is a problem on a lot of levels, and one is to do with booking and planning the work and everything associated with getting the product done. There is a larger issue that relates to your audience and what people are available and interested in reading. The length of paper aside, it needs to be tightly conceptualized and very well structured. Editorial want to put in people's minds that you need to writing work that is;

- Skimmable (doesn't mean not complex and interesting but rather an issue of structure in your text)

- Sign Posting
- Transitions
- Connective Tissue
- Scaffolding
- Story
- Framing
- Cognitive load (Things need to be really streamlined because otherwise you're asking the reader to carry a very heavy cognitive load)
- Packaging information (to get your ideas into the mind of your reader the text must be very well structured and conceptualized.)

- Researchers will be hearing more of this type of feedback in the Editorial process going forward. A tip given is that in your first draft – it's suggested to number your paragraph and have a headline so that you know what this is about?

As discussed, many of the points made will be included in an updated SIPRI style guide.

In addition, discussed and a general consensus agreed that some training or refresher course on how to write for our audience would be needed and welcomed.

## Communications

- Since our last January meeting the '[Estimating the Arms Sales of Chinese Companies](#)' was launched and very well received with wide ranging media coverage. Many of the articles related to the Munich Security Conference referenced the recent Chinese report.
- The Communications team are coordinating with the AMEX team and working on preparations for the arms transfers data launch.
- Preparations for the SIPRI Annual Lecture on the 25 May in Konserthuset, Stockholm are underway. Former U.S. Secretary of State, Madeline Albright, will be giving the lecture this year.
- There is potentially a series of events on multilateralism with Jan involved in the lead up to the Stockholm Security Conference.
- The Munich Security Conference activity was reported on. Many interviews had been planned in advance and both Jan and Dan had lot of bilateral meetings including one with Ban Ki-moon and Madeline Albright. Sibylle attended the Munich Security Conference as an observer.

## **Sibylle/SMT report –**

- On the UD grant, the current information is the new China project - *A review and update of the SIPRI methodology of China's military expenditure* - has been approved. Mark's project - *Strengthening small arms and light weapons (SALW) controls through development assistance* – has been approved but budget is to be scaled down. The Disarmament Education project led by Sibylle has also been approved. We will have an event like last year here at SIPRI which is a brainstorming exercise with different professors teaching arms control disarmament and non-proliferation education and most likely in October. Now whatever has been approved moves onto the project stage and it's the responsibility of the Project Leads to communicate with communications, editorial and budget properly with Nikos in taking things forward.

## **EUNPDC**

- The following two paper have been published since our last meeting:  
Kulesa, L., '*The crisis of nuclear arms control and its impact on European security*' – currently being typeset and checked by author.

Bondaz, A., '*From critical engagement to credible commitments: a renewed EU strategy to the North Korean proliferation crisis*'.

- Further EUNPDC publication updates are, Tytti remains working on a paper titled '*The arms control-regional security nexus in the Middle East*'. It was also highlighted that a paper on mapping disarmament education in Europe has been commissioned.
- On EUNPDC Ad hoc seminars, SIPRI have agreed to do one disarmament education on 23-24 June in Brussels. The main purpose is to convene all Network members that are university affiliated. As an extra, and using part of the UD grant, we will bring in a group of professors from outside of Europe. This extra group will comprise mainly of people we brought to SIPRI for our September 2019 workshop, including persons from the Middle East and South Africa. Longer term, it is hoped to expand to a broader initiative that the EU could fund to create a more international network of professors and universities that offer courses on non-proliferation and disarmament.

The EEAS would like to have an Ad hoc seminar on SALW in conflict regions and Mark will explore interest within SIPRI between our Cluster and the Peace & Development Cluster if there is current interest to take this forward.

- The Consortium newsletter is a good opportunity to publicise your work. Send to suggestions to Giovanna who will compile.
- The next consultative meeting of the Consortium takes place on the 10-11 June. Once the agenda is known it needs to be decided who will go from this Cluster. For now, the organizers FRS have requested we think about topics that should be prioritized, and Gio or Sibylle can collect feedback from this Cluster to pass

on. The meeting lasts for a day and a half and gathers some of the network representatives and ideally, they are all from the EU member states. This is a good opportunity to engage with the policy community.

- Proposed dates for the conference have been discussed and the two dates suggested are in November 2020 but staying clear of our SSC. Once there is clarity on the availability of the Egmont Palace the date will be finally determined.

### **Report back on recent travel**

- Sibylle was in Hamburg for a lecture (details in Clusters-wiki) for a lecture organized by IFSH (Institut für Friedensforschung und Sicherheitspolitik). At this event Sibylle met the team of their emerging tech group. They recently advertised six new positions and have received funding from the German MFA for their work. This is an interesting group doing interesting work on very different aspects of emerging tech. It might be worth inviting and engaging with IFSH if one is working on emerging tech issues and they would make very good collaboration partners.
- The Swedish Foreign Minister Ann Linde visited SIPRI recently and in a briefing given there was much interest expressed in China related issues. There was also a strong focus on OSCE because Sweden will have the Chairmanship in 2021. There will as a consequence be a brainstorming meeting in-house here on 4 March about what to prioritise and then a briefing afterward at the MFA to discuss with the team who are preparing the Chairmanship.

On a side note, SIPRI is member of the OSCE network of think tanks and information needs to be updated including who will be the SIPRI network contact point as previously it was Neil Melvin.

### **SMT**

- The coronavirus is on the agenda of SMT and information shared with staff as the situation develops. We are reminded to take the travel advice seriously.

### **2020 Away Day**

- The away day agenda is discussed before sending out. It is suggested we do briefings from all the research teams about how they align current work and planned work with the SPRI strategy. This will lead us to a discussion about indicators and benchmarks and requested of SIPRI by our Governing Board. The SMT recommended a broad discussion at the Cluster level and then move onto the tools on how to implement this task. This is to see how we measure progress and achieve our objectives.
- The away day is also an opportunity to discuss research questions as group arising out of a future peace research agenda meeting that Sibylle attended during December 2019 in Tokyo (details in Clusters-wiki). A report from the

Tokyo peace research agenda meeting was recent published <*'A Peace Research Agenda for the 21st Century'*> and this has been circulated.

## **Cluster-wiki 2020**

[http://clusterswiki.sipri.org/index.php/Main\\_Page](http://clusterswiki.sipri.org/index.php/Main_Page)

- A new Cluster calendar-wiki for 2020 has been created and the Cluster is once again reminded to enter information for already scheduled upcoming meeting events in 2020.

## **Next cluster meeting**

- The next Cluster meeting is the away-day on 4 March hosted in van der Nootska Palace.