



Minute taker: Noel Kelly

Time: 15:00- 16:30PM

SIPRI Armament and Disarmament Cluster Meeting

Zoom virtual meeting, 22 April 2020

Participants:

Sibylle Bauer, Lora Saalman, Mark Bromley, Kolja Brockmann, Giovanna Maletta, Shannon Kile, Tytti Erästö, Petr Topychkanov, Lucie Béraud-Sudreau, Nan Tian, Diego Lopes, Alexandra Kuimova, Lena Kappelin, Vincent Boulanin, Laura Bruun, Luke Richards, Lena Kappelin, Ekaterina Klimenko, Martina Selmi, Emma Zetterström, Nikos Politis, Lena Kappelin, Jenny Mildton

Agenda

- A&D Cluster meeting - project presentation - 'Assessing nuclear deterrence risks and challenged in South Asia' Petr Topychkanov and Lora Saalman
- Funding applications and report from Grants, Lena or Jenny (A&D funding applications Excel will be sent in advance of our meeting)
- A&D strategy indicators - update
- SSC 2020 - update
- Report from other Clusters?
- Updates from Sibylle/EUNPDC/SMT

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- Project management guidelines
- First round of sharing - do's and don'ts in virtual meetings
- At our last Cluster meeting, Vincent introduced the Trello a tool used for team collaboration, project management, task management. Feedback - have any of you used it?

A&D Cluster meeting - project presentation - 'Assessing nuclear deterrence risks and challenged in South Asia' Petr Topychkanov and Lora Saalman

- In reference to China, India and Pakistan, little is publicly known about how the three sides' respective approaches to deterrence shape operational and force planning decisions about their nuclear postures. These continue to be characterized by deliberate ambiguity and a lack of transparency. In particular, there is uncertainty in assessing whether—or to what the extent—each country's official declaratory policy about nuclear weapons and minimum deterrence connects with its operational policy and planning guidelines.
- The near-term objective of the proposed project is to improve nuclear security and stability in the Asia-Pacific region through dialogue among China, India and Pakistan. SIPRI seeks to facilitate a regional dialogue aimed at enhancing awareness of the escalatory risks associated with the expansion and enhanced alert levels of nuclear capabilities and introduction of emerging technologies. The long-term objective is to contribute to the process of expanding dialogue among China, India and Pakistan on nuclear postures.
- Given the pandemic crisis this project has needed to reconfigure things a bit with the research timeline now concentrating more on utilising virtual platforms. There are five stages with the first stage desk research. This research has been going on since January 2020 and now the project team is essentially developing topics to write upon. The second phase is the individual interviews via e-mail and Skype, and the hope is to do this systematically and reach out to as many experts as possible. The aspiration is to do both qualitative and quantitative research. The third phase is group meetings via Zoom and ideally during July and August 2020. The fourth phase is working towards the communications department and on-line highlights and then to begin finalising the SIPRI Insight on Peace and Security paper co-authored by Lora and Petr. The fifth phase but now depending on the pandemic crisis situation is to try and have an event either localized or in Sweden to be held in late autumn or early winter.
- The plan to have a launch event for the SIPRI Insight on Peace and Security paper in Brussels by the end of the first half of 2021 remains currently unchanged.

Funding applications and report from Grants, Lena or Jenny (A&D funding applications Excel will be sent in advance of our meeting)

- The Excel was circulated to the Cluster prior to the meeting and updates given.

A&D strategy indicators – update

- In May 2019 SIPRI adapted a new five-year strategy and thereafter the Governing Board asked us to come up with detailed indicators to map progress. Each of the Programmes within the Cluster have been tasked with working on indicators related to targets in the strategy. This information is being compiled and this all needs to be signed off by SMT and sent to the Governing Board.

Stockholm Security Conference 2020

- The Stockholm Security Conference 2020 concept note along with a brief draft of the conference agenda was circulated to the Cluster prior to this meeting.

There is very limited travel budget for speakers this year. When suggesting sessions think of potential funding for the speakers or self-funded speakers; consider having partners for sessions (e.g. like last year CMI, MSB, etc).

As it is only a single day event this allows only 6 breakout sessions. The division last year was 3 sessions for AD cluster and 3 for CPS cluster. This is the starting point this year as well, but it is good to also think of cooperation with different programmes when proposing sessions because there is unfortunately not enough room for all the ideas.

One needs to think of involvement of the board members into the breakout sessions to take advantage of their presence at the conference.

In order to maximise the presence of interesting guests, think of combining, doing events within your current/future projects in the same week, so we could pull resources and participants together. After some discussion proposals for sessions are requested by 1 May 2020. We want to see how many ideas come out from each cluster and then we can coordinate a bit but most importantly we need to stick to six sessions.

Report from other Clusters

Conflict, Peace and Security Cluster

- Katia reported and apart from the SSC 2020 update it was mentioned that Dylan O'Driscoll has been appointed Programme Director of the SIPRI MENA Programme. Dylan has been invited to the next A&D Cluster meeting to discuss plans and cooperation with us.

Peace and Development

- Martina is busy with preparations for the P&D Virtual Forum 2020 and time is now crucial as the agenda is finalised for this new event being put together. Registration will be going live during week 18 and the staff will shortly be sent the link. Help is requested to reach as many people as possible and especially high level. Post the event Martina will be happy to share knowledge about the practical arrangements for hosting an event in a virtual platform.

Updates from Sibylle/SMT/EUNPDC

SMT

- Dan has circulated information about the MTR for staff and the deadline is 19 May. Programme Directors should aim to schedule individual meetings amongst their team within the next two weeks.

EUNPDC

- Information relating to Covid-19 has been put up on the consortium website where we explained how the different events that were planned are being affected by the pandemic crisis. The disarmament education event that was meant to be held on 23-24 June in Brussels we now hope to host in a virtual format. Perhaps it might still be possible to do a physical meeting later in the year, but we are waiting for a signing off from EEAS, FPI and EU on this.
- The EUNPDC annual conference dates is set for 12-13 November. The expectation is the conference can be held by then in person and in Brussels but there is also a disclaimer on every invitation that goes out this year. The consultative meeting that supposed to be held in June has been postponed until 10-11 September. The SALW ad hoc seminar implications of peacekeeping will now take place in October. The UN disarmament Fellows come to Brussels every year but the UNODA are now re-thinking if it is possible to have the Fellows programme in Brussels this year.
- The report for the second implementation year is being worked on and preparations for a possible phase four of the project. The contract currently being implemented will run until May 2021 and we will probably ask for an extension of six months after this but still working towards negotiating the next phase.

Project Management Guidelines

- Information will shortly be sent out to staff from the Maria and the Operations team. The Coordinators are working with Operations and planning to implement the project management tool within their respective Cluster teams.

First round of sharing - do's and don'ts in virtual meetings

- There are different roles we will have in on-line meetings, which in turn require different skillsets, and we should keep these roles mind when sharing lessons learned: organising (including technical aspects), speaking, moderating, budgeting.

Some points noted –

- Some speakers that are good in person are less effective on-line. Perhaps training or pointers beforehand can help but it may be just a different skill set.
- Screen sharing can be very helpful when giving presentations but beware of possible technical limitations for attendees. Some people may have very small screens or accessing on a smaller device at home.

- On questions - it's interesting the decision one has to make about this – how one identifies people? Do people write the questions or if they have the possibility to actually ask the questions in person? You may need to prompt people beforehand.
- On moderating - you need to be extremely aware and flexible and able to find solutions on the spot while all are watching. Some people are comfortable while doing this and some less so. Therefore, having a good on-line moderator who is comfortable in the virtual environment is very important.
- How long can people stay focussed on-line? How long a time can you host a single session? These are questions to be considered when organising. The timing of the event too cannot be forgotten so that people are not asked to participate at unreasonable hours for them.
- It does seem to work better on-line if persons are previously known to each other – so having some degree of familiarity in the group does help.

From the P&D Forum experience so far!

- To capture and keep participants attention something needs to happen every seven minutes – perhaps an impossible goal but something to be aware of. Presenters have been asked to reduce session times from 90-minute to 60-minute time slots. There will be breaks and important too to organise audience engagement. Moderators and panellist should be aware of logging in a little bit earlier than the scheduled time to check any technical issues like the microphone and camera connection, also to meet informally with other panellist. You need to think as if you are attending a physical meeting and be prepared to start on time.

Other suggestions –

- Having an active host is important – someone who can mute the participants that are not meant to be speaking and monitor what is happening. The use of passwords has also been recommended.

Stimson experience –

- We had some A&D staff who recently participated in a presentation at Stimpson. They had recommended 60-minutues maximum with four panellists that had 5 minutes each to make an opening statement and then went into a Q&A. More than 250 participants signed up to the Zoom webinar event, where one could only attend the webinar if you signed for the event. In this type of webinar, the panellist gets to see each other's faces when they speak but the attendees are not shown on video – the host or co-host would monitor those who have questions. There is the possibility for a Q&A function where attendees can raise a question and the host or co-host can select it and bring this to the panellist. The ability for general attendees to speak was excluded in this format by Stimson.
- A practice room for 15-20 minutes beforehand is very much advised.

- On branding it was suggested it would be useful if Communications prepared professional backgrounds we can use when attending virtual meetings.

The Cluster Coordinators have been granted webinar licenses since this meeting.

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Trello –

- Some researchers have been trying out the Trello system and have found it a useful tool.
- Moa Peldan Carlsson will leave the Emerging Technologies Project and SIPRI on 30 April. Moa is planning to pursue a Master's in war studies at the Swedish Defence University.
- Giacomo Cassano is a new Intern that will start working with the DUAT Programme from 1 May.

Next cluster meeting

The next A&D Cluster virtual meeting will be held on Wednesday 20 May @9:00AM.